

STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO ACADEMIC PAPER

ABSTRACT TRANSLATION

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Received March, 20, 2019; *Accepted* May, 29, 2019

Abstract

Translation of academic paper abstracts has always been the point at issue in academic discourse. Translators are, particularly, faced with the problem to solve: should the translated abstract reflect accurately the original, thus presenting its formal features, or should it be modified, so that the target text becomes adjusted to the linguistic, cognitive and cultural expectations of the target reader. Taking into account that the techniques employed by the translators are predetermined by their strategic approach to academic paper abstract translation, the identification of the prevalent techniques in the target texts makes it possible to point out the most frequently taken translators' stances. Specifically, the comparative-contrastive and descriptive analyses of the Ukrainian-English micro- and macro-unit pairs undertaken in this study enables us to outline the prevalent strategic approaches to this type of translation. The study shows that the techniques used by the translators involve calques, word-for-word rendering, obligatory and optional transformations, translation shift at the textual level, re-statement, etc. The target texts that exhibit the translators' preference for a certain type of the techniques are distributed into the classes of literal (31 out of 71 cases), modified literal (37 cases) and free (re-contextualized) translation (3 cases). The findings of the study are commented on and generalized in the conclusions.

Key words: academic paper abstract, translation technique, literal translation, modified literal translation, free translation, re-contextualization.

Introduction

Academic translation is becoming a wide-spread practice in the global academic community considering its increasing role in dissemination of new concepts, ideas, theories and transfer of specific kind of knowledge related to inventions and discoveries. Translation of research papers, manuals, dissertations, transcripts, conference materials, scientific website content, etc., for publication makes it possible for scholars to inform the academic community about their opinions and research findings or to learn about their international colleagues' current preoccupations. In this sense, academic translation serves to facilitate intellectual cooperation and foster research network all over the world.

The dominant role of English as lingua franca of the world's academic community has rapidly risen in the last decades. The internationalization of academic disciplines presupposes that more non-native English speaking scholars are being involved in global academic discourse. Since they wish to participate in

the international intellectual knowledge exchange and gain international recognition they are, obviously, aware of the importance for their research papers to be published in the internationally accredited journals. Publication in English is ‘the major channel for a research community to share and present their ideas and contributions to a particular field’ (Al-Khasawneh, 2017: 2). No matter what journal scholars submit their research papers to, either an Anglophone or a local one, they have to accompany their academic text with an abstract in English.

Formulation of the research problem and its significance

Since every academic community is concerned with the integrity and development of its national academic discourse, many Ukrainian academic journals welcome researchers’ contributions in Ukrainian, thus encouraging the improvement of the Ukrainian academic/scientific/intellectual register. However, in order to foster the international cooperation and disseminate knowledge across the world as well as to gain the international status the Ukrainian journals demand that abstracts of the research papers submitted for publication should be translated into English. Consequently, the Ukrainian researchers may need help of professional translators or they can translate their pieces by themselves (on condition that they are linguistically and culturally competent enough to deal with the academic writing).

Though abstract translation is being practiced worldwide, its theoretical status has not yet been clearly outlined. Thus far, a few studies recognize the importance of an in-depth analysis of Ukrainian-English academic discourse translation (Tymoshenko, 2013; Kromova and Mayornikov, 2014; O. Chastnyk and S. Chastnyk, 2016 and others). The scholars, however, are mostly concerned with the issues of lexical and grammatical challenges of scientific (academic) text translation. To date, there has been little discussion about academic register/genre specificity in translating and more or less unified approach towards Ukrainian-English abstract translation. And since it should be seen as a particular kind of translation activity, it needs a few theoretical considerations to systematize our knowledge about this activity. They may provide useful guidelines of how to deal with different cultural and linguistic conventions of Ukrainian and English abstract writing and how to balance out these differences in the target text (TT).

Central to the issue of abstract translation seems to be the translators’ stance on how to translate. Hence, they have to make a strategic decision about an approach to be taken: whether to render the content of the source text (ST) attempting to imitate the linguistic and rhetorical features of the Ukrainian abstract writing or to re-create the TT, so that it could meet the Anglophone academic writing standards.

