

ABOUT VARIATIONS IN TRANSLATION THE GERUND FROM RUSSIAN INTO ENGLISH IN THE BELLES-LETTRES

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This article deals with the peculiarities of the translation of the gerund from English into Russian in the belles-lettres. This problem is not elucidated well enough in linguistic and translation literature, while when translating non-finite forms into Russian one can face some difficulties. Sometimes while translating a text the accent falls on the lexical aspect, first of all on the shades of meaning, but syntactic mistakes sometimes invisible, lead not only to stylistic mistakes, but also the misrepresentation of the meaning.

Key words: translation, gerund, English, Russian, belles-lettres.

In the process of learning a foreign language, mastering grammar is very important to understand the text [1–5]. Not knowing the specific of the English constructions, as a rule, leads to the misunderstanding of the meaning of the sentence. However, for translation, it would be important to have a comparative grammar of the English and Russian languages, which would help to choose the most appropriate grammatical form and syntactic structure for the correct and accurate transfer of the corresponding English form and structure. The translation of non-finite forms of the verb, especially the gerund, causes numerous difficulties since in Russian there is no such form of the verb.

The verb in the grammatical structure of the English language occupies one of the main places, since it is a part of speech that names actions or rep-

resents a state, a manifestation of a sign, a change in a sign, etc. Forms of the English verb are divided into finite and non-finite. The finite forms of the verb have three persons in the singular and plural in all tenses of the active and passive voice. In a sentence, they are always predicate and are always used in the presence of a subject, with which it agrees in person and number. For example (*She claims to have read his diary.* – Она заявляет, что прочла его дневник). “Non-finite forms of a verb differ from finite forms in way they do not have a category of person, number, tense and mood” [5, p. 76].

The gerund is a non-finite form which is typical of the English verb system and absent in Russian. Like a noun, the gerund is used as a subject and it is usually translated as a verbal noun or the infinitive (*Your being so indifferent irritates me a great deal.* – Ваше безразличие очень сильно меня раздражает), as an object it is often translated by a subordinate clause (*He denied the message having been sent by post.* – Он отрицал, что сообщение было отправлено почтой), the nominal part of the predicate is translated by the infinitive (*What he loves best in the world is going to the theater* – Больше всего в мире он любит ходить в театр), and it forms prepositional combinations that function as an attribute (*The doctor left three different medicines with the instructions for giving them.* – Врач оставил три различных лекарств с инструкцией по применению), as adverbial modifiers it is usually translated by Russian participle, very seldom by a noun with a preposition or a subordinate clause (*Dropping them at last on his folded hat, he fixed his eyes on the curtain.* – Опустив наконец бинокль на сложенный цилиндр, он обратил свой взор на занавес).

The gerund is translated into Russian by the infinitive (*It is no use discussing it now, we must act.* – Нет смысла обсуждать это сейчас, мы должны действовать), a verbal noun (*The doing of morning exercises was very good for me.* – Занятия утренней гимнастикой было очень полезно для меня), and a subordinate clause (*He had the feeling of being watched.* – У него было такое чувство, что за ним наблюдают).

Most often the gerund is used after prepositions in the function of the prepositional object, an attribute, adverbial modifiers and the nominal part of the predicate. Without the preceding preposition, the gerund is used as part of the compound verbal predicate, as well as part of the compound nominal predicative, a subject and a direct object.

The gerund has functions similar to the infinitive, which also combines the characteristics of a verb with those of a noun. Most often, the gerund is used after prepositions. Since prepositions can only be combined with nouns

or pronouns, every verb after the preposition takes the form of a gerund. After prepositions, the gerund is used in the function of a prepositional indirect object, an attribute, adverbial modifiers and the nominal part of the predicate.

The gerund in the function of a direct object is translated by an infinitive, a noun or a verb in a personal form as part of a subordinate clause: *I don't mind doing it for you.* – *Я не возражаю сделать это для вас.*

In the function of an attribute the gerund is used with various prepositions, but most often with the preposition of. The gerund in the function of an attribute is translated into Russian by a noun in the genitive case, a noun with a preposition or an indefinite form of the verb: *Ginnie took full advantage of his having looked up.* – *Джинни не преминула этим воспользоваться.*

Gerund in the function of adverbial modifiers is always used with a preposition and is usually translated by a noun with a preposition, a perfect or non-perfect participle, or a verb in personal form as part of a subordinate clause: *Excuse me for being late.* – *Извините за опоздание.*

A gerundial construction is a syntactical unit consisting of a nominal element (a noun or a pronoun) and a verbal element (a gerund). This construction is usually translated into Russian by a subordinate clause, the subject of which corresponds to the possessive pronoun or noun in the possessive or general case of the English gerundial construction, and the predicate corresponds to the gerund of this construction:

The nominal element of the construction can be expressed by:

a) a noun in the genitive case or a possessive pronoun denoting a living being: *We are looking forward to Peter's coming back.* – *Мы с нетерпением ожидаем возвращения Петю.* *They insisted on my staying with them.* – *Они настаивают на том, чтобы я остался с ними;*

b) a noun in the common case or a pronoun in the objective case. There is a growing tendency, especially in informal speech, to use a noun in the common case and a pronoun in the objective case to denote the doer of the action expressed by the gerund: *She doesn't approve of her son (him) staying out late at night.* – *Она не одобряет то, что её сын допоздна гуляет.*

But it is impossible to use the gerund in this construction when:

a) when the nominal element consists of two or more nouns: *We insist on the rich and poor being treated alike.* – *Мы настаиваем на том, чтобы к бедным и богатым относились одинаково;*

b) if the noun has a post-modifying attribute: *I can't think of a man of talent composing such music.* – *Я даже подумать не могу, что талантливый человек сочиняет подобную музыку;*

с) a noun in the common case or a possessive pronoun if the nominal element denotes a lifeless thing: *The carrying out of these plans depends on the documents being signed in time.* – Реализация этих планов зависит от своевременного подписания документов; *He insisted on its being delivered without delay.* – Он настаивает на том, чтобы это доставили без задержки;

d) a pronoun which has no category of case (all, this, that, both, each, something): *I couldn't deny both of them having made a reasonable excuse.* – Я не мог отрицать, что они оба предоставили разумное оправдание.

Translation is becoming an important issue in the globalization era, it is aimed at facilitating communication between speakers of different languages. So, to avoid difficulties while translating non-finite forms of the verb, especially the gerund it is necessary to know the specific of the English constructions used in the language.

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