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**EXPRESSION OF NEGATION IN ENGLISH
AND SOME PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION
INTO RUSSIAN**

The article analyzes various means of expressing the category of negation in English. Being a linguistic universal, negation is expressed at different levels: morphological, lexical, grammatical. The article concludes that the choice of language means depends on many factors, such as general or particular negation, degree of negation, sentence structure. The main difficulty for native speakers of the Russian language in translation

is the choice of a single or double negation to convey the speaker's intention in a certain communicative situation.

Keywords: negation, means of expression, language level, semantics, category.

В статье анализируются различные средства выражения категории отрицания в английском языке. Являясь лингвистической универсалией, отрицание выражается на разных уровнях: морфологическом, лексическом, грамматическом. В статье делается вывод о том, что выбор языковых средств зависит от многих факторов, таких как общее или частное отрицание, степень отрицания, структура предложения. Основной трудностью для носителей русского языка при переводе является выбор одиночного либо двойного отрицания для передачи намерения говорящего в определенной коммуникативной ситуации.

Ключевые слова: отрицание, средство выражения, языковой уровень, семантика, категория.

In modern linguistics, the problem of “negation” occupies a significant place and, despite a large number of researches, is not sufficiently studied.

It has often been observed that the logical symmetry of negative and affirmative propositions in logic belies a fundamental asymmetry in natural language. It was Plato who first observed that negative sentences are less valuable than affirmative ones, less specific and less informative. Negative statements are not only generally less informative than affirmatives, they are morphosyntactically more marked and psychologically more complex and harder to process. Negation is one of the most important language categories, and it can be considered as a linguistic universal, since it exists in all languages at different linguistic levels, embodied in various forms and means. Language negation is associated with all language levels: with lexical, grammatical, semantic, syntactic, etc. Negation, from a semantic point of view, is very diverse in meaning and covers a very wide range of values from the values of absence, disagreement to opposition [1]. Many philosophers, linguists, and psychologists have situated this asymmetry in logic or semantics (Bergson, Wittgenstein, Givón, Wason), as in the claim that every negation presupposes a corresponding affirmative but not vice versa.

“Negation” as a term denotes an element of meaning in a sentence, indicating that the connection established between the components of the sentence does not take place in reality, or that the opposite affirmative sentence is perceived by the speaker as contrary to the truth. In most cases, a negative statement is used in situations where the corresponding statement sentence was used earlier. Negation is one of the initially existing undifferentiated semantically connotational categories inherent in the entire linguistic picture of the world, which cannot be defined by means of simpler semantic elements.

There are several means of expressing negation in English. They have been studied by many linguists, and several attempts to classify them have been made. For example, linguists Barkhudarov L.S. and Shtelling D.A. distinguish three ways of expression negation: with the help of negative pronouns, adverbs; negative conjunctions [2].

Bondarenko V.N. in his monograph “Negation as a logical and grammatical category” identifies the following six ways of expression: negative affixes; negative particles; negative pronouns and adverbs; negative conjunctions; negative prepositions –postpositions in some languages; as well as an implicit way of expressing negation [3].

According to the classifications mentioned above we may single out grammatical, lexical and morphological means of negation.

Negative sentences in English are formed using certain language elements. The most important element of negation in English is the particle **not**, which precedes the auxiliary or modal verbs or after the verb “to be” if it functions as the main one in the sentence.

*He **shouldn't** have told you about it. – Он не должен был говорить Вам об этом. It **isn't** so easy to drive. – Водить машину не так уж и легко.*

Although **not** is the main means of forming a negative sentence, it can also give a negative connotation to individual parts of the sentence (for example, a predicate).

*It **isn't** my point of view. – Это **не** моя точка зрения*

Lexical means of expressing negation are the most independent, as the negative semantics of these universals are contained in them and the negation moves freely from one part of speech to another, derived from it. Negative pronouns (*nobody, nowhere, etc.*), conjunction *neither...nor*, adverbs *hardly, scarcely, never*, preposition *without*, as well as nouns and verbs with negative semantics (*failure, lack, to deny, to doubt, to miss, to omit*) serve to express negative meaning.

***Lack** of courage is his worst fault. – **Недостаток** смелости – его худшая ошибка.*

Russian and English have different tendencies. Rationalism is a tendency of English and English grammar. It means that if in the English language there is any negative word before a verb, no negative particle is to be used. That's why the problem is that Russian speaking people have to understand and follow this tendency.

*He told me **never** to do it again – Он сказал мне **никогда** больше так **не** делать. **Neither** of them knows the way, do they? – **Никто** из них **не** знал дорогу, не так ли?*

The main morphological means of negation is prefixation and affixation, but negative affixes being more common:

careful-careless, correct-incorrect, legal – illegal, guide – misguide.

In both languages, negation can be expressed implicitly and explicitly. It should be noted that implicit negation in one language, as a rule, gets a formal expression in another:

*I am afraid you will **hardly** understand it. – Я боюсь, что ты **едва ли** **поймёшь** (не поймешь) это.*

If formally expressed negation is always more concrete and clearer for perception, in the case of implicit expression of negation such factors as context, intonation, word order, the speech situation and extra-linguistic experience of communication participants play a special role in clarifying the meaning of the utterance.

So, it should be noted that negation is one of the most important elements of a sentence, the main sources of replenishment and expansion of the vocabulary, since a language cannot be unchanged in a changing world, it must be developed and improved. The use of negation contributes to the placement of semantic accents and the creation of a language environment. The frequency of the use of negatives in English makes it possible to judge the active layer of this concept. Unlike Russian, which requires concord, Standard English lacks negative concord and double negatives cancel one another, which results in a semantically positive sentence. Thus, it is difficult for native Russian speakers to acquire a habit of using only single negative in English. People tend to use double negation in some ways which is either incorrect or may have an unusual connotation and cause misunderstanding when communicating with native speakers. The choice of language means for expressing negation depends on many factors: general or particular negation, the degree of negation, the structure of the sentence.

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