We, therefore, believe that some insight into the strategic approaches employed by the academic paper abstract translators could pinpoint the prevalent translation methods and outline the ways of achieving functional translation. Accordingly, the aim of this study is to examine the academic paper abstract translation in terms of techniques and equivalents in order to identify the regular modes opted for by translators.

Literature Review

The research paper abstract and abstract translation has long been an issue of scholars' interest in Translation Studies, genre analysis, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural studies, etc. Research over the past decades has provided important information on the approaches towards abstract translation as well as typical abstract patterning in different national academic discourses and different disciplines.

Having conducted an analysis of abstract translation from Turkish into English in terms of its adherence to the stylistic norms of academic discourse Terzi and Arslanturk (2014) argue that non-native English speaking scholars attempt to transfer the writing conventions of their own discourse system and this is likely to result in a mixed genre. The authors assume that the method of literal translation being often employed by the Turkish researchers prevent them from communicating the information effectively as their translations fail to keep up to the rhetorical structure recognized in the Anglophone academic discourse (Terzi and Arslanturk, 2014).

The study of thesis statement translations in English and Slovene carried out by Peterlin (2008) indicates translators' preference for a close correspondence between the ST and TT. The data obtained by the author point at literal translation in half of the cases. She interprets the divergences in the remaining set of cases as improvements aimed at complying with the target language conventions (Petrlin, 2008).

Similar results are obtained by S. V. Bonn and J. Swales (2007) who compared French and English academic article abstract translation. They argue that the rhetorical framework used by both sets of abstracts does not differ significantly. Their exploratory study specifies linguistic, cultural and sociolinguistic differences in the French and English academic paper abstract writing. Describing the infrequent cases of significant differences they highlight the need to consider whether one member of the pair is essentially a translation of the other or it is sufficiently different to function as re-contextualization (Bonn and Swales, 2007).

The research of rhetorical convergences and divergences in pairs of Spanish and English academic paper abstracts performed by E. M. Parales & J. M. Swales (2011) demonstrates that the diverging patterns observed between the language pairs are either urged by the collocational differences or motivated by the translators' stance on naturalness of expression in the target language. Summarizing the results of their study the authors conclude that the divergences are accounted for the translators' linguistic-cultural propensities (Parales and Swales, 2011).

The cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural studies of research article abstracts (I. Vassileva (2000), A. S. Canagarajah (2002), T. Yakhontova (2006), S. Can, E. Karabacak, J. Qin (2016) and others) emphasize the importance of established traditions in various research fields and cultures.

Concerning the translation strategies and methods adopted by translators while rendering academic paper abstracts into English scholars highlight the communicative approach. J. Byrne (2006), in particular, argues that a translator's role as a communicator implies his/her commitment to the target reader, so that the information is communicated effectively. The author calls upon regarding academic translation as a communicative activity rather than a purely text-based, linguistic activity (Byrne, 2006: 253). The results of the comprehensive analysis of equivalence in academic text translation conducted by M. Krein-Kuhle (2003) indicate the departure from the notion of equivalence as concerned with sameness and symmetry (Krein-Kuhle,

2003: 338). The author reconsiders it in terms of a dynamic, text-in-context-related concept and argues that equivalence relations operate at various levels of the text. She also points out that the choice of an equivalent at each level is influenced by pragmatic aspect, viz., the TT should perform the informative-communicative function as the ST does towards its recipients (Krein-Kuhle, 2003).

We may state in conclusion that most of the studies report the translators' preference for literal, or modified literal, or slightly idiomatic translation. The abstracts translated in this manner, though failing to meet the Anglophone abstract standards, are actually tolerated by the international academic community as a variety of academic writing. As A. S. Canagarajah (2002) suggests 'a difference-as-resource' perspective should be taken to safeguard writer's dignity (Canagarajah, 2002). The emphasis in the studies reviewed is laid on the importance of effective, target reader-oriented and informative-communicative abstract translation. That makes us consider the parameters of the standardized academic paper abstract.

