

CULTURAL ASPECTS OF ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS ABOUT LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP**Н.А. Кухарчук, В.В. Мелюх, 4 курс****Научный руководитель – Л.А. Изотова, преподаватель****Полесский государственный университет**

The relationship between language and culture is especially evident in proverbs and sayings. It is due to the fact that a proverb by its nature is one of the forms of culture. The proverb, first of all, conveys socio-cultural information. Thus, proverbs and sayings are considered to be important cultural units reflecting the values and ideas of society [1].

Proverbs should be distinguished from sayings. According to Cambridge Dictionary, a proverb is ‘a short sentence, usually known by many people, stating something commonly experienced or giving advice’ [2]. In addition, in accordance with the definition given in Collins Dictionary a proverb is ‘a short sentence that people often quote, which gives advice or tells you something about life’ [3]. As for sayings, according to the Cambridge dictionary it is ‘a well-known wise statement that often has a meaning that is different from the simple meanings of the words it contains’ [2]. What is more, sayings convey a figurative meaning in spoken speech, do not express a complete opinion, and sometimes don’t name an object or event, but only conditionally.

The main feature of a proverb is its completeness and didactic content. On the contrary, sayings are used in sentences to give a bright artistic colouring, just an eloquent expression that can be easily replaced by other words, but without parable, judgement and conclusion. Proverbs and sayings are used to convey folk wisdom, well-known truths and basic moral qualities, indicating what the people consider valuable and what is bad and indifferent [4, p. 75]. There are proverbs and sayings about friendship, about family, about love, about the Motherland, about labour and stinginess of people, as well as about many other things.

The problematic issue of our study is the peculiarities of the translation of proverbs and sayings about love and friendship, as they are one of the most popular and actual lexical groups for research.

It should be noted that many English and Russian proverbs and sayings have several meanings, which makes it difficult to compare them. It is important to take into account that, being formed in different historical conditions, English and Russian proverbs and sayings often used different images to express the same thought, which, in turn, reflect the different social behaviour and life of the two peoples and are often not absolute equivalents.

We have selected 24 English proverbs and sayings about friendship and love. Having analyzed and compared proverbs and sayings about friendship and love in English and Russian, it should be noted that for some English sayings and proverbs there is no analogue in Russian.

Table 1. – Proverbs and sayings about friendship

English version	Word-for-word translation	Russian version
A friend in need is a friend indeed	Друг в беде – это и есть настоящий друг	Друзья познаются в беде
Old friends and old wine are best	Нет ничего лучше старых друзей и старого вина	Старый друг – лучше новых двух
Birds of a feather flock together	Птицы одного окраса собираются в стаи	Одного поля ягоды. Рыбак рыбака видит издалека
No longer pipe, no longer dance	Кончилась музыка, кончились и танцы	Скатерть со стола, друзья со двора
Friend in the court is better than a penny in the purse	Лучше иметь друга в суде, чем монетку в кошельке	Не имей сто рублей, а имей сто друзей
A man is known by the company he keeps	Человека определяют те, в обществе кого он бывает	Скажи мне, кто твой друг, и я скажу, кто ты
If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas	Засыпая с собаками, будь готов проснуться блохастым	С кем поведешься, от того и наберешься. С волками жить – по-волчьи выть
Measure for measure	Мера за меру	Око за око, зуб за зуб
Suffering for a friend doubleth friendship	Страдание за друга удваивает дружбу	Аналога нет
Better lose a jest than a friend.	Лучше приберечь остроту, чем потерять друга	Аналога нет
The rich knows not who is his friend	Богатые не ведают, кто их друзья	Аналога нет
Friendship is like money, easier made than kept	Дружба словно деньги, проще их приобрести, чем сохранить	Аналога нет

Table 2. – Proverbs and sayings about love

English version	Word-for-word translation	Russian version
Love is blind	Любовь слепа	Любовь слепа. Любовь зла – полюбишь и козла
All is fair in love and war	Все честно в любви и на войне	В любви, как на войне – все методы хороши
Far from eye, far from heart	Далеко от глаз, далеко и от сердца	С глаз долой – из сердца вон
Money can't buy you love	Деньги не могут купить любовь	За деньги любовь не купишь
True love has no happy end, true love – has no end at all	Настоящая любовь не имеет счастливого конца, настоящая любовь – вообще не имеет конца	Аналога нет
Love makes the world go round	Любовь заставляет мир двигаться вперед	Любовь правит миром
Love makes all men equal	Любовь всех делает равными	Любовь чинов не различает
Love me little, love me long	Люби меня не сильно, люби меня долго	Аналога нет
No herb will cure love	Никакая трава не вылечит любовь	Любовь – крапива стрекучая
Love will creep where it cannot go	Любовь проползет туда, куда она не может пройти	Любовь дорогу найдет
Love converts a cottage into a palace of gold	Любовь превращает дом во дворец	С милым рай и в шалаше
Love is lawless	Любовь не подчиняется законам	Любовь закона не знает, годов не считает

Thus, it should be mentioned that there are also English proverbs that are fully or partially translated in the same way into Russian. Such examples are few. Basically, the English and Russian proverbs that we have analyzed have equivalents in Russian. This is primarily because proverbs and sayings are deeply rooted in specific cultural experiences and historical contexts, leading to variations in expression even when conveying similar ideas. Various methods have been used in translation, such as calquing, which preserves the structure of the original, selecting an equivalent to convey a similar meaning, adding details to deepen meanings, omitting redundant information, and concretisation, which makes