

Bahrii H. A.,*Candidate of Psychological Sciences, Associate Professor,
Associate Professor at the Foreign Languages Department
Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine***Herasimova O. M.,***Senior Lecturer at the Foreign Languages Department
Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine*

TRANSLATION CHALLENGES OF MILITARY NOVELS BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF REMARQUE'S WORKS

Summary. The article is dedicated to the investigation of the peculiarities, challenges, and methodologies of translating military novels into Ukrainian, focusing on the English translation of Erich Maria Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front." It aims to analyze the peculiarities of military translation, considering lexical, cultural, emotional, and ethical dimensions.

This study employs a comparative analysis of the English translation of the original German text and its Ukrainian translation, highlighting translation strategies through comparative and contextual analysis, with emphasis on cultural background. It reviews scholarly works on translation theory and case studies of Remarque's novels, incorporating qualitative assessments of techniques like footnotes, glossaries, and contextual adaptations to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps.

The findings reveal key aspects of military translation. Military terminology doesn't always have direct Ukrainian equivalents, requiring creative strategies such as explanatory notes and synonymous substitution. Cultural and historical contexts need careful adaptation to ensure comprehension while preserving the original impact. Emotional and psychological elements are challenging, as translators must balance preserving poignancy with readability. Remarque's narrative voice and style are maintained through attention to linguistic norms.

Translating military novels into Ukrainian involves linguistic precision, cultural sensitivity, and ethical responsibility. Analyzing translations of Remarque's works underscores the importance of understanding both source and target cultures, accurately rendering military jargon, and preserving emotional depth and narrative coherence. Effective strategies include glossaries, footnotes, and cultural adaptations to preserve the emotional strength and ensure accessibility. This research highlights translators' critical role in bridging linguistic and cultural divides while maintaining the original work's integrity.

Key words: military translation, cultural adaptation, lexical challenges, emotional depth, Ukrainian translation, translation strategies, military terminology.

The statement of the problem. The theme of translating military prose is increasingly significant today, as military conflicts and their societal impacts are extensively studied and discussed. The twentieth century, shaped by two world wars and numerous local conflicts, saw the rise of the Lost Generation literary movement, reflecting World War I survivors' experiences and traumas. This theme is central to writers conveying the complex emotions and destinies of war survivors.

Military terminology is used in training, combat missions, information campaigns, and international negotiations. Translating this terminology is challenging due to cultural and historical differences, leading to potential misunderstandings. Military terms often have specific purposes and may include confidential information, making accurate and secure translation crucial. Investigating translation strategies and methods helps ensure accurate and effective communication across different contexts [1, c. 112].

Analysis of the Latest Research. The translation of military novels is increasingly a focal point for academic and professional analysis due to its unique challenges and cultural significance. Although there is substantial research on literary translation, translating military novels is still developing, with scholars like D. Vasylenko, Y. Zatskyi, V. Balabin, S. Yenikieieva, P. Dickson, and C. Fries working to establish methodologies and definitions.

Modern linguists and translation theorists emphasize understanding the lexical and semantic nuances in military novels. They investigate specific military terminology and the challenges it presents, such as maintaining accuracy while adapting to different cultural and historical contexts. Scholars like T. Levchenko, Ye. Levin, and S. Karliuk explore strategies for handling specialized language, including glossaries, footnotes, and retaining original terms with explanations.

Research also focuses on the narrative and stylistic aspects of military novels. Translating narrative voice, tone, and depictions of psychological trauma and moral dilemmas is critical to preserving the original work's integrity. A. Prokopenko and I. Chuprina emphasize the translator's role in maintaining the author's intention and emotional resonance.

Ethical considerations are significant, especially with sensitive topics like violence, loss, and the human cost of war. Yu. Hryhorenko advocates for responsible translation practices that respect the subject matter's gravity [2, c. 88].

Thus, translating military novels encompasses various challenges, from linguistic and cultural to ethical. The latest research underscores the need for specialized knowledge and attention to detail, ensuring that translations faithfully reflect the original while resonating with new audiences. This evolving field promises valuable insights into literary translation and cross-cultural communication.