Academic Paper Abstract

As a genre (part-genre) of academic writing, the paper abstract exhibits the typical features of academic or scientific style. Correspondently, it is distinguished by its 1) stylistic features, that is by the formal-logical exposition of facts; 2) grammar features that are embodied in specific sentence patterns and a system of metalanguage units; 3) lexical features that are noticed in the abundance of terms and lexical constructions. The academic paper abstract is defined as a concise summary of the paper that outlines the research focus, states the major aspects and significant findings of the study in a brief and accurate manner. It may seem obvious that such qualities of academic paper abstract writing as descriptiveness, logical sequence, functionality, objectivity and transparency should be presented in its translation.

Depending on the specific requirements of an academic journal, it has to follow a certain abstract pattern that involves a succession of rhetorical moves arranged in a relevant order. The common models of rhetorical move structures of the research paper abstract were suggested by Swales (1981), Salager-Mayer (1990), Bhatia (1994), Dos Santos (1996), Paltridge (1997; 2001; 2012; 2013), Lores (2004), Cross (2006), Vold (2006), Hyland (2000; 2007) and others. The scholars point at the communicative purpose of each of the moves regarding them as functional units of an abstract. Their move-step models are designed to reflect the structures of conventional knowledge about connections between facts. Hyland (2007), particularly, highlights the need for presenting an abstract in a conventionalized form, so that a reader could be interested to read the full text (Hyland, 2007). It is worth noting that as a standalone text the academic paper abstract becomes an important marketing item which motivates readers to purchase the research paper text. Consequently, alongside the informative function the abstract performs the persuasive function (Hyland, 2000; Lores, 2004), thus acting as a mini-proposal of the study. The persuasive quality of the research paper abstract appears to be quite challenging in translation since it calls for employment of certain persuasive devices that may be lexically and structurally different in the source and target languages.

It is worthwhile to consider the differences in research paper abstract writing across cultures, specifically, the different visions of the part-genre of abstract in Ukrainian and Anglophone academic cultures. According to Yakhontova (2006), for Ukrainian authors, the purpose of the genre seems to provide a condensed factual account of the main points of the research paper, while for English authors it is a succession of rhetorical moves, often in combination with explicit self-promotion. The author explains the differences in rhetorical features in English and Slavic academic texts by the influence of social factors, particularly, the presence or absence of self-advertisement might be linked to the influence of a market society which is constant demand for competitiveness (Yakhontova, 2006: 164).

Research Methods

The study is based on the examination of 71 cases of translation of Ukrainian-English research paper abstracts in the humanities (Linguistics, Literature, Translation Studies, etc.). The texts are translated by non-native English speakers, either by their authors (authorial translation), or by professional translators with the domain-specific knowledge. The names of the author-translators are kept anonymous for ethical reasons. The paired texts are randomly selected from Ukrainian academic journals published within 2013-2018. The methods applied in the study are the comparative-contrastive and descriptive analyses of the linguistic means in the Ukrainian-English translation pairs. The aim of the analysis is to X-ray the ways the translation works out to achieve accuracy or functionality. The key objective of the analysis is to identify the translation techniques opted for by the translators to render the meaning of Ukrainian text fragments at the lexical, syntactic and terminological-idiomatic levels. This enables us to trace the regularities in translators' choice of equivalence in abstract translation. Further on, the examination of the collected data makes it possible to outline the range of varieties of the translators' stances on the academic paper abstract translation.

The procedure of the analysis includes two stages. At the first stage each text of the selected Ukrainian abstracts is split into micro-units (sense groups) that are contrasted with the corresponding fragments in the translated abstracts. The convergences and divergences between the compared texts are identified as cases of formal, semantic and pragmatic correspondence and described in terms of translation techniques and equivalents. The next stage of the analysis involves distribution of the data into the classes of literal (imitative), modified literal and free translation that demonstrate different approaches to academic paper abstract translation.

