

SUBSTANTIATED ADJECTIVES AND PARTICIPLES AND THEIR TRANSLATABILITY (GERMAN AND RUSSIAN IN COMPARISON)

Adjectives and participles can be converted to substantives, both in German and in Russian. About German substantiations, various sources explicitly state that there are no restrictions on turning an adjective or participle into a noun. As far as the Russian language is concerned, none of the grammars or scholarly works devoted to the subject of substantiations could discover the information as to whether every Russian adjective and participle can be substantiated. No clearly formulated prohibitions could be found that would set limits on the ability of certain types of adjectives or participles to be substantiated.

Only occasional substantiations of adjectives and participles are the focus of this work. When comparing German texts with their Russian translations, it is noticeable that many of the occasional substantiations from the source text are not transferred to the target text in the form of substantiations as full equivalents, it means by a word of the same part of speech, the same grammatical gender, the same grammatical number (for participles also of the same diathesis and tense).

The source form is given in the original text, there are no grammatical prohibitions or special rules for nominalization in the target language, what could be the cause of the translation not being equivalent in this case? That is the question posed in this paper. The first primary, primordial ideas on concerning the question posed are formulated as hypotheses.

The purpose of the paper is to analyze different relations between the original and the target text regarding the translation of substantiated adjectives and participles and, in the absence of equivalence, to try to find the causes of the mismatch.

Material. About 700 examples found in the parallel corpus of the National corpus of the Russian language as well as in literary and journalistic texts serve as material. Most of the translations are from published sources.

Methods of the research. The comparative method is followed by the methods of systematization, categorization, and classification.

Overview of the latest linguistic research about the topic. In German grammatical research, the subject of substantiation is hardly dealt with. In the Russian-language literature, some aspects of the substantiation of adjectives and participles have been deeply and variously analyzed. But no research could be found exploring the problem of translation equivalence for these phenomena. Thus, the present work is the first of this kind in comparative studies.

Results. Categories „Complete match between source text and target text (full equivalence)“, „Partial match between source text and target text (partial equivalence)“ and „Mismatch between source text and target text“ are defined and described. An attempt is made to infer the causes of partial equivalence and non-equivalence between languages.

The conclusions can first be drawn as hypotheses to be proved in the continuation of this research. It is likely that Russian-speaking translators and authors are much more sparing with substantiations than is the case with German texts, although no clearly formulated restrictions on occasional adjective and participle substantiations could be found for Russian. Caution in the use of substantiated adjectives or participles in Russian texts probably rests primarily in the desire to remain faithful to linguistic tradition. It seems that Russian-speaking authors and translators tend to use traditional structures such as attributive noun groups more than German-speaking ones. There are also disputes in the assessment of the same grammatical phenomena in two cultures: some cases are interpreted by Russian grammarians as not being substantiation, while for German grammarians they are substantiation. However, deeper research will certainly reveal other reasons for the differences between original and target texts regarding the phenomenon described above.

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