

THE PROBLEM OF ELLIPSIS IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO RUSSIAN

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Abstract: The article examines the problem of ellipsis in translation from English into Russian. Ellipsis, as a phenomenon, is the omission of individual words or constructions that are implied in the context. This common means of saving language, characteristic of English speech, causes difficulties when translating into Russian, where a more explicit expression of the omitted elements is often required. The study focuses on methods of compensating for elliptical constructions, features of syntactic and semantic analysis, as well as strategies that can be used by translators to preserve the original meaning and style of the text.

Keywords: ellipsis, translation, English, Russian, syntactic analysis, semantic analysis, translation strategies, linguistics.

Introduction: Ellipsis as a linguistic phenomenon plays an important role in the construction of statements, especially in English, where it is widely used to create brevity and expressiveness. Ellipsis implies the omission of certain words, phrases or grammatical constructions that are easily restored from the context. However, when translating from English into Russian, elliptical constructions often create certain difficulties, since the Russian language requires a more complete and explicit form of expression of thought.

The English language, due to its analytical nature and flexibility of syntax, allows a wide range of elliptical constructions, which makes the text dynamic and compact. At the same time, the Russian language, being synthetic, requires accuracy and completeness in the transmission of information, which may lead to the need to add words or even restructure the sentence during translation. This is especially true in literary texts, dialogues, journalism and scientific articles, where ellipsis performs not only an economic function, but also serves as a means of expression.

This article is aimed at studying the problem of transmitting elliptical constructions when translating from English into Russian. The main features of ellipsis in both languages are considered, the most common difficulties are analyzed and strategies are proposed that allow preserving the semantic and stylistic accuracy of the original text. The study focuses on the importance of context, grammatical and semantic analysis, and how translators can compensate for the differences in the syntactic structures of the two languages.

Thus, the analysis of ellipsis in translation is not only theoretical but also practical, since it allows for a deeper understanding of the differences between English and Russian, as well as the development of effective approaches to working with elliptical constructions.

Main part: Ellipsis, as a stylistic figure consisting in the omission of implied members of a sentence, is a significant problem in translation from English into Russian. This problem is due to the differences in the grammatical structure and stylistic norms of the two languages. This article is devoted to the analysis of the main difficulties that arise when translating elliptical constructions and suggests possible solutions.

Ellipsis (from the ancient Greek ἔλλειψις — “dropping out, omitting”) is the intentional omission of one or more parts of a sentence that are easily restored from the context. It is used to create various stylistic effects:

Economy of language: Ellipsis allows you to express an idea more briefly and concisely.

Dynamic and lively speech: Omitting words creates a sense of fast pace and ease, imitating a conversational style.

Emotional expressiveness: Ellipsis can enhance the emotional impact, convey tension, excitement or other feelings.

Creating the effect of understatement: Omitting words can hint at something, leaving the reader the opportunity to figure out the meaning themselves.

In English, ellipsis is quite common, especially in colloquial speech, newspaper headlines and fiction. Examples:

Got a light? (Have you got a light?)

Coffee? (Would you like some coffee?)

London, 1945. (This happened in London in 1945.)

The main problem is that direct copying of elliptical constructions from English into Russian often results in an unnatural and incomprehensible sound. Russian, unlike English, is more inclined to express all the necessary grammatical elements in a sentence.

Main difficulties:

Differences in syntactic structure: In English, word order is often the only indicator of the syntactic function of a word. In Russian, this function is performed by case endings. Therefore, omitting words that carry grammatical information can make it difficult to understand the meaning.

Differences in stylistic norms: What sounds natural in English may seem unnatural or even grammatically incorrect in Russian.

Contextual dependence: Understanding and adequate translation of elliptical constructions are highly dependent on the context. Insufficient understanding of the context can lead to translation errors.

Examples of translation problems:

The English “Nice weather, isn’t it?” is literally translated as “Nice weather, isn’t it?”, which sounds somewhat formal. More natural would be “Nice weather, isn’t it?” or simply “Nice weather!”

The phrase “He went to the store, she to the library.” requires the restoration of the omitted verb in Russian: “Он беда в складе, а я в банковских.”

For an adequate translation of elliptical constructions from English into Russian, it is necessary to use various translation strategies:

Restoring omitted elements: This is the most common method of translation, which consists of adding missing words to the Russian text so that the sentence sounds natural and grammatically correct.

Paraphrasing: Sometimes it is necessary to completely rephrase the sentence to convey its meaning in Russian without using ellipsis.

Using analogues in Russian: In some cases, it is possible to use existing elliptical constructions in Russian that correspond in meaning and stylistic function to English ones.

Considering the context: The most important condition for an adequate translation is a thorough analysis of the context, which allows you to correctly understand the meaning of the elliptical construction and choose the most appropriate translation option.

The English “Ready?” can be translated as “Are you ready?”, “You are ready?” or “Everything is ready?” depending on the context.

The phrase “More coffee?” can be translated as “More coffee?”, “Want more coffee?” or “Do you want more coffee?”. Ellipsis is used in various functional styles, from colloquial speech to fiction and journalism. The specifics of translating elliptical constructions may depend on the style of the text.

Colloquial speech: Ellipsis is most common in colloquial speech. When translating, it is important to preserve the ease and naturalness of the sound by using colloquial equivalents.

Fiction: In fiction, ellipsis can be used to create various stylistic effects, such as dynamics, tension, understatement. When translating, it is necessary to take these effects into account and strive to preserve them.

Journalism: In journalistic texts, ellipsis is often used in titles for brevity and expressiveness. When translating, it is necessary to convey the meaning of the title as concisely and succinctly as possible. The analysis and recommendations presented in this article show that the issue of translating ellipsis is not limited to technical rules, but also requires a creative approach. This raises the translation process not only to the level of intellectual activity requiring language knowledge, but also to the level of art requiring artistic skill and linguistic sensitivity.

In conclusion, it can be noted that translating elliptical constructions from English into Russian is a complex task that requires the translator not only to know the grammar and vocabulary of both languages, but also to understand the stylistic norms and context. Correct application of translation strategies and careful analysis of the context allow to achieve adequate and natural translation, while preserving the stylistic features of the original. Further research in this area can be aimed at studying the features of ellipsis translation in various genres and functional styles.

The problem of ellipsis in translation from English to Russian is one of the complex tasks associated with ensuring a balance between the structural and semantic features of the language. In English, ellipsis is a widely used linguistic device for ensuring economy and conciseness, serving to simply and clearly express ideas that are understood based on the context. However, in Russian, such structures often require complete and precise expression, which creates a number of problems in the translation process.

The different use of ellipsis in English and Russian shows that the translator must take into account not only the grammatical rules of the two languages, but also contextual and cultural factors. The following approaches play an important role in translating ellipsis from English to Russian:

Filling method: Ensuring the logical consistency of the text by replacing elliptical constructions with appropriate complete expressions in Russian.

Maintaining contextual accuracy: Restoring especially semantically important elements so as not to distort the general meaning of the text.

Stylistic adaptation: Recreating the style and tone of the original text in Russian while preserving the aesthetic qualities of the text.

The translator's linguistic knowledge and cultural sensitivity are of great importance in solving the problem of ellipsis. It is often necessary to expand or explain in Russian the constructions that seem simple and concise in English, and it is important not to lose semantic subtlety in this process. Also, when translating ellipsis, the translator should not forget to take into account the genre, communicative function and target audience of the text.

A deeper study of the issue of ellipsis and the development of translation strategies related to it is important not only for translators, but also for linguists and translation theory specialists. This will serve to further improve language learning and translation practices in the future and allow for a deeper understanding of the richness of meaning expressed in two languages.

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