Results and Discussion

Before engaging in translating a Ukrainian abstract into English a translator faces a strategic problem to solve, viz., s/he has to consider whether to render the ST faithfully and symmetrically, thus retaining its formal features, or should s/he make alterations in the translated output, or even reconstruct it in order to adjust their translation to the Anglophone academic discourse tradition. In other words, the translator has to adopt a global translation strategy and the translation method

consonant with the strategy. Their decision is affected by the linguistic (the text genre and the amount of translation challenges) and extra-linguistic (the purpose of the ST and the type of the target audience) factors of the translation situation. The translator's stance on how to handle the ST is, evidently, embodied in the choice of linguistic means used to solve the translation problems.

The study of the language units used by the translators for problem-solving and decision-making enables us to indicate the translation techniques which are viewed as micro methods to transfer the meaning of text segments. Additionally, they are seen as the operational measures to manifest the translation strategy. Since the techniques employed by the translators are predetermined by their general conscious action plan of how to handle the original abstract text, the analysis undertaken in this study made it possible to specify prevalent strategic approaches to abstract translation. These approaches are described in terms of translation strategies/methods and differentiated as literal, modified literal and free translations (using the terminology suggested by Larson (1984).

The strategy of literal translation is adopted by the translators to ensure objective and precise rendering of the abstracts, thus following the general instruction that academic translation should be as close to the form of the original as possible. Retreats from the formal rendering are justified by the lexical (collocational) and grammatical differences between Ukrainian and English, specifically, by the syntactic constrains in the theme-rheme patterning. The literal translation can be exemplified in Sample 1:

1. Когнітивні особливості англійських дієслів-синонімів.

Cognitive Features of English Verbal Synonyms.

2. У статті досліджено структурні особливості фреймових когнітивних моделей, які є основою для об'єднання дієслів у синонімічні ряди.

The article deals with structural characteristics of frame-cognitive models that are the basis for uniting verbs in synonymic series.

3. Виявлено особливості моделювання диктуму пропозиції фреймової когнітивної моделі дієслова, яка відтворює певний вид діяльності з повною реконструкцією різноманітних аспектів цієї діяльності.

The peculiarities of modelling of the propositional dictum of verb cognitive verbal pattern reproducing a specific activity with a complete reconstruction of various aspects of this activity are revealed.

4. Змодельовано структури міжфреймових сіток дієслівних синонімічних рядів на позначення дії, стану та процесу.

The structures of inter-frame networks of verbal synonymic series denoting action, state and process are modelled.

Employing the techniques of word-for-word translation in the piece the translator maintains structural (formal) equivalence, so that the formal features of the ST could be accurately reproduced in the TT. The operations of syntactic transformations that the translator resorts to are, definitely, of an obligatory character, viz., they are unavoidable because of the differences in Ukrainian and English theme-rheme progression patterns. The only one occurrence of lexical asymmetry is the rendering of the word '*особливості*' (used three times in the original abstract) through the related lexemes '*features*', '*characteristics*' and '*peculiarities*' that, probably, speaks to the translator's intention to avoid monotony of verbal expression. Though the information is transferred accurately, the translated

text is too much ST-oriented and the adherence to the formal features of the ST at the expense of a stylistic elegance is unlikely to facilitate easy reading of the English version of the abstract.

The modified literal approach to abstract translation indicates the translators' stance on fine-tuning their rendering in some text fragments. This strategy is operationalized by using the target language verbal expressions which are asymmetric in the relation to the original, however, are pragmatically justifiable. This type of abstract translation demonstrates a combination of formal and semantic equivalence. The translators consciously depart from the original in some text fragments using the verbal forms that are conventionally expected by the target reader in this genre of texts. The modified literal translation can be illustrated in Sample 2:

1. Електронна петиція як новий тип медійного дискурсу.

Electronic Petition as a New Type of Media Discourse. – The technique employed is a word-for-word translation.

2. У статті проведено порівняльний аналіз комунікативних та когнітивних принципів аналізу дискурсу.

