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TRANSLATING ARCHAIC PRONOUNS OF ENGLISH FICTION:  
CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

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*This article is devoted to the analysis and study of the translation of archaic pronouns in fiction. Archaic pronouns are important lexical elements that not only serve semantic functions but also significantly influence the stylistics and emotional perception of the text. The aim of the study is to explore the practical aspects of translating archaic pronouns and their impact on the perception of the original text. Different methods of translating archaic pronouns from English to Ukrainian are analyzed in the research as well as their influence on the stylistics and emotional expressiveness of the text. The study is based on the analysis of fiction and its translations for various genres, including poetry and prose.*

**Keywords:** archaic pronouns, translation, fiction, stylistics, emotional perception.

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(Current issues in translation studies [Aktual'ni pytannja perekladoznavstva])

Translating Archaic Pronouns of English Fiction: Challenges and Strategies (in English)

[Pereklad ukrai'ns'koju movoju arhai'chnyh zajmennykiv u angломovnij hudozhnij literaturi: vyklyky ta strategii']

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## ПЕРЕКЛАД УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ АРХАЇЧНИХ ЗАЙМЕННИКІВ У АНГЛОМОВНІЙ ХУДОЖНІЙ ЛІТЕРАТУРІ: ВИКЛИКИ ТА СТРАТЕГІЇ

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*Статтю присвячено аналізу та вивченню проблеми перекладу архайчних займенників у художніх текстах. Архайчні займенники є важливим елементом лексики, який не лише виконує семантичні функції, а й має значний вплив на стилістику та емоційне сприйняття тексту. Метою роботи є вивчення практичних аспектів перекладу архайчних займенників та їх впливу на сприйняття оригіналу. В рамках дослідження будуть проаналізовані методи перекладу архайчних займенників з англійської мови на українську, а також їхній вплив на стилістику та емоційну виразність тексту. Дослідження базується на аналізі художніх текстів з різних жанрів, включаючи поезію та прозу.*

**Ключові слова:** архайчні займенники, переклад, художня література, стилістика, емоційне сприйняття.

**Introduction.** The issue of translating archaic pronouns reflects important aspects of interlingual communication and literary creativity. This problem becomes particularly significant in the context of working with fiction, where reproducing the stylistic peculiarities of the author's language is critical for preserving and conveying their ideas and emotional content. Archaic pronouns, as a vital lexical element, carry not only semantic but also aesthetic components of the text, making their translation a challenging task.

Thus, the **main goal** of our article is to study the practical aspects of translating archaic pronouns in fiction, particularly their influence on the stylistics and emotional perception of the original work. The research aims to analyze methods of translating archaic pronouns, determine their role in keeping the author's intent, and conveying it in the translation.

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**The object** of the study is archaic pronouns found in literary texts, especially in poetry and prose, while **the subject** is the process of translating archaic pronouns from English into Ukrainian, as well as the impact of this translation on the stylistics, emotional expressiveness, and overall perception of the literary text.

**The material** of the study includes literary texts of English literature containing archaic pronouns, as well as their translations into the Ukrainian language.

**Main Content.** Archaic forms of personal pronouns make one of the most common groups of archaisms encountered in poetry and prose, which is associated with their function. Absence of direct equivalents of archaic pronouns in the Ukrainian language poses several challenges due to their functionality. Specifically, these pronouns play a significant role in characterizing individuals and recreating the overall atmosphere of the literary work, as they reflect the author's attitude towards different objects or persons, express the language characteristics of characters, and indicate their social belonging. However, during the translation of archaic pronouns, this semantics may be partially lost or inadequately conveyed.

When the characterizing or informational function of an archaic pronoun is clearly defined, it is essential to find means to convey it in the translation. If the pronoun reflects the overall atmosphere of the work as a stylistic or informational device, the loss can be compensated for at the textual level.

During the translation of archaic pronouns, attention should be paid to their invariant grammatical meaning, which involves indicating the person or object without explicitly naming them but providing additional information about the speaker or the context. These pronouns are characterized by a high level of abstraction and, at the same time, carry a temporal load. Their frequent use in literature gives the text a particular expressiveness, explaining their rare use as a literary device.

In fiction works, archaic pronouns serve important pragmatic and stylistic functions. For example, the author of a historical novel, when creating their work, faces a choice between the neutral pronoun “you” and the stylistically colored

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“thee,” as well as its morphological alternatives “thou” and “thy.” This choice is determined by the overall structure of the work, its genre, and the need to reflect the characters' attitudes towards each other, the peculiarities of the character's speech in dialogue, the author's attitude towards certain aspects, or to emphasize the overall theme of the work.

For example, one can compare the stylistically neutral phrase “To you Old Cause” with the authorial “To Thee Old Cause” [1, p. 39], or “These songs for you, the eternal march of you” with the stylized “These chants for thee, the eternal march of thee” [1, p. 40]. This approach helps clarify the author's communicative intent and indicates the unresolved tasks that arise in translation.

The stylistic opposition between archaic and modern words in translations often isn't fully reproduced. For instance, in the English version of a historical novel, one may encounter archaic forms of the pronoun “Ye,” which convey emotional tension or mark the social status of a character. In the translation, this may be rendered using ordinary forms like “Ви” or “Вас,” but the historical color and stylistic expressiveness are lost.

Thus, translators often face difficulties in reproducing the full spectrum of meanings of archaic pronouns in translation because their equivalents in Ukrainian may not always convey the depth of stylistic and pragmatic nuances present in the original text.

During the translation of texts with archaic pronouns, losses may occur in conveying nuances that provide information about the person, speech, and emotional state of the characters. Although emotionally charged phrases with the archaic pronoun “ye” may retain their power in translation, the archaic nature of the characters' speech is often lost, leading to a misrepresentation of their character and social status.