The aim of the article is to analyze the peculiarities of translating military novels, using the Ukrainian translation of Remarque's "All Quiet on the Western Front" (based on its English version) to

highlight linguistic, cultural, and contextual nuances that influence the perception of war narratives.

The methodology of this study is based on a comparative analysis of the English and Ukrainian translations of Erich Maria Remarque's novel. The analysis integrates elements of transformation analysis (examining lexical, syntactic, and semantic shifts) and contextual analysis, focusing on cultural and historical references, as well as emotional resonance.

Main part. The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw significant development in military prose, influenced by major world wars, revolutions, and socio-cultural changes. Writers like Erich Maria Remarque (*"All Quiet on the Western Front"*) and Ernest Hemingway (*"A Farewell to Arms"*) depicted soldiers' suffering, the horrors of war, and moral dilemmas, expressing anti-war sentiments and highlighting the tragic nature of military conflicts.

A war novel focuses on military events, the lives of military characters, and their interactions with the social and political environment. These novels reflect specific wars' realities and explore the human condition within this context.

Military translation, characterized by extensive military vocabulary and technical terminology, includes military fiction, journalism, political literature, and technical documents. Translating military novels from English into Ukrainian requires understanding linguistic and cultural nuances.

We made an attempt to conduct a comparative analysis of the translation peculiarities of the novel *"All Quiet on the Western Front"* from English (translated by Brian Murdoch [3]) into Ukrainian (translated by Yevhen Popovych [4]). Therefore, some difficulties were revealed:

1. **Lexical and Terminological Challenges.** One of the most significant challenges in translating military novels is the accurate rendering of military terminology. Military terms often have specific connotations and usage contexts that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. For instance, the English term *"shell shock"* was translated into Ukrainian as *"обстріляний шок"*, but this term may lack the cultural and psychological weight carried by the original [5, c. 150]. Ukrainian translators must find ways to convey not only the literal meaning but also the emotional and cultural resonance [5, c. 151].

To address this, translators often employ strategies such as using footnotes or glossaries to explain terms that are particularly challenging. This approach helps to preserve the original's intent and provides readers with necessary context without disrupting the narrative flow. As noted by scholars like Poliakova, understanding the historical context of the terminology used in Remarque's novels is crucial for accurate translation.

2. **Cultural Context and Historical Background.** Translating military novels also involves bridging significant cultural and historical gaps. Remarque's depiction of World War I includes detailed descriptions of the social and political environment of the time. For Ukrainian readers, certain references might not be immediately understandable due to differences in historical experiences and collective memory. The translator's task, therefore, is to make these references accessible without losing the original's impact.

For example, Remarque's references to the German home front and the specific socio-political climate of early 20th-century Germany require careful adaptation. As explored by Hryhorenko, effective translation must contextualize these elements in a way that resonates with Ukrainian readers, potentially drawing par-

allels with Ukrainian historical events or providing explanatory notes [6, c. 89].

3. **Emotional and Psychological Depth.** Remarque's novels are renowned for their emotional and psychological depth, capturing the trauma and moral conflicts faced by soldiers. Translating these elements requires a sensitive approach to language and style. The translator must preserve the poignancy and intensity of the original text while ensuring that it remains compelling and coherent in Ukrainian.

This involves careful selection of words and phrases that can evoke similar emotional responses in Ukrainian readers. For instance, translating a sentence like *"The front is a cage in which we must await fearfully whatever may happen"* demands an understanding of both the literal and metaphorical meanings, ensuring that the Ukrainian version (*"Фронт – це клітка, в якій ми з жахом чекаємо на будь-що"*) captures the same sense of entrapment and dread [3, c. 71].

4. **Narrative Voice and Style.** Maintaining the narrative voice and style of Remarque's works is another critical aspect of translation. Remarque's writing style, characterized by its simplicity, directness, and vivid imagery, plays a significant role in conveying the stark realities of war. Translators must reproduce this style in Ukrainian without making the text feel unnatural or stilted.

The narrative voice in the novel *"All Quiet on the Western Front"* is notably introspective and reflective, often shifting between detailed descriptions of the battlefield and the inner thoughts of the protagonist. As mentioned by Khalishcheva, achieving a balance between preserving this voice and adapting it to the syntactic and grammatical norms of Ukrainian is essential for an effective translation [6, c. 47].