The article focuses on the comparative analysis of communicative and cognitive techniques of discourse analysis. – The technique used in this unit is a word-for-word translation.

3. Окреслено способи мапування комунікативних та когнітивних параметрів дискурсивної комунікації.

The mechanisms of mapping communicative and cognitive parameters are highlighted. – Translation modifications are observed in the use of synonymic equivalent in the pair 'способи – mechanisms' and optional equivalent 'окреслено – is highlighted'.

4. Запропоновано власний метод критичного аналізу дискурсу за допомогою поєднання принципів стратегічного планування та когнітивного контролю.

The new method of critical discourse analysis that combines strategic planning and cognitive control is offered. – The literal modified translation in the pair 'власний метод – new method' is operationalized by the technique of modulation.

5. Установлено основні ознаки мовних петицій як особливого типу дискурсивної комунікації, що відбувається за посередництва комп'ютера.

The basic characteristics of the electronic petition as a new type of computer-mediated discourse communication are in the lime-light of author's attention. – The modifications are made by means of the synonymic equivalent in the pair 'особливий тип – new type'. The asymmetry in the pair 'установлено – are in the lime-light of author's attention' is the occurrence of modulation.

This divergence between the ST and TT may seem to be arbitrary or subjective, however, the translator justifies it as her stancetaking on idiomatic translation, so that the translated passage could align with the verbal manner accepted in English academic writing. Thus, this modification should be interpreted as the translator's attempt to promote target reader-oriented translation.

6. Проаналізовано текст електронної петиції стосовно заборони Дональду Трампу в'їзду до Сполученого Королівства й текст парламентських дебатів щодо цієї петиції.

The text of the electronic petition the signatures of which believe Donald Trump should be banned from the UK entry has been analyzed. The text of the Parliament debate on this topic has also been carefully researched. – The modification as the result of the technique of modulation is marked in the pair ‘*проаналізовано – has also been carefully researched*’. Another case of the modification demonstrates employment of the technique of syntactic partitioning. This may be interpreted in terms of target reader-oriented translation, since it is through this operation that the translator attempts to maintain translation transparency and thus, to facilitate easy reading.

As it has been demonstrated in Sample 2, the modified literal approach to translation indicates the translator’s stance on departure from imitative rendering in some fragments of the resulted text. These modifications do not at all affect the meaningful aspect of the ST, and since they involve the verbal forms expected by target readers in this genre of writing, they should be viewed as an attempt to bring some pragmatic features to the translated abstract.

Free translation approach to handling the academic paper abstracts is opted for by the author-translators who are linguistically and culturally sensitive to the Anglophone academic writing standards and have in-depth subject matter knowledge. Free translation results in a considerable amount of asymmetry between the input and output materials that could be described in terms of translation functionality. Hence, the divergence between the formal and semantic aspects of the ST and TT should be justified on condition that the message of the original abstract is retained in the translated one. In fact, adopting the method of free translation the translators recreate their abstracts anew in the target language while accommodating them to the cognitive and linguistic expectations of the target audience. This approach to research paper abstract translation is referred to as re-contextualization and is concerned with the situation when the translator builds up his/her own conception about the optimal way of presenting the ST information in the TT in a different linguistic-cultural context. If the free translation results in creating a text that meets linguistic and extra-linguistic criteria of the genre in a new cultural situation it should be seen as functional. Free translation / re-contextualization of a Ukrainian academic paper abstract into English can be illustrated in Sample 3:

1. Когнітивно-нараторологічний аналіз художнього дискурсу (на матеріалі оповідання Г.Джеймса «Поворот гвинта»).

The analysis of Literary Discourse in the Lens of Narrative Theory and Cognitive Science (on the Material of Henry James’s “The Turn of the Screw”).

