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TRANSLATION PECULIARITIES IN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

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Abstract. The article focuses on the actual issues of translation problems in the oil and gas industry, in particular on finding adequate equivalents to highly technical terms in both languages, the translation of abbreviations and the application of technical normative documentation (GOST¹). The research is based on the engineering documents developed in English and Russian for the major oil and gas projects to be implemented in Russia 2006-2009.

Key words: highly technical terms, abbreviations, oil and gas industry, translation

1. Introduction

Being an international business, oil and gas industry enjoys the major part of projects conducted in Russia. Thus, for successful cooperation and implementation of projects there is an urgent need for high quality written and oral translation of the materials connected with this sphere; it also provides stable demand for translation of different kinds of documents in oil and gas industry, including, for example, tender documentation, process flow diagrams, process descriptions, drawings, capacity summaries, fuel balances, inspection reports, material requisitions, and thousands of other documents which constitute the project documentation. A translator in oil and gas industry should possess not only well developed language skills, know methodology and principles of translation in the field of science and technology, but should also be fully aware of how a particular technological sphere works.

The aim of this article is to show the difficulties a translator may face working in the field of oil and gas industry and discuss possible solutions they may undertake. The authors also revise the existing approaches to dealing with highly technical terminology.

2. CORPORATE GLOSSARIES IN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Highly professional terminology of oil and gas industry is very difficult for translation. Firstly, for high quality translation one needs extensive vocabulary, secondly, the existing dictionaries reflect specifics of the technical terminology not always correctly. Sometimes they just cannot catch up with quick development of existing technologies and emergence of the new ones.

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¹ Russian National Standard

Modern companies of the international level fully understand that coherence in terminology provides comprehension and are engaged in working with terms, clarifying those which may lead to misunderstanding, ensuring unification of terminology used. They are working out special terminological databases, which contain not only highly professional terms, specific for this particular industry, but also corporative word reductions and in-house terminology, which appear not common.

Thus, the websites of such companies as GAZPROM² and LUKOIL³ provide glossaries, which, catering for English speaking readers, explain and comment on abbreviations used in companies, starting with those generally used, such as APG that can be found in specialized dictionaries or specially invented by the company, e.g. ORP (oil refinery plant), usually presented in English texts as REFINERY, or the terms connected with Russian reality.

Let us give some examples:

Table 1 Terms from corporate glossaries

Russian	Transliteration
ПНГ (попутный нефтяной газ)	PNG [poputniy neftyanoy gaz]
Министерство Российской Федерации по делам гражданской обороны, чрезвычайным ситуациям и ликвидации последствий стихийных бедствий	Ministerstvo Rossijskoy Federatsii po delam grazhdanskoy oboroni, chrezvichajnim situatsiyam I likvidatsii posledstviy stikhiinikh bedstviy
НПЗ (нефтеперерабатывающий	UKPG [ustanovka kompleksnoy podgotovki gaza] NPZ [neftepererabatyvayuschi zavod]
	газ) Министерство Российской Федерации по делам гражданской обороны, чрезвычайным ситуациям и ликвидации последствий стихийных бедствий УКПГ (установка комплексной подготовки газа)

Unfortunately, Lukoil closed access to English-Russian glossary of terms, which were presented on their website in 2006-2008.

Another difficulty is connected with the fact that even generally known abbreviations cannot be always found in standard English - English online dictionaries (Webster⁴, Cambridge⁵, Oxford⁶), but fortunately, they can be found in English-Russian dictionaries, though not each one. In such cases translators have to search for the meaning themselves, with possible help of technical specialists (if available), tender documentation (if a

² http://gazprom-neft.com/#company-today

³ http://lukoil.ru

⁴ https://www.merriam-webster.com

⁵ https://dictionary.cambridge.org/ru

⁶ https://en.oxforddictionaries.com

translator has access to it), the Internet (some useful links are provided in the references), translators forums, etc.

3. TERMS AND TERMINOLOGY

So, main problems in translation are connected either with industry terms, used in one sphere of knowledge, or highly professional terms, typical for a certain sector of industry. According to V.N. Komissarov (Komissarov, 1990) terms are "words and word combinations denoting specific objects and notions that are exploited by specialists in a certain field of science and technology". A. A. Reformatskiy (Reformatskiy, 2001) denotes terms as "monosemantic words that lack expressiveness". S. B. Grinev - Grinevich (Grinev - Grinevich, 2008) characterizes terms as "special nominative lexical units (a word or word combination) of a special language, used for exact nomination of special notions". V. A. Tatarinov (Tatarinov, 2000) thinks that "we cannot speak about monosemic structure of a term or about one-to-one correspondence (isomorphism) – "one term-one notion", just because of simple development of notions and categories..."

The basis of introduction and exploitation of a term is the agreement between people on the meaning of this term. If such agreement does not exist, misunderstanding may occur. Inconsistent and wrong use of the terms, substitution of one term by another lead to distortion of the initial information and hinder communication.

To avoid such problems in the beginning of the project, and sometimes even on the stage of preparation of tender documentation, at least a short list of abbreviations to be sent to technical specialists and translators to ensure uniformity of terminology used in the project. But it should be compiled according to the Recommendations of SPR⁷, which enables to find typical solutions of problems a translator may face, namely Specific Terminology.

While translating technical texts we may recommend to use terms, prescribed by corresponding state terminological standards, or terms contained in terminological supplements to state standards; the above mentioned missing, the terms from the compendium of recommended terms by the Committee of scientific-technological terminology of the Russian Academy of Science, or similar documents. If the glossary or other informational or reference materials are not provided by the customer, translators should base their translation only on their own experience and knowledge.

3.1. Abbreviation nightmare

Oil and gas translation deals with a myriad of abbreviations, which are widely used and could be a nightmare for a translator. Here is just one example: "At TBT it was discussed that BHA will be RIH with slower ROP that was indicated in the JSA" (Belonogova, 2019). The thing is that in most cases oil and gas equipment, processes, technical documentation, possess the full and short names. It seems that abbreviations help saving time, yet are tricky.

⁸The example is taken from the article published http://www.toptr.ru/library/translation-truth/neftegazovyie-abbreviaturyi.-vvedenie-v-predmet.html?fbclid=IwAR3SXD_I0BKnbt1A0rR5R-FYoqVn7ODAHtq9RAPZrPS9FbRvcDI45qH8zAs

⁷ https://translators-union.ru

While translating, one should try not to use transliteration in the process of conveying abbreviation as it may lead to misunderstanding of the text. For example in the sentence "Отбор проб без остановки скважины и изменения **ЭРРС**" [Otbor prob bez ostanovki skvazhini I izmeneniya ERRS], one cannot use transliteration in translating of abbreviation ЭРРС, as this abbreviation means ЭКСПЛУАТАЦИОННЫЙ РЕЖИМ РАБОТЫ СКВАЖИНЫ (eksplutatsionnii rezhim raboti skvazhini) and is translated into English as WELL OPERATION, but not ERRS, which has no meaning. Let see some examples ⁹:

Table 2 Abbreviations

Eı	nglish		Russian	Transliteration
Abbreviation	Definition	Abbreviation	Definition	
AGO	Atmospheric gasoil	АΓ	Атмосферный газойль	Atmosfernii gazoil'
HHGO	Heavy heavy gasoil	СТГ	Сверхтяжелый газойль	Svekhtyazhelii gazoil'
LGO	Light gasoil	ЛГ	Легкий атмосферный газойль	Legkii atmosfernii gazoil'
HGO	Heavy gasoil	ТΓ	Тяжелый атмосферный газойль	Tyazhelii atmosfernii gazoil'
VGO	Vacuum gasoil	ВГ	Вакуумный газойль	Vakuumnii gazoil'
LVGO	Light vacuum gasoil	ЛВГ	Легкий вакуумный газойль	Legkhii vakuumnii gazoil'
MVGO	Medium vacuum gasoil	СВГ	Средний вакуумный газойль	Srednii vakuumnii gazoil'
HVGO	Heavy vacuum gasoil	ТВГ	Тяжелый вакуумный газойль	Tyazhelii vakuumnii gazoil'
AR	Atmospheric residue		Мазут*	Mazut
VR	Vacuum residue		Гудрон	Gudron
	Desalter	ЭДГ	Электродегидратор	Elektrodegidrator
	Vacuum package	BCC	Вакуумсоздающая система	Vakuumsozdayuschaya sistema

^{*} When it is a product, it is translated as fuel oil.

As we can see from the example, the abbreviations are constructed from the first letters of words of each language, and if neither language possesses generally accepted

⁹ Unless otherwise specified, all examples are taken from project documentation of TECHNIP RUS company where one of the authors worked from 2005 to 2009.

abbreviations, as in case of the terms MAZUT and DESALTER, the abbreviation calques are not formed, and the full form of the word is used.

Typically in the English language the shortening of a unit ends on U (unit – установка (ustanovka), as the nominative attributive group is in pre-position to the main word, while in the Russian language the word group starts with the word установка [ustanovka] (the main word) and the dependent words are in post-position in genitive case, thus, naturally, the first letter in abbreviation will be Y[U].

As it was mentioned above, a part of abbreviations are in general use and are repeated in the very project, irrespective from the customer, as UKPG (установка комплексной подготовки газа [ustanovka kompleksnoi podgotovki gaza]) in Russian and GTP (gas treatment plant) in English, BFW (Boiler Feed Water) and KTV (котловая вода [kotlovaya voda]), at the same time abbreviations remain in the name of technological equipment and appear both on the process flow diagrams and in the description of technological process.

BFW Cooler (холодильник KTB [kholodil'nik KTV]), BFW Pumps (насосы KTB [nasosi KTV]), a part is coined during translation, so SDA (Solvent Deasphalting Unit) becomes ДАР [DAR] (установка деасфальтизации растворителем [ustanovka deasfaltizatsii rastvoritelem] by agreement with the customer, and DRU (Diluent Recovery Unit) means УВР [UVR] (установка выделения разбавителя [ustanovka videleniya razbavitelya]).

3.2. Collaboration of the languages

Another difficulty is connected with the fact, that depending on the process technology, one and the same word in the Russian language can be translated into English in a different way.

Table 3 Comparison of English and Russian terms

Russian	English	Transliteration
ХОЛОДИЛЬНИК ПИРОГАЗА	CRACKED GAS CHILLER	kholodil'nik pirogaza
ХОЛОДИЛЬНИК ГИДРИРОВАНИЯ ЭЭФ	C ₂ HYDROGENATION COOLER	kholoil'nik gidrirovaniya eef
ХОЛОДИЛЬНИК ХЛАДАГЕНТА ЭТИЛЕНА	ETHYLENE REFRIGERANT DESUPERHEATER	kholodil'nik khladagenta etilena
АВО (АППАРАТ ВОЗДУШНОГО ОХЛАЖДЕНИЯ)	AIR COOLER	apparat vozdushnogo okhlazhdenya
ПЕЧЬ ДОЖИГА	INCINERATOR	pech' dozhiga
ПЕЧЬ ПИРОЛИЗА	CRACKING FURNACE	pech' piroliza
ВАКУУМНАЯ ПЕЧЬ	VACUUM HEATER	vakuumnaya pech'

The same can be witnessed in the case of the term EMKOCTb [emkost], which can be translated into English at least with three synonyms - DRUM, VESSEL, TANK, at the same time each of them can have its own translation: DRUM- EMKOCTb [emkost],

VESSEL- СОСУД [sosud], TANK – PE3EPBYAP [reservuar], and all of them refer to ЕМКОСТНОЕ ОБОРУДОВАНИЕ [emkostnoye oborudovanie] – an official term in regulatory and technical documentation. At the same time KO DRUM can be translated both as (КАПЛЕОТБОЙНАЯ ЕМКОСТЬ [kapleotbojnaya emkost] and (СЕПАРАТОР [separator]), though specialists are sure that both terms are suitable and the choice depends on the preferences of the translator. Such variety in both languages makes a translator study the process description and learn to read drawings.

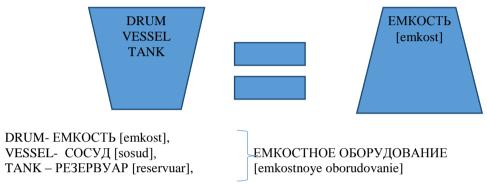


Fig. 1 Comparison of English and Russian terms

Together with the emergence of new technologies and new methods of oil production and processing and refusal from outdated methods and equipment terminology in the sphere of oil and gas industry is constantly renewed. Foreign borrowings are included into the term system, and for a while both terms are being equally used: e.g. ИНСИНЕРАТОР [insinerator] and ПЕЧЬ ДОЖИГА [pech' dozhiga], РЕБОЙЛЕР [reboiler] and ПОДОГРЕВАТЕЛЬ/ КИПЯТИЛЬНИК [podogrevatel'/kipyatil'nik]. The term РЕБОЙЛЕР [reboiler] has gradually won over the term КИПЯТИЛЬНИК -[kipyatil'nik]¹⁰, which can be traced in technical literature, as for example "Справочник химика 21"¹¹ we find ПОДОГРЕВАТЕЛЬ - РЕБОЙЛЕР [podogrevatel'- reboiler], in the article of V.V. KALLUS, published in the journal "Химическая техника" we may see РЕБОЙЛЕР-КИПЯТИЛЬНИК/ ИСПАРИТЕЛЬ [reboiler-kipyatil'nik/isparitel]. However, at the same time, normative documentation does not include this term. It looks like the term КИПЯТИЛЬНИК РЕКТИФИКАЦИОННОЙ КОЛОННЫ [kipyatil'nik rektifikatsionnoj kolonni] sounds old fashioned, БОКОВОЙ ОДОГРЕВАТЕЛЬ РЕКТИФИКАЦИОННОЙ КОЛОННЫ [bokovoj podogrevatyal' rektifikatsionnoj kolonni] sounds not modern, but the word combination with the borrowed word -РЕБОЙЛЕР РЕКТИФИКАЦИОННОЙ КОЛОННЫ [reboiler rektifikatsionnoj kolonni] reflects modern technologies. From the point of view of a translator, it definitely makes the very process of translation much easier. You do not need to search for a word or

¹⁰ see Перри Дж. Справочник инженера-химика. 1969) - (Perry J. *Reference-book of a chemical engineer*. [Perry Dzh. Spravochnik inzhenera-khimika. Rus.]1969)

¹¹ Справочник химика 21 (*Reference-book of a chemist* 21. ["Spravochnik khimika 21"]. Rus.) (https://chem21.info/article/634835/

¹² Химическая техника, №7, 2018 (Chemical equipment ["Khimicheskaya tekhnika"] Rus.)

remember the term in Russian, when you can say "сплитер нафты [spliter nafti]" instead of НАФТОПЕРЕГОННАЯ КОЛОННА [naftootgonnaya kolonna], "печь крекинга [pech' krekinga]" instead of ПЕЧЬ ПИРОЛИЗА [pech' piroliza], "вакуумная дисцилляция [vakuumnaya distilyatsiya]" instead of ВАКУУМНАЯ ПЕРЕГОНКА [vakuumnaya peregonka], and there are many other examples of this kind. But there is one big problem — all project documentation is submitted to the authorities only in Russian and it should comply with the Russian normative technical standards. They are presented in a whole set of technical normative documentation ГОСТы (GOSTs), and first of all GOST 2.601-2006 Unified system for design documentation. Exploitative documents., GOST R 2.901-99 Unified system for design documentation. Documentation to be sent abroad. General requirements. Definitely, specialists with technical education proofread the translation and make it comply with requirements, but the less correction the translation needs, the higher is the qualification of the translator, the more they are in demand on the labor market.

Another trap is Russification of the English language in the process of translation, by which we mean "translator's false friends". For example, in one of the proposals to participate in a tender that was sent to a foreign partner we read "with the localization of equipment, minimum 50%". As the Russian part that was organizing the bidding sent all documentation already in English, translation seemed not to be needed, but the foreign partners were unable to understand this mysterious phrase. The context helped to understand that the Russian partner meant to place the order for equipment within the territory of Russian Federation, in a quantity not less than 50%. And this is only one example of the situation, when translation from English into English is necessary.

One more interesting example is the usage of the word KOMПЛЕКС [compleks] in the Russian language and its translation into English in such word combinations as "газоперерабатывющий комплекс [gazoperebativajuschiy kompleks]", "нефтехимический комплекс [neftekhimicheskiy kompleks] or "производственный комплекс [proizvodstvenniy kompleks]" which for foreign partners usually are "gas treatment plant", "petrochemical plant", "plant" respectively. But there is one drawback – in the process of translation the accordant lexical unit COMPLEX has been so often used improperly as in the documentation of the Russian customer, as on the English versions of Russian companies' cites during the last 10 years, that it has led to the fact, that even the native English speaking project developers themselves started to use this word combination in their own English language documentation – as in "gas treatment complex".

The research of the Internet resources has shown that the only one use of the word COMPLEX in such meaning that was recorded in the dictionary was in the word combination "military-industrial complex"¹³, but the international project Sakhalin -2 (Trefilova, 2009) uses the combination "Prigorodnoye production complex", and the cites of international companies are full of combinations based on the word COMPLEX – from "Innovation and Production Complex"¹⁴ to Pennsylvania Petrochemicals Complex¹⁵, so it is quite possible that soon this new meaning would be recorded in the dictionaries.

¹³ https://www.britannica.com

¹⁴ https://vertex.spb.ru/en/production/farmkompleks

¹⁵ https://www.shell.com/about-us/major-projects

4. ANIMALS ON THE FIELD

A special group of terms in oil and gas terminological system, which possess expressive coloring and serve as scientific-technological phraseological units, have been explored quite thoroughly. Quite a number of studies have been conducted on this topic. We can mention the works on the theory of terms by S.V. Grinev-Grinevich (Grinev-Grinevich, 2008), D. S. Lotte (Lotte, 1982), A. V. Superanskaya (Superanskaya, 2012), A. V. Tatarinov (Tatarinov, 2000), and others. The majority of phraseological terms in oil and gas sphere are based on common features in appearance with corresponding animals (dog, snake, rabbit, cat, etc.). Thus, they are based on metaphor.

In the texts on oil and gas subject matter we may see such terms as:

- monkey board площадка для верхового рабочего [ploschagka dlya verkhovogo rabochegol:
- doghouse вагончик-бытовка бурового мастера [vagonchik-bitovka burovogo mastera];
- rabbit / pig скребок для чистки трубопровода [skrebok dlya chistki truboprovoda];
- wildcat поисково-разведочная скважина [poiskovo-razvedochnaya skvazhina];
- snake асбестовый шнур [asbestoviy shnur];
- pipe dog трубный ключ [trubniy klyuch];
- butterfly valve дисковой поворотный клапан [diskoviy povorotniy klapan].

5. SPECIFICS OF TECHNICAL TEXTS

Texts on science and technology possess many grammatical, lexical and stylistic peculiarities, which appear to be difficult for translators, as these texts cater for special professional groups, which possess specific extra-linguistic knowledge, and consequently require thorough analysis. Many characteristics of the style of science and technology can be traced in technical project documentation in both languages. According to V.N. Komissarov (Komissarov, 1990) the style of science and technology is characterized by:

- Highly informative content and abundance of terms and their descriptions;
- Standardized and coherent manner of narration;
- Nominative character of sentence construction;
- A great number of semi-terminological clichés;
- Predominance of verbs of Present tenses;
- Prevalence of compound sentences;
- Broad use of various means of logical connection.

At the same time a certain number of peculiarities of project documentation of oil and gas industry in the Russian language are connected with specific structures of the Russian language, they can be traced to special ways of application of these structures, compared to other styles of speech in Russian.

Prevalence of nominative frame structures with the word order not relevant for other fields of science and technology, where a word group, which is clarifying the Participle or the Adjective play the role of a pre-positive Attribute (cf. "эксплуатируемые при низких температурах гибкие трубопроводы" - "ekspluatiruemie pri nizkikh temperaturakh gibkie truboprovodi");

- Frequent use of short forms of adjectives (cf. ("Сборные гибкие трубопроводы очень удобны в эксплуатации" "Sbornie gibkie truboprovodi ochen' udobni v ekspluatatsii");
- Frequent use of abstract Nouns (развитие (razvitie), решение (reshenie), процесс (process)).

Specific features of the English language are:

- Wide use of structures like "A is B", that is simple two-member sentences with a Compound Nominative Predicate, which consists of a link-verb and a Predicative (In fact the loss of Refinery fuel gas has little impact on GPP operation. The above expected characteristics are the ones occurring in Phase 1);
- Substitution of a verbal negation do not by a nominal non (particles are non-volatile):
- Usage of Attributive groups (*The above expected characteristics*);
- Striving to nominalization of action processes (to do post-welding treatment);
- Substitution of Adverbs by a Noun-with-a- Preposition combination (with accuracy);
- Use of intensifying Adverbs in the role of the main modal and expressive means (considerably, essentially, significantly);
- Considerable predominance of Passive forms and Present Simple tense (In Configurations 1 and 2 an average of 17% and 23%, respectively of hydrogen needs is imported from PETR);
- Wide use of elliptical constructions (e.g. with conjunctions whatever, if any);
- Substitution of Attributive Subordinate Clauses by Adjectives in post-position (with those units shutdowned...); or use of Infinitive in the function of an Attribute (the rate to be obtained).

6. CONCLUSION

The above presented examples, amusing ones included, show us how important the high professional level is for a translator of technical texts, how important it is to study special literature, to have access to high quality constantly renewed reference materials, to translate technical terminology adequately and follow all requirements imposed on the presentation of engineering design and technical specifications.

We cannot but agree with the idea that it is extremely important to continue the meticulous work in accumulating the experience of the translators working in the oil and gas sphere, storing the commentaries on applying the GOSTs in the process of technical translation, updating the existing and working out the new rules, which may facilitate high quality translation.

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STANDARDS AND REGULATORY DOCUMENTATION

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