

SYNTACTICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN TRANSLATION OF LITHUANIAN SENTENCES WITH THEMATIC LOCAL AND TEMPORAL ADVERBIALS INTO ENGLISH

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Translation can be described as a science, a skill and an art. When understood as a science and a skill, translation can be interpreted as interlingual transformation or periphrasis [Бархударов, 1975, с. 11; 1976, с. 17]. In order to convey in the target language (TL) all the information contained in the text of the source language (SL), a translator has to perform a number of translation transformations which are conditioned by the discrepancies in the structure and rules of functioning of the two languages.

An inadequate control of the TL (English) by Lithuanian students results in them employing too high a degree of formal correspondence with their native language. Not yet fully familiar with the patterns of the English language, they inevitably carry across the structures which are familiar to them in Lithuanian. Discrepancies between the syntactical structures of the Lithuanian and English languages present one of the greatest difficulties at the initial stages of the practice of translation. In English, an analytical language, syntax is a dominating factor, whereas Lithuanian, a synthetic language, gives preference to morphological means.

The central problem of translation is that of finding translation equivalents for the SL in the TL. Translation equivalence can nearly always be established at sentence rank [Catford, 1965, p. 49]. Translation, in fact, consists in changing the formal structure of the sentence of the SL in the TL, while its communicative structure remains intact [Бархударов, 1976, с. 17; Черняховская, 1976, с. 14]. To achieve this, a translator has to be familiar with the rules which govern the expression of the elements of the communicative structure of the sentence – the theme and the rheme. In other words, he cannot disregard the principles of the Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP). A translation can be viewed as adequate if it reproduces correctly in the TL the components of the communicative structure of the sentence in the SL.

Studies in the relation of the FSP and word-order, initiated by the Czech linguist Vilém Mathesius, have yielded many valuable insights into the rules of functioning of a great number of languages. They have also contributed greatly to comparative studies of different languages which, in their turn, are of great value in the theo-

ry and practice of translation [Mathesius, 1975, p. 81 – 85; Firbas, 1964; Girdenienė, 1971; Valeika, 1974].

A comparison of Lithuanian and English shows that the two languages exhibit considerable differences in regard to the expression of the FSP. In Lithuanian, the principles of the FSP are in agreement with the grammatical structure of the sentence. Here, word-order is the most important device for the expression of the FSP [Girdenienė, 1971]. The arrangement of the elements in the Lithuanian sentence is dictated by a necessity to express the components of the communicative structure; in non-emotive declarative sentences they are arranged from the theme to the rheme. These components may have any syntactical form.

In contrast, the decisive role in determining word-order in English is played by the grammatical principle, i. e. the position of an element in a sentence is determined by the syntactic function of that element. In accordance with this principle, the English non-emotive declarative sentence arranges its elements in the following order: the grammatical subject – the grammatical predicate – the grammatical object

The apparent conflict between the grammatical structure and the FSP in the English language can be resolved by the language itself. It is essential for a translator to know those means which the English language possesses. Some of those means are without their counterparts in Lithuanian and their knowledge could be of help in the practice of translation.

The present paper sets out to examine syntactical transformations which have to be performed when translating Lithuanian non-emotive declarative sentences with thematic local and temporal adverbials into English.

Local and temporal adverbials, in general, may express either a setting or a specification of an action. A local or temporal setting is a non-essential element of the sentence. Even when conveying new information it carries a relatively small amount of Communicative Dynamism (CD) [Horová, 1976, p. 119]. In agreement with the principle of the FSP which requires that the theme, which has the lowest degree of CD [Firbas, 1975, p. 48], is placed in the initial position of the sentence, whatever sentence element may express it, thematic local and temporal adverbials take front position in Lithuanian non-emotive declarative sentences. The arrangement of the sentence constituents follows the patterns:

T/L Adverbial – the Predicate – the Subject

T Adv. – L Adv. – the Predicate – the Subject

T/L Adv. – the Subject – the Predicate – the Object. E. g.:

Sausio 15–16 dienomis Maskvoje įvyko sąjunginisių vadovaujančių ryšių darbuotojų pasitarimas.

Ne per toliausiai nuo ledyno pakraščio stūkso aukšta, plika, stati uola.

Žemiau Kauno Nemunas teka ramiai ir didingai.

In English, owing to the dominant role of the grammatical principle, the position of the thematic local and temporal adverbials is not so strictly fixed: temporal adverbials can hold front, middle and final position, local adverbials will have mostly middle and final positions.

When translating Lithuanian sentences with thematic local and temporal adverbials, a translator can make a choice from two distinct sets of possibilities offered by the English language. The first set will include instances which do not entail any marked syntactical transformations. Here thematic local and temporal adverbials will take the following positions in the English sentence:

1. Thematic temporal adverbials hold front position. E. g.:

1919 metais pasirašyta Versalio taikos sutartis.

