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**Stylistic Analysis of the poem ‘Rain’ by Edward Thomas  
and its Translation**

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**Аннотация.** Автором статьи предпринята попытка стилистического анализа стихотворения Эдварда Томаса «Дождь» и его перевода на русский язык.

**Ключевые слова:** Эдвард Томас, «Дождь», поэзия, стилистический анализ, перевод.

**Abstract.** The author of the article made her attempt to analyze the poem “Rain” by Edward Thomas and translate it into Russian.

**Keywords:** Edward Thomas, “Rain”, poetry, stylistic analysis, translation.

English poetry helps to understand how native speakers use the language and shows us their way of thinking, so its analysis is useful for pupils of the 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> forms as well as for students of higher educational establishments.

The original poem by Edward Thomas “Rain” is devoted to the philosophical topic of life and death. The poet uses a great deal of tropes to reveal his thought. We observe a number of epithets (*midnight rain, wild rain, bleak hut, cold water, broken reeds, still and stiff reeds*) that create a sad and tense atmosphere of loneliness as well as the feeling of the ending to everything as well.

At the very beginning of the verse the poet employs the repetition of one and the same word:

***Rain, midnight rain, nothing but the wild rain*** [1].

It may be considered as a means to concentrate the reader’s attention and thought on one of the main images of the verse.

We can also find several gradations “*On this bleak hut, and solitude, and me...*” etc. [1]. They are used to make the feeling of sadness stronger.

The alliteration of the sound “r” is seen in the following lines:

*Blessed are the dead that rain rains upon,*

*But here I pray that none whom once I loved [1].*

Alliteration makes the verse sound tense and loud. It creates the impression of huge drops of rain rattling on the roof and provoking sad thoughts.

Some lines have the same beginning, which is anaphora:

*Like a cold water among broken reeds...*

*Like me who have no love which this wild rain [1].*

This means of expression shows that the author’s thought is fresh and new, that it is full of emotions that affect him greatly and he repeats the same connectives, as if he was returning to the same thought many times.

The image of rain – which means solitude – in the verse is put against the image of love. The author reveals the meaning of the word “solitude” by means of several comparisons (“like a cold water among broken reeds”, “like me who have no love”).

We may also turn our attention to the fact that there are several oxymorons in this poem, such as “love of death”, “living and dead”, “pain and sympathy”. We may conclude that the author wants to show that life is not stable, it cannot consist of only pleasant moments, that love and the living always face death, and that is their final destination:

*But here I pray that none whom once I loved*

*Is **dying** tonight or **lying** still awake [1].*

It makes the development of thought very intensive, the verse itself seems to be dynamic though there is practically no action in it.

The poem abounds in the so-called run-on-lines, when the phrase begins on one line and ends on the other. It shows the depth of the thought:

*Remembering again that I shall die*

*And neither hear the rain nor give it thanks [1].*

It is essential to note that the author refers to some important moments of human’s life in his verse, such as the day of birth and the day of death:

*Remembering again that I shall die...*

*Since I was born into solitude [1].*

It shows that the man lives for only several dozens of years and his lifetime is mostly full of sadness and loneliness, and “love of death [...] cannot, the tempest tells me, disappoint” [1]. In the contemplation of his death and that of others, this late Romantic poem embraces existential questions and modern alienation – in other words, the problem of finding a meaning for human existence in a seemingly hostile world.

We have created our own translation of the poem “Rain” by Edward Thomas, because there is no translation of this poem into Russian, though this piece of literature is evidently worth translating:

Rain, midnight rain, nothing but the wild rain On this bleak hut, and solitude, and me Remembering again that I shall die And neither hear the rain nor give it thanks  For washing me cleaner than I have been  Since I was born into solitude.  Blessed are the dead that the rain rains upon: But here I pray that none whom once I loved Is dying tonight or lying still awake  Solitary, listening to the rain, Either in pain or thus in sympathy Helpless among the living and the dead,  Like a cold water among broken reeds, Myriads of broken reeds all still and stiff, Like me who have no love which this wild rain Has not dissolved except the love of death, If love it be towards what is perfect and Cannot, the tempest tells me, disappoint.	Дождь, полуночный дождь, ничто, кроме дождя, Где хижина, и тишина, и я... Я вспоминаю снова то, что я умру И не услышу вновь дождя, не отблагодарю. Он отмыл меня чище, чем в жизни я был, И в мгновение рождения на боль обречен, Он могилы усопших всех благословит, И молось я, чтоб снова дождем был прощен Тот, кого я любил, чтоб он жил и дышал, Чтобы, слушая дождь, он без сна не лежал, Чтоб беспомощным не был среди лиц и могил И отчаяния холод его не страшил. Как холодные камни на слом камыша, Мириады разбитых потоков пшуршат. Словно я без любви, как и эти дожди, только к смерти любовью одной дорожил. Идеальна лишь она до основания – Лишь она одна не даст разочарованья.
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In the process of translation our attention is turned to the use of epithets, which make our imagination work. They are used to create a more vivid image of the lyrical character's surrounding (*полуночный дождь, холодный дождь*).

Gradation is presented twice in the poem. One is connected with the usage of sequence of nouns: *Где хижина, и тишина, и я...* This example of gradation is used to create the calm atmosphere, which surrounds the author. It also gives us quite a definite description of the lyrical hero's location and his moral state.

The second case of gradation is mostly connected with the usage of verbs, which makes these lines sound dynamic:

*И вспоминаю снова то, что я умру*

*И не услышу вновь дождя, не отблагодарю.*

As far as we can see, these verbs carry some negative meaning, so it also underlines the gradual fall of the author's mood.

We can also pay attention to the assonance of the sound "и" in the following line:

Где ~~х~~и~~ж~~и~~н~~а, и ~~т~~и~~ш~~и~~н~~а, и я...

It creates the image of a rainy and windy day described by the author, which gives the reader the insight into the atmosphere of the poem.

One more important way for the author to create the vivid atmosphere of tension and depression is the usage of words with negative colouring (*боль, отчаяние, страшить, беспомощный, смерть, разочарование* и т. д.).

Anaphora is presented in the following lines:

*Чтобы, слушая дождь, он без сна не лежал,*

*Чтоб беспомощным не был средь лиц и могил...*

It shows that the author's way of expressing thoughts is quite emotional.

Finally, we can't but mention the case of oxymoron "*к смерти любовью одной дорожил*", which reveals the author's despair. The author's implication is that love to death is totally unnatural and irrational for human beings.

After comparing the original poem "Rain" by Edward Thomas with its translation, we came to conclusion that English and Russian versions both have common features and peculiarities:

1. Both versions have long extended sentences. They are used because the thought in the poem is very profound and philosophical.

2. Both versions consist of 18 lines. The first 16 are the main body of the poem, but the last 2 make a short, but a well-thought-out and profound resolution. This structure is typical of Russian and English poetry.

3. One more common feature is a great number of imagery. It is used in both languages. They make the poem sound tense and sad.

4. We can also consider the similarity of images and symbols, as well as the main idea of the poem in both Russian and English versions. The translation does not copy the original but it follows the principal task not to change the main idea of the poem, not to make it sound as an independent verse.

5. The logical sequence of thoughts coincides in Russian and English. In both versions it comprises the beginning, the development of the thought and the resolution of the poem.

Despite all the common features the original poem "Rain" and its translation have their peculiarities.

1. A typical feature of the original poem in English is the so-called run-on-lines. This phenomenon is rarely seen in the Russian translation of the poem, because sometimes it is hard to understand and copy the style of Edward Thomas.

2. The English poem has no rhyme and is only rhythmically arranged, while its version in the Russian language has both rhythm and rhyme. It is free word order in Russian, which makes the achievement of the rhyme easier.

To sum it all up we can state that the version of the poem translated into Russian is very similar to the original in English. Still its full correspondence is impossible. In our opinion, the reasons for it are as follows: 1. The Russian language

has flections and changing word order, while the English language is more stable. 2. The presence of the emotional colouring in the suffixes in the Russian language makes it more expressive in comparison with English. 3. It is rather difficult to transmit metaphorical way of thinking created by Edward Thomas into the Russian language. 4. When translating the poem, inaccuracies are possible on account of some misunderstanding of the narrator's thoughts and ideas due to the time gap and different cultures.

### **Список литературы**

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