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**Literary translation of nonstandard speech
on the examples of translations of English and American prose**

Summary

Nonstandard speech forms a frequent element of speech characterization in literature. Recognised by many scholars as a case of untranslatability, it obviously constitutes a translation problem and is frequently a cause of lack or poor translation equivalence. The current thesis comes as a result of considerations which accompany a literary translator's job and a desire to find solutions which – despite the fact that scholars in theory of translation have already researched the issue – are not readily available. Moreover, the issue is so wide, as the number of existing types of nonstandard speech and due to constant socioeconomic and geopolitical changes occurring in the world, it continues evolving, along with the passing of time, globalisation or national tendencies.

The dissertation consists of two parts: theoretical and analytical. The theoretical part comprises two chapters: *Chapter 1.*, devoted to the delineation of selected issues of nonstandard speech in the English and Polish languages and *Chapter 2.*, where nonstandard speech as a translation issue is defined. The analytical part is made up of three chapters and is devoted to the translation analysis of selected types of nonstandard speech on the examples of translations of English and American prose completed in the years 2000 – 2016. *Chapter 3.* deals with the translation of social dialects, analysis in *Chapter 4.* concerns the translation of geographical dialects, the subject of *Chapter 5.* is the research into the translation of idiolects. The thesis ends in conclusions and proposals of solutions for the translation of nonstandard speech.

Chapter 1. of the theoretical part of the thesis, is devoted to the presentation of selected aspects of nonstandard speech in the English and Polish languages. Social and spatial variation of English language users is discussed, based on Peter Trudgill and J. K. Chambers' research, as well as the application of dialect and idiolect in English and American literature, drawing on the analyses of Joan C. Beal and Norman Page. In order to present the history and role of dialect in the Polish language, works of Kazimierz Nitsch, Stanisław Urbańczyk and Karol Dejna are employed. The study, *Dialekty i gwary polskie*, by Stanisław Dubisz and Halina Karaś, makes the analysis complete and enables drawing important conclusions. It shows that as a result of language integration processes in Poland, an interdialectal or countrywide version of Polish,

incorporating units from different language variants, was formed; it coexists, side by side, with regional variations. The use of dialectal stylisation by Polish authors is discussed with reference to Teresa Skubalanka's study, while the features and presentation modes of individual speech types, drawing on Anna Pieczyńska-Sulik's and Aldona Skudrzyk's work. In *Chapter 1*, a concept of polyphonic novel, developed by Mikhail Bakhtin, is also introduced.

Another theoretical aspect of the thesis, nonstandard speech as a translation issue, is outlined in *Chapter 2*. First, a model of translation of the idiom of the language of original, in the spirit of resistance, proposed by Lawrence Venuti is discussed. This is followed by the insights into the concepts of translation equivalence according to J.C. Catford, the issue of untranslatability, with special emphasis on George Steiner's stance, and the question of nonstandard speech in a literary work of art, as a source of untranslatability. The discussion of theoretical aspects is continued in the review of the cognitive model of linguistics proposed by Elżbieta Tabakowska and of the cognitive theory of translation, developed by Krzysztof Hejwowski. Finally, selected propositions for the translation of dialects are characterised, with a special emphasis on the classification of translation techniques developed by Leszek Berezowski and a concept of nonstandard speech as a dominant of a literary work of art, elaborated by Anna Bednarczyk. The final part of *Chapter 2* is a survey of the types of nonstandard speech selected for the translation analysis – social and geographical dialects and idiolects – and of the research material.

The analytical part of the thesis begins with *Chapter 3*, which deals with the translation of social dialects, divided into further categories of speech of aristocracy and servants, for dated speech, and of uneducated persons, for modern speech. In the course of translation analysis, the issues of translator's footnotes as discussed by Elżbieta Skibińska, third culture elements in translation, elucidated by Dorota Urbanek, and of editorial interventions, according to Jerzy Brzozowski, are brought up. The translation of modern speech entails the discussion of intratextual links, based on the research of Dorota Urbanek and Urszula Dąbbska-Prokop. *Chapter 4* is devoted to the translation of geographical dialects: Irish English, Victorian *Cockney*, southern American and American Black English. The translation analysis of American dialects is conducted with a special focus on techniques of translation of "ain't" and "where at" constructions, with a view to their significance in achieving intratextual coherence. Translation of idiolects, on the examples of children's speech, drunken speech and foreign speech, further divided into broken English and idiosyncratic speech, is the subject of *Chapter*

5. The analysis of children's speech involves the discussion of speech presentation modes, developed by Geoffrey Leech and Michael Short.

Translation analyses performed as part of research in the present thesis, showed that the translation into Polish of English social dialects and idiolects, was accompanied by a significant reduction in the intensity of nonstandard character of speech, which resulted in translation equivalence being achieved at a low level; geographical dialect proved almost untranslatable, leading to lack of equivalence. This negative effect could be partially reduced, by the application of techniques of stylisation, compensation and reconstruction. Based on the analyses conducted, it was established that an important factor, being a precondition for the effective translation of nonstandard speech, is the translator's knowledge of the English and Polish language dialects, and the familiarity with the traditions of translation of English dialects into Polish.