In 1919 the Peace Treaty of Versailles was signed.

2. If the Lithuanian sentence has two adverbials (local and temporal), the temporal adverbial holds front position and the local adverbial holds end position. E. g.:

Trečiadienį, lapkričio 15 dieną, Nacionaliniame kino teatre prasideda XXII Londono kino filmų festivalis.

On Wednesday, November 15, the 22nd London Film Festival opens at the National Film Theatre.

3. Both adverbials hold end position. E. g.:

The 22nd London Film Festival opens at the National Film Theatre on Wednesday, November 15.

4. Both adverbials go immediately after the predicate. E. g.:

Vakar Lusakoje įvyko Zambijos studentų protesto demonstracija prieš Anglijos ir JAV politiką Rodezijos atžvilgiu.

Zambian students demonstrated in Lusaka yesterday in protest against Anglo-American policy towards Rhodesia.

5. Temporal adverbials are placed before the predicate. E. g.:

Vakar Japonijoje buvo pranešta, kad labai pagyvėjo jos prekyba su Europos šalimis.

Japan yesterday announced a massive increase in its trade with European countries.

Though the above set is in accordance with the grammatical rules of the English language, it displays an obvious disagreement with the order of the communicative elements of the Lithuanian sentence which places its thematic local and temporal adverbials in front position and all the communicatively relevant information in end position. A closer look at the functional properties of the English language will show that English has quite a number of possibilities to bring the grammatical structure of its sentence in line with its communicative structure. The application of these possibilities will make for considerable syntactical and morphological transforma-

tions in translating Lithuanian sentences with thematic local and temporal adverbials. We shall divide our material into two groups according to the adverbial involved in the transformations.

I. Translation of Lithuanian Sentences with Thematic Temporal Adverbials

1. Consider the following Lithuanian sentences and their possible English equivalents:

XX amžiaus pradžioje Lietuvoje prasidėjo ekonominė krizė.

The beginning of the 20th century witnessed an economic crisis in Lithuania. Šiandien per BiBiSi pirmąją programą bus transliuojama pirmoji filmo „Stebuklinga moteris“ dalis.

Tonight sees the first episode of “Wonder Woman” on BBC-1.

Pastaraisiais metais nepaprastai atgijo susidomėjimas semantine teorija.

The last few years have seen a very noticeable renewal of interest in semantic theory.

Pokario metais nepaprastai išaugo civilinė aviacija.

The post-war period has seen an enormous increase in civil aviation.

When translating sentences of the above group, we observe the following changes: 1) the Lithuanian thematic temporal adverbial is transformed into the English subject; 2) Lithuanian intransitive verbs are replaced by English transitive verbs followed by an object group, and 3) the Lithuanian subject (in the majority of instances rhematic) is transformed into the English object.

These transformations enable us to preserve the communicative structure of the Lithuanian sentence with greater accuracy, which helps to achieve a higher degree of equivalence. They occur when translating Lithuanian sentences with temporal when-adverbials expressed by nouns with the meaning of temporality: 1) nouns denoting time as the starting or the closing point (*šiandien, rytoj, vakar, konkreti data – diena, mėnuo, metai, savaitė*) and 2) nouns denoting a prolonged duration of time (*amžius, dešimtmetis, laikotarpis, periodas*). This type of adverbials, which in the Lithuanian sentence function as thematic components of the communicative structure of the sentence, can be easily transformed into the English subject with the semantic function of temporality which designates the time of the state or action [Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik, 1972, §§ 7.14–17]. The English subject expressed by the nouns *year, century, period, decade, week, yesterday, tomorrow*, etc. takes the following verbs as its grammatical predicates: *to see, to witness, to mark, to bring forth, to bring about, to find*. Note a fairly limited set of verbs here in contrast to Lithuanian verbs: *atgijo, atgimė, įvyko, pakito, pasiekė, pasirodė, prasidėjo, susilaukė*, etc. The semantic loss which occurs during translation in the verb is

compensated for by a large set of English nouns in the object group which are semantically related to Lithuanian verbs. Cf.:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>atgimė susidomėjimas</i> | = saw an increased interest witnessed saw a revival of interest |
| <i>buvo įkurta</i> | = saw the foundation |
| <i>buvo pasiekta pergalė</i> | = saw the victory |
| <i>buvo gautas derlius</i> | = brought forth the harvest |
| <i>ėmė nykti, smukti</i> | = saw the decline |
| <i>išaugo</i> | = witnessed an expansion |
| <i>įvyko eilė renginių</i> | = saw a number of events |
| <i>iškilo</i> | = saw the emergence |
| <i>nepakito</i> | = saw little change |
| <i>paplito idėjos</i> | = saw the spread of ideas |
| <i>pasirodė išėjo knyga</i> | = saw the appearance publication of... |
| <i>prasidėjo karas (krizė)</i> | = saw the beginning of the war (crisis) |
| <i>pradėjo vystytis</i> | = saw the development |
| <i>pagilėjo prieštaravimai</i> | = witnessed the deepening of contradictions |
| <i>pagyvėjo veikla</i> | = brought about more activity |
| <i>vyko kova</i> | = witnessed the struggle |

2. The second pattern within this group includes instances of the following type:

Katastrofos metu žuvo penki žmonės.