For example, in the phrase “Ill omens dog ye both!” [2], the translator lost the stylistic features of the archaic pronoun and the speech peculiarities in the translation: “А бий вас сила Божа, ... !” [3, с. 231]. This can lead to a loss of emotional richness and individuality of the characters' speech.

Attempts to convey the language features of characters may involve using different options for reproducing the pronoun, such as “Ти”, “Вас”, “Ви,” and others: “Чуєте, йомени: адже навіть ти ...” [3, с. 207]. However, such an

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approach isn't always capable of conveying the full emotional and stylistic power of the original.

Using appropriate translation techniques, such as reinterpretation and commentary, can help convey the specificity of archaic speech and preserve its emotional richness. For example, in the phrase “be upon ye and about ye” [2], the translator uses commentary to explain the language peculiarities of the characters: “Нехай буде над Вами благословення” [3, с. 252].

In cases where archaic pronouns play a significant role in creating a solemn atmosphere, it is important to find ways to reproduce them, as demonstrated in the following example: “Хай же я заспіваю тобі, Я прославлю тебе над усе” [4, p. 19]. Such an approach helps preserve the author's style and the uniqueness of the text.

Overall, the translation of archaic pronouns requires careful attention and a creative approach from the translator, as it influences the reader's perception of the text and can affect the conveyance of its meaning and emotional sphere.

The use of archaic pronouns in this work has not only linguistic but also symbolic significance, conveying a certain attitude towards key images. English writers often use archaic pronouns for personification, emphasizing their attitude to objects or individuals and expressing admiration or respect. However, in translation, these pronouns are often replaced with stylistically neutral Ukrainian counterparts, which can lead to a loss of emotional richness and refinement of the author's style.

For example, in the phrase “I float his carol with joy, with joy to thee O death.” [1, p. 145], the archaic pronoun “thee” underscores a particular attitude towards death. However, in V. Koptilov's translation, this pronoun is replaced with the stylistically neutral “тобі”: “Пливе славослів'я до тебе, і я радію, радію тобі ...” [5, с. 143].

Applying different translation methods can help reproduce the emotional richness of the original, but it can also lead to the loss of certain aspects, such as temporal information or nuances of the author's attitude. For instance, in the phrase “... who gives thee the opportunity of exercising thy charity and hospitality” [2], the archaic “thee” is rendered as the stylistically neutral “тобі” in

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the translation: "... і даю тобі нагоду виявити милосердя й гостинність" [3, с. 171].

However, there are examples where translators employ more creative approaches to convey archaic pronouns, allowing for a slightly better reproduction of the emotional and stylistic richness of the original. For example, the use of the possessive Ukrainian pronoun "свій" emphasizes the uniqueness and expressiveness of the archaic pronoun, as in the phrase "With thy undaunted armies, engineering" [1]: "Виводь свої безстрашні армії, Техніко!" [4, с. 87].

Thus, the diversity of approaches to translating archaic pronouns allows translators to preserve the author's style and emotional richness of the original, but it can also lead to certain losses in conveying certain aspects of the text.

In this text, various methods of conveying archaic pronouns in translation are highlighted, each of which has its special features and influences the reader's perception of the text.

For example, using demonstrative pronouns in translation can draw attention to the uniqueness of the depicted person or object, as in the phrase "зоставити свою даму в руках такого достойного спільника" [3, с. 167].

Additionally, archaic pronouns can be conveyed through substitution or emotionally charged adjectives that reflect the author's attitude towards the object, for example: "непідкупне, безжальне, любе" [5].

Sometimes translators employ more creative approaches, such as a complete reinterpretation of meaning or using verbs instead of pronouns, which allows for a better conveyance of the author's intent. For example, "прощайте" [3, с. 83].

Thus, the variety of translation techniques for archaic pronouns enables translators to reproduce not only the linguistic but also the emotional and stylistic aspects of the original, making the translation more effective and expressive.

In the translation of archaic pronouns, the method of lexical archaization is often used, aimed at preserving elements of authenticity and expressiveness of the original, as in the phrase "Як Вельможність Вашу звали там, де Стікс хова п'ятьма?" [5].

However, in the translation of archaic pronouns, archaic counterparts are not always used in Ukrainian due to the structural needs of the literary work and stylistic nuances, as can be seen in the phrase "Я куди з більшою охотою показав би свою вправність, ніж мечем та щитом" [3, с. 178].

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In certain cases, translators employ other methods, such as specification or omission of archaic pronouns, which can lead to the loss of stylistic expression of the original. For example, “І ось ти вийшла, чорна, з похиленої хати” [4, с. 19].

Therefore, the translation of archaic pronouns often requires a balance between preserving the authenticity of the original and adapting to the cultural-linguistic characteristics of the target audience.

Although archaic pronouns belong to low-frequency lexical units and have a limited sphere of stylistic application, they carry important temporal and historical information and perform various stylistic and pragmatic functions. Due to their expressiveness, they can serve as a strong stylistic element capable of coloring the text. Since archaic vocabulary is perceived as a means of elevating style, its translation should be carefully planned at the stylistic level.

**Conclusions.** In translation practice, various techniques are used to convey archaic pronouns. This can involve replacing the archaic pronoun with a more neutral or stylistically similar equivalent, omitting the archaic element, or generalizing it to compensate for stylistic losses. An effective approach involves using stylistically colored substitutes instead of directly reproducing archaic lexicon, which preserves its stylistic significance. In translation, it is important to reproduce the stylistic paradigm of the original, considering the combination of different types of archaic pronouns from the perspective of microstylistics.

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