5. **Analysis of Translation Transformations in Military Fiction.** Translation transformations employed in the adaptation of military fiction can be systematically categorized into several key areas: morphological, lexical, syntactic, semantic, and grammatical. This categorization facilitates a structured approach to understanding the complexities involved in translating military jargon and terminology into Ukrainian [5, c. 152]. For instance, some English military terminology has direct Ukrainian equivalents: *"civvie street"* is translated as *"громадянська сфера"*, *"ack-ack"* as *"зенітка"*, and *"bucket, tub"* as *"калоша"* or *"поганий корабель"* [6, c. 49].

In translating terms related to specific military activities that may not have direct equivalents in other languages, translators often rely on generally accepted terminological standards. For example, *"Quadrennial Defense Review"* was translated as *"чотирирічний оборонний огляд"*, reflecting a comprehensive review process of the United States Armed Forces [1, c. 114]. Conversely, some military terms lack universally accepted equivalents in certain languages, such as *"alert hangar"*, which is translated as *"ангар вильоту по тривозі"*. Addressing such challenges requires a detailed analysis of the text's components to ensure precise and clear translations. One effective strategy is synonymization, which involves selecting words or expressions with similar meanings to accurately convey military terms.

Conveying military novels presents a complex task that demands careful consideration of the genre's specific requirements [6, c. 48]. Translators employ adaptation in various scenarios, including:

- absence of lexical equivalents in the target language;
- socio-cultural discrepancies;
- transition between different types of discourse (e.g., from adult literature to children's literature);

– disruptions in the communication process (e.g., due to the emergence of a new era or the need to influence a different type of reader).

It is essential for the translator to find expressions that preserve the original text's meaning and tone, ensuring comprehensibility and acceptability for the target audience. Each military novel has a unique style and atmosphere, which translators must respect.

When translating a World War II novel, the translator must understand the historical period and military units involved. Translating dialogues requires attention to communication style, expressiveness, intonations, and speech specifics (dialect, accent) [2, c. 87].

Context is crucial in overcoming word ambiguity and understanding nuances. There are linguistic and extralinguistic contexts. Context may compel the translator to favor contextual meanings over dictionary correspondences. Military vocabulary includes terms, abbreviations, clichés, and slang that reflect military life, which the translator must accurately convey [5, c. 149].

Erich Maria Remarque's fiction uses various linguistic and artistic means to depict events, characters, actions, and objects. His novels' sentences often use simple syntactic structures with complex logical content. Verbs play a crucial role in shaping the sentences' logical content, while participles and gerunds compress information, enhancing content density.

Remarque is regarded as one of the greatest twentieth-century writers. His novels, and those of the Lost Generation, show how war alters young people's thinking, uproots them from their lives, and leaves little chance for spiritual revival. Characters who survive frontline horrors struggle to reintegrate into peaceful society.

Typically, the translation of military terms in fiction involves selecting the appropriate Ukrainian equivalent. For example: "*There are at least four more batteries of nine-inch guns to the right of the farm, and behind the poplars they have put in trench-mortars.* – Праворуч від ферми стоять принаймні чотири батареї їхніх восьмидюймовок, а за зламаною тополею встановлені міномети." In this sentence, it is important to note the translation of the words "nine-inch guns" and "trench-mortars" as these are technical terms related to military equipment. "Nine-inch guns" is translated as "восьмидюймовки". In military terminology, "nine-inch guns" refers to artillery pieces with a caliber of 9 inches, which corresponds to approximately 228 millimeters. The translator used the metric system and indicated the caliber in millimeters for the sake of clarity for the Ukrainian reader. "Trench-mortars" is translated as "міномети" [4, c. 112].

In the translation of the sentence: "*Next to it was the company office.* – Поряд була канцелярія.", the translator used the equivalent technique to render the word "company office". In the source text, "company office" refers to the office of a unit or company (military unit) [4, c. 112]. The Ukrainian translation of "поряд була канцелярія" uses the word "канцелярія", which is equivalent to "office" and indicates an administrative building where business is conducted and paperwork is maintained.

