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54.	Virstiuk O. ОСОБЛИВОСТІ УТВОРЕННЯ І АНАЛІЗУ ФРИКАТИВНИХ ЗВУКІВ У АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ	244
55.	Zahorodnia L. SEMANTIC AND STYLISTIC PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES AND METHODS OF THEIR TRANSLATION INTO UKRAINIAN	247
PHILOSOPHY		
56.	Obiedkov O. CHANGE OF AXIOLOGICAL PARADIGM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY	251
PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES		
57.	Tumanova G.I., Tumanova M.E. SOLVING A NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION PROBLEM USING THE GRADIENT DESCENT METHOD	254
58.	Аршава О.О., Михайловська О.В., Пронька А.С. ТЕОРІЯ МНОЖИН: СУЧАСНИЙ ПОГЛЯД АЙТІВЦЯ НА КЛАСИЧНУ МАТЕМАТИКУ	257
POLITICS		
59.	Панов А.В., Панова А.О., Степанов А.В. РОЛЬ НЕУРЯДОВИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ В СИСТЕМІ МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИН	264
PSYCHOLOGY		
60.	Spytska L. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WORLD OF MAN	272
61.	Ільїна Ю.Ю., Саєнко М.М. РІВЕНЬ РОЗВИТКУ ЕМОЦІЙНОГО ІНТЕЛЕКТУ - УМОВА МІЖСОБИСТІСНОЇ ВЗАЄМОДІЇ	275
SOCIOLOGY		
62.	Орос О.Б. ДИНАМІКА ЗМІН БАТЬКІВСЬКОГО ФІЗИЧНОГО НАСИЛЬСТВА У СИТУАЦІЇ НАВЧАННЯ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ	280

SEMANTIC AND STYLISTIC PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES AND METHODS OF THEIR TRANSLATION INTO UKRAINIAN

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The purpose of the study is to analyse semantic and stylistic peculiarities of the English prepositional *of*-phrases and to investigate and describe methods of rendering their meanings into the Ukrainian language.

A prepositional *of*-phrase acts as a postmodifier and consists of the preposition “of” and a noun. It functions as an adjectival phrase within a sentence providing additional information about the quality of an object denoted by the head noun [1]. Even though a prepositional *of*-phrase is considered to be synonymous with an attributive phrase (i. e. an adjectival phrase that comes before the head noun), the former acquires a special semantic and stylistic meaning. For instance, the noun phrase “a work of subtlety and imagination” means not only that one can trace sophistication and fantasy in a certain work, but also that sophistication and fantasy are its characteristic features. Besides, the prepositional *of*-phrase makes the word combination sound stylistically coloured whereas its synonymous attributive phrase does not, let us compare two noun phrases: *a work of subtlety and imagination* and *a sophisticated and imaginative work*.

It should be mentioned that it is nouns with positive meaning that are usually used in a prepositional *of*-phrase (for example, “a woman *of beauty*”, “a man *of intelligence*”), whereas pejorative (negative) nouns are not so frequent in this structure, for example, “a woman *of ugliness*”, “a man *of stupidity*”. It is worth noting that the usage of the adverb “no” and adjectives such as *little*, *small*, *doubtful* etc. can change the positive meaning of a noun phrase into the negative one. Let us compare the meanings of the following pairs of noun phrases: a man of imagination (positive) – a man of *very little* imagination (negative); politicians of honesty – politicians of *doubtful* honesty; a man of great intellect – a man of *no* great intellect; an issue of interest – an issue of *small / no* interest.

The reason why nouns denoting negative qualities are rarely used in prepositional *of*-phrases can be explained by the existence of the bulk of pejorative nouns denoting persons or objects possessing different negative features in the English and Ukrainian vocabularies whereas the amount of nouns denoting persons and objects that possess positive features is not numerous. Let us consider the list of pejorative nouns denoting “disreputable or dishonest person” as an example: *bad egg*, *bad penny*, *black-guard*, *bounder*, *bully*, *cad*, *cheat*, *crook*, *fraud*, *grabber*, *heel*, *humbug*, *jerk*, *knave*, *louse*, *money-grubber*, *petty-fogger*, *place-hunter*, *pot-boiler*, *rascal*, *rat*, *reprobate*, *rogue*, *rotter*, *ruffian*, *scamp*, *scape-grace*, *scoundrel*, *self-seeker*, *sly-boots*, *sneak*, *squabbler*, *swinder*, *tale-teller*, *tattler*, *time-server*, *twerp*, *villain*, *whisperer* etc. On the contrary,

there are several nouns denoting persons of positive quality, they are: *lady, gentleman, genius*, informal words *brick, and square-shooter*.