The catastrophe killed five people.

Griūties metu buvo sugriauti keli namai.

The avalanche destroyed several houses.

Prieš keletą savaičių įvykusio sprogimo metu Pekino geležinkelio stotyje žuvo 11 žmonių.

The explosion at Peking railway station two weeks ago killed 11 people.

Here transformation affects Lithuanian thematic temporal adverbials expressed by nouns denoting events and happenings usually sudden and dangerous (*griūtis, katastrofa, lėktuvo avarija, žemės drebėjimas, sprogimas*). Like in the first pattern, Lithuanian intransitive verbs are transformed into English transitive verbs *to kill, to destroy*. The subject of the English sentence here has an instrumental function, expressing the unwitting (generally inanimate) material cause of an event.

II. Translation of Lithuanian Sentences with Thematic Local Adverbials

Three distinct patterns can be singled out in this group.

1. *Vilniuje yra penki teatrai.*

Vilnius has five theatres.

Bridžende nėra pramonės įmonių.
Bridgend has no industrial works.
Druskininkų sanatorijose vienu metu gali ilsėtis 4000 poilsiautojų.
The sanatoriums of Druskininkai can accomodate 4,000 holiday-makers at a time.
Universitete dėstoma visa eilė disciplinų.
The University offers a variety of courses.
Pajūryje randame didelę gamtovaizdžio įvairovę.
The coast exhibits a variety of contrasting scenery.
Britanijoje aptinkama visų geologinių periodų uolienų.
Britain contains rocks of all the main geological periods.
Temzės žiotyse yra puikios sąlygos laivybai.
The Thames estuary offers excellent facilities for shipping.
Muziejuje eksponuojami Viktorijos laikų ir ankstesniųjų periodų baldai.
The museum contains furniture of the Victorian and earlier periods.
Nuo XIII amžiaus iki 1834 metų Taueryje buvo Karališkasis žvėrynas.
From the 13th century until 1834 the Tower housed the Royal Menagerie.
Keimbridžo universitete rengiama 7000 įvairiausių sričių specialistų.
Cambridge University trains about 7,000 students in different specialities.

In the above instances the Lithuanian thematic local adverbial is transformed into the English thematic subject, which makes it possible to carry across the communicative structure of the Lithuanian sentence into its English equivalent. The Lithuanian intransitive verbs are replaced by English transitive verbs.

Lithuanian local adverbials in this pattern are expressed by geographical names or locative nouns denoting either geographical entities (*city, town, village, coast, estuary*) or functional buildings (*academy, church, club, gallery, hall, museum, sanatorium, university, etc.*).

The set of verbs in Lithuanian sentences is relatively small: *būti, rasti, sutikti* (their common semantic component is *to exist*). The English equivalent sentences exhibit a much more numerous list of verbs (all of them transitive) which contains two groups: a) relational verbs denoting possession (*contain, have, hold, house, include, own, possess, seat, sleep*), and b) verbs which denote showing or displaying of something that is possessed by somebody or something (*boast, exhibit, feature, offer, provide*). It should be pointed out that the second set of verbs has a very distinct component of possession. Therefore both groups of verbs could be treated as "possessive" verbs. They all combine with locative subjects, which is entirely impossible in Lithuanian where locative nouns do not function as subjects and where "possessive" verbs do not combine with locative nouns in the Nominative, in non-emotive, stylistically unmarked speech.

Some of the instances of the above group could be translated with the help of English existential constructions. Cf.:

Temzės žiotyse yra puikios sąlygos laivybai.

The Thames estuary offers excellent facilities for shipping.

There are excellent facilities for shipping in the Thames estuary.

Semantic analysis of the English verbs *to be* and *to have* has shown that both verbs have a component of meaning which could be defined as "information about the presence of a certain object in a location or space" [Селъверстова, 1977, c. 5–67]. The choice between the two English variants, translations of the Lithuanian sentence with the existential verb *būti*, is determined by the character of relations between the locative noun and the rhematic group, on the one hand, and by the requirements of equivalence between the Lithuanian and English sentences in the arrangement of their communicative constituents, on the other hand. This conclusion will be supported by our second pattern.

2. *Edinburge yra gyvenę daug rašytojų ir mokslininkų.*

Edinburgh has been the home of men of letters and scientists.