2. У статті експлікується методика когнітивно-нараторологічного аналізу художнього дискурсу. Матеріалом дослідження послужила новела Г.Джеймса «Поворот гвинта» (“The Turn of the Screw”). З огляду на діалогічну модель комунікативної ситуації і когнітивну карту дискурсу (О. О. Селіванова) аналізується взаємодія когнітивних і нараторологічних характеристик художнього дискурсу. Стратегія дослідження передбачає когнітивно-нараторологічний аналіз трьох модулів художньої комунікації: адресанта, тексту та адресата.

Research on human intelligence has postulated that studying the structure and use of the verbal means can provide an important insight into the roots of self and the nature of thinking. In that spirit, the article focuses on narrative as the crossroad where cognitology, literary theory and the recent hybrid called “cognitive narratology” (D. Herman) intersect suggesting new directions for understanding

and interpreting a literary discourse. The material of the research is ...H. James's novella, one of the world's famous ghost stories. The novella inspired critical debate over the question The goal of the research is to explain the 'narrative-like' nature of "Turn of the Screw" in terms of the relation between the explicit cues included in the text and the scripts (frames, schemata) on which readers rely in processing those cues.

The TT looks as an autonomous entry and, at same time, it is linked with the ST by the common message. The translator's stance on text-in-context, target audience-oriented translation is implemented in the situational/functional equivalence. The newly made abstract text provides a rationale for the importance as well as fruitfulness of the research method briefly mentioned in the original text. The essence of the method is explicated at the intersection of cognitive studies, literary theory and cognitive narratology (extended explicitation). The author-translator apparently attempts to align with the rhetorical pattern accepted in the Anglophone academic paper abstract writing. He, specifically, articulates the research focus and method and outlines the findings of the study (indicating the relation between the explicit cues and cognitive frames that enable the readers to process the text information). The use of verbal expressions '*can provide important insight*', '*suggesting new directions*', '*inspired critical debates*' brings to the abstract a certain degree of persuasion and, eventually, draws attention of potential readers of the research article.

As a competent professional the translator seems to be well-aware of the fact the translated abstract is placed in a new context which involves both external and internal (situational and cultural) cognitive factors. As a result, this new contextual situation presupposes values, communicative conventions and usage norms, genre and reader expectations that are different from those of the ST situation. Thus, assigning his translation to new conditions and, particularly, a new target text receiver the translator arranges the sequencing patterns in the format different from that in the ST. This technique can be viewed as translation adaptation to the target linguistic, cultural and genre norms, consequently, the translator assumes the status of a re-contextualizer.

The examination of 71 academic paper abstracts translated from Ukrainian into English makes it possible to outline the techniques employed in translating the compared Ukrainian-English micro- and macro-units and the resulting equivalence within the following types:

- 1) Calques, word-for-word rendering (formal/structural equivalence).
- 2) Transformations (obligatory and optional): transposition, replacement, modulation, synonymic rendering, partitioning/integrating at the lexical and syntactic levels (formal/semantic equivalence).
- 3) Restatement at the textual level (pragmatic/text-in-context equivalence).
- 4) Extended explicitation at the textual level (pragmatic/text-in-context equivalence).

The predominance or a frequent use of a certain type of the technique(s) testify to the translators' preference for a certain approach to the academic paper abstract translation. Specifically, the predominance of calques and word-for word rendering in the TT indicates translator's literal stance (31 cases); the predominance of word-for-word rendering with a few optional transformations in the TT signals modified literal translation (37 cases); the techniques of restatement and extended explicitation at the textual level result in re-contextualization or free translation

(3 cases). The correspondence between the methods and techniques and the number of the TTs where they are indicated can be seen in Table 1.

The translator's stance on literal rendering (31 cases) results in maintaining the source author verbal style and the translation symmetry, sometimes at the expense of stylistic elegance. Literal type of translation of the academic paper abstracts attempts to imitate not only the verbal form of the ST but also the rhetorical structure of the Ukrainian abstracts. Although being sufficiently informative, the paper abstracts translated literally, however, show little respect for the target reader and, therefore their pragmatic value seems to be low.