In the example: "*It had been guerrillas.* – То були партизани", the translator used the equivalent technique to render the word "guerrillas" [4, c. 198]. The word "guerrillas" in the source text refers to groups of guerrillas or insurgents who act in heroic or illegal combat operations, usually resisting occupiers or authorities. In

the Ukrainian translation, the word "партизани" is used, which is an exact equivalent to "guerrillas".

In the sentence: "*In one seat army officers; in two others officers of the S.S.* – В одному сиділи офіцери вермахту, в двох інших – офіцери СС." [4, c. 201], the translator used the equivalent technique to render the word "army" as "вермахт". "Вермахт" is the German name for the ground forces of the Third Reich during World War II. In this context, the word "army officers" describes the officers of the German army, and it is important to use a term that corresponds to the specific historical and military reality of the time period in question. The use of the word "вермахт" in the Ukrainian translation allows us to accurately convey the specifics and affiliation of these officers with the German army in the context of the text. At the same time, the translator refers to historical facts and real names, which adds to the authenticity and fidelity of the translation.

One more example: "*Papers!*" said the troop leader more sharply. – Солдатську книжку! – звелів обершарфюрер сусоріше [4, c. 209]. There is a semantic substitution of the word "papers" which in the original means "документи" або "папери". This concept is translated as "солдатська книжка". This replacement was made to more accurately convey the military context. The soldier's book (or military ID card) is an important document confirming the service status and personal data of a soldier. "Troop leader" in the original refers to the commander of a military unit. In translation, this concept is rendered as "обершарфюрер", which was a military rank in the SS system during the Third Reich. This change is also intended to more accurately reflect the military context and rank of the character.

Conclusions. Analyzing the translation strategies for military terms and technical details in Remarque's novels underscores the importance of accuracy and contextual relevance. Employing equivalent translation preserves the authenticity and correctness of military terms, while semantic substitution, metonymic transfer, and concretization convey the associated emotions and associations. Detailed attention to translation techniques allows translators to faithfully reproduce key aspects of military life, offering readers a deeper understanding and immersion in Remarque's wartime narratives.

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Багрій Г., Герасімова О. Особливості перекладу військових романів на прикладі творів Ремарка

Анотація. Стаття присвячена аналізу особливостей перекладу воєнних романів з англійської мови на українську на прикладі твору Еріха Марії Ремарка «На Західному фронті без змін». Метою статті є дослідження перекладу військової тематики з урахуванням лексичних, культурних, емоційних та етичних аспектів. У роботі використано порівняльний аналіз англійської версії оригінального німецького тексту та її українського перекладу; окреслено стратегії передачі військової термінології, культурного змісту та емоційної виразності. Проаналізовано наукові праці з теорії перекладу й дослідження, присвячені романам Ремарка, з акцентом на прийоми, як-от виноска, глосарії та контекстуальні адаптації для подолання мовних і культурних бар'єрів. Наукова новизна статті полягає в поєднанні лінгвістичного та культурно-контекстуального підходів до аналізу перекладу військової прози.

Результати роботи розкривають основні труднощі військового перекладу. Військові терміни часто не мають точних відповідників українською, що вимагає творчих підходів, таких як пояснення та синонімізація. Культурні

й історичні реалії потребують адаптації задля збереження змісту й емоційного впливу. Відтворення емоційної та психологічної глибини є складним завданням, оскільки перекладач має поєднувати емоційну насиченість із читабельністю.

Стиль оповіді Ремарка відтворюється через дотримання мовних норм. Переклад воєнної прози з англійської на українську вимагає точності, культурної обізнаності й етичного підходу. Аналіз перекладів Ремарка наголошує на важливості розуміння культур джерела й цілі, адекватної передачі військового жаргону та збереження інтенсивності оповіді. Ефективними є стратегії з використанням глосаріїв, виноска і культурних адаптацій для збереження змісту й доступності. Дослідження підкреслює провідну роль перекладача в подоланні мовних і культурних меж при збереженні автентичності першоджерела. Отримані результати можуть бути корисними для практичної підготовки майбутніх перекладачів, які працюють з текстами військової тематики.

Ключові слова: військовий переклад, культурна адаптація, лексичні труднощі, емоційна глибина, український переклад, перекладацькі стратегії, військова термінологія.