Thus there is no need for speakers to make up a noun phrase to express their negative attitude towards a person or a thing as they can do it by means of only one word whereas due to lack of words with positive meaning there is necessity to use adjectives or their synonymous prepositional *of*-phrases to describe positive quality of a person or thing, for example: *an honest man (= a man of honesty), an intelligent man (= a man of intelligence), a generous man (= a man of great generosity), a resourceful man (= a man of resource)*.

While translating the English prepositional *of*-phrases into Ukrainian the main task of a translator is to render its semantic meaning as well as its stylistic function. A Ukrainian equivalent for the above-mentioned structure is the genitive form of a noun that acts as a postmodifier and fulfills the same stylistic function in a sentence as the English prepositional *of*-phrase does, for example: an actor *of great talent* – актор *неабиякого таланту*. It is worth noting that the mentioned Ukrainian postmodifier is predominantly used to depict positive qualities of an object as well [2, p. 38, 42; 3, p. 44].

If the linguistic norms of the Ukrainian language do not allow the usage of the genitive form of a noun, the source prepositional *of*-phrases is rendered into the target language by means of a prepositional phrase (for instance: a man *of experience* – людина *із досвідом*) or it can be transformed into a premodifying or postmodifying adjective (for instance: a man *of experience* – *досвідчена* людина / людина *досвідчена*).

It is noteworthy that both the Ukrainian genitive form of a noun and an English prepositional *of*-phrase as postmodifiers imply predicative construction and that is why they can be transformed into predicative adjectives, for instance: a girl *of great beauty* (дівчина *незвичайної краси*) = a girl is *very beautiful* (дівчина *є красива*) [3, p. 44; 4, p. 14]. That is why English prepositional phrases can be transformed and translated by means of Ukrainian adjectives. It is relevant to note that postmodifying adjectives are considered to be more expressive than premodifying ones in the Ukrainian language [5, p. 116].

Let us exemplify the above-mentioned ways of rendering English prepositional *of*-phrases into Ukrainian: 1. "...a beautiful country *of green hills and valleys and soft-flowing rivers*" [6] – «...прегарному краю *серед зелених пагорбів та долин і тихоплинних річок*» [7, p. 148]. 2. "There were a number of rich Haitians there with wives *of a rare beauty*" [8] – «На них запрошували багатих гаїтян з *гарненькими дружинами*» [9, p. 83]. 3. "I was returning without much hope to a country *of fear and frustration*" [8] – «Я повертався в цю *зацьковану й замордовану країну без особливих сподівань*» [9, p. 39]. 4. "They were simple poems *of light and color, and romance and adventure*" [10] – «Це були прості вірші, *світлі й барвисті, сповнені романтики й пригод*» [11, p. 91].

Sometimes while conveying the semantic and stylistic meaning of a source prepositional *of*-phrase a translator has to add or omit some lexical units in the target sentence, for instance: 1. "*She had never had any experiences of the heart*" [10] – "У

неї не було ніякого *досвіду в любовних справах*” [11, p. 69]. 2. “...*any more than a widow of one day is helped by the knowledge that other loved husbands have died*” [12] – «...*так само, як жінку, що тільки вчора овдовіла, не втішає думка, що в інших теж умирають кохані чоловіки*» [13, p. 386].

Having analyzed methods of rendering semantic and stylistic peculiarities of the English prepositional *of*-phrases into the Ukrainian language the author of the article has come to the following conclusions. A prepositional *of*-phrase is used to make a noun phrase sound more expressive and stylistically coloured. A Ukrainian translator can convey the meaning of the above-mentioned English structure by means of the genitive form of a noun or a prepositional phrase as well as transform it into a premodifying or postmodifying target adjective. Sometimes while translating it is necessary to add or omit some lexical units.

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