Šitame ežere gyvena (randa prieglobstį) įvairiausių rūšių laukiniai paukščiai.

This lake is the home of many varieties of wild fowl.

Kente yra buvę daug svarbių Anglijos istorijos įvykių.

Kent has been the scene of many important events in English history.

Universiteto stadione vyksta futbolo rungtynės, roko muzikos koncertai ir kiti pramoginiai renginiai.

Varsity stadium is the venue for college football, rock concerts and other large-scale open-air entertainments.

It is a very limited pattern containing Lithuanian sentences with local adverbials denoted by locative nouns of the same type as in the above pattern. The difference between the two patterns lies in the character of relations between the locative noun which is the theme of the sentence and the rhematic group. In the first pattern the presence of a certain object in a location is regarded as a permanent property of that location. In the second pattern the rhematic group refers to a casual or temporary property of the locative noun. This accounts for the choice of an existential or a possessive construction in the equivalent English sentence. In the first pattern preference is usually given to a possessive verb, whereas in the second pattern an existential verb is used.

3. The last pattern includes Lithuanian impersonal sentences with the non-gender form of the passive present participle [Jakaitienė, Laigonaitė, Paulauskienė, 1976, §§ 400–402]. Cf.:

Knygoje išsamiai aprašyta mūsų literatūrinės kalbos raida XIX–XX a.

The book offers a comprehensive study of the Lithuanian literary language in the 19–20th centuries.

Konferencijoje buvo pabrėžta, kad visos neprisijungusios šalys turi stiprinti savo vienybę ir solidarumą.

The conference stressed the need for all non-aligned countries to strengthen their unity and solidarity.

Susirinkime buvo nutarta parašyti atvirą laišką vidaus reikalų ministrui.

The meeting adopted a decision to write an open letter to Home Secretary.

Lithuanian thematic local adverbials expressed by nouns denoting either large gatherings or events (*konferencija, kongresas, susirinkimas, suvažiavimas*, etc.), or various kinds of written documents (*dokumentas, knyga, pareiškimas, nutarimas, rezoliucija, sutartis, pranešimas, straipsnis*, etc.) are transformed into English locative subjects. Lithuanian passive participles are transformed into active verb forms.

Nouns:

- a) *article, book, bulletin, communique, legend, letter, leaflet, magazine, newspaper, report, resolution, statement, sources, treaty,*
- b) *congress, conference, meeting, rally, session*

Verbs:

accuse, appeal, analyse, agree, call for, carry, charge, claim, deal with, decide, declare, define, estimate, give, go on, lay down, read, recommend, suggest, seek, show, stress, throw light on, urge

This pattern is very characteristic of scientific prose and publicistic style.

The analysis of the transformations occurring in translation of Lithuanian neutral declarative sentences with thematic local and temporal adverbials has shown that:

1. Despite the alleged disagreement between the principles of the grammatical word-order and the communicative structure of the sentence, English offers a number of possibilities to bring the syntactical structure of the sentence in line with its communicative structure.

2. In comparison with Lithuanian, English has a greater number of thematic subjects with a large set of semantic functions which are without their counterparts in Lithuanian. Besides its agentive function, the most characteristic function of the subject in many languages, the subject in English has local, temporal, instrumental and other functions [Нюрадзе, 1977].

3. The English subject expressed by temporal and locative nouns easily combines with verbs which in Lithuanian are used only with animate nouns.

4. In comparison with Lithuanian, English makes a wider use of possessive verbs which are semantically related to existential verbs (they share a common com-

ponent of "presence in a location or space") with which they are interchangeable in certain situations.

5. In all the above transformations, with the exception of the last pattern, the Lithuanian intransitive verb is replaced by the English transitive verb. This change is also determined by the need to preserve the communicative structure of the sentence in the TL. Since the end of the sentence, which is secured for rhematic components, usually contains predicate and object groups with a greater amount of CD than the subject, English tends to avoid predicates consisting of just a single intransitive verb. For such a purpose English uses a general verb (*to see, to witness, to mark, to have*) followed by a noun phrase [Leech, Svartvik, 1978, §§ 450–451].

SINTAKSINĖS TRANSFORMACIJOS VERČIANT IŠ LIETUVIŲ KALBOS Į ANGLŲ KALBĄ NEUTRALIUS, KONSTATUOJAMUS SAKINIUS SU TEMATINĖMIS LAIKO IR VIETOS APLINKYBĖMIS

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Reziumė

Straipsnyje aprašomos būdingesnės sintaksinės transformacijos, kurios atliekamos verčiant iš lietuvių kalbos į anglų kalbą neutralius, konstatuojamus sakinius su tematinėmis laiko ir vietos aplinkybėmis. Šias transformacijas sąlygoja struktūriniai ir funkciniai skirtumai tarp lietuvių ir anglų kalbų.

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