Table 1

<i>Translation Method</i>	<i>Techniques</i>	<i>Number of the TTs</i>
Literal Translation	Calque, word-for-word rendering; obligatory transformations dictated by the target language grammar norms.	31
Modified Literal Translation	Calques, word-for-word rendering; optional transformations; transposition, replacement, modulation, addition/omission, integrating/partitioning, synonymic equivalents (at the lexical / syntactical levels; in text fragments).	37
Free Translation	Restatement, cohesion shift at the textual level, explicitation, text-in-context equivalence	3

The modified literal approach is adopted in 37 cases (Table 1) that speaks to the translators' stance on establishing greater referential clarity and fine-tuning their translated product, so that it could read more natural in English. This approach implies handling some text fragments by using optional translation transformations (transposition, replacement, zero translation, etc.). The translators resort to them at particular text locations in order to bring in some verbal expressions that are conventionally employed in this genre of academic writing. These modifications, however, have an accidental character and thus they are rather subjective. On the other hand, it is due to the modifications that the academic paper abstract translation might achieve acceptability in the Anglophone academic discourse.

Free translation of academic paper abstracts (3 cases out of the collected data) is aimed to facilitate the performance of the TT informative-communicative function. It results in re-contextualization of the TT which is seen as accommodation of the translation output to a new contextual situation which is different from the ST situation. The translator's stance on free rendering is affected by semantic and pragmatic factors, particularly, cultural and genre constrains. He/she thus endows their translated abstracts with linguistic and rhetorical features that are habitually observed and, apparently, expected in the English-speaking academic discourse. Free translation/re-contextualization involves operationalizing the techniques of restatement of the ST meaning in the TT and re-establishing the TT coherence and cohesion. This manner of translating, obviously, demonstrates a good deal of respect to the target reader and is likely to achieve a high degree of translation acceptability.

Conclusions

The present study was designed to identify strategic approaches adopted in translation of Ukrainian academic paper abstracts into English. The comparative-contrastive and descriptive analyses of convergences and divergences in the compared Ukrainian-English micro- and macro-unit pairs enables us to identify the techniques employed by the non-English speaking translators. The results of the study demonstrate that the translators most frequently resort to calques and word-for-word rendering that result in formal / structural equivalence. The other types of techniques employed by the translators involve various types of optional lexical and syntactic transformations (transposition, replacement, synonymic equivalents, modulation, partitioning/integrating, etc.). The study also reveals a small number of cases of re-contextualization when the TTs are created anew while complying with the conversational and genre-writing standards accepted in the Anglophone academic discourse.

Taking into account that the techniques are the operational measures of certain strategic approaches to the academic paper abstract translation we could distribute the TTs into the classes of literal, modified literal and free translation methods. Specifically, the word-for-word rendering of the academic paper abstracts testifies to the translator's stance on literal translation (32 out of 71 cases). The word-for-word rendering with optional lexical and syntactic transformations in some TT fragments signalizes the stance on modified literal translation (37 cases). As the translators explain, the modifications are meant to bring in naturalness of the verbal expression in the target language. The techniques of restatement (at the textual level) and re-establishment of the ST structure in the TT resulting in re-contextualization point at the translator's stance on free translation (3 cases). This manner of translation is favored by the authors-translators who attempt to accommodate their texts to the Anglophone academic genre conventions. Although free translation/re-contextualization of the academic paper abstracts is, obviously, target reader-oriented and pragmatically functional, it is not yet adopted by the translators as a common practice.

The translators' preferences for modified literal translation may speak to their endeavor to fine-tune verbal expression in some TT fragments and thus to increase the TTs pragmatic value and acceptability.

The findings of the present research confirm and could compliment those of earlier studies conducted on the materials of different languages.

An issue that was not yet explored in the study is the specificity of translation of terms and terminological collocations in the compared Ukrainian-English academic paper abstracts. This could enhance our understanding of how translation works and in what verbal shape new words enter the target language to align with its conversational norms. Therefore, it is suggested that further research be undertaken in this field to examine more closely the formal, semantic and pragmatic correspondence between the terminological units in the source and target academic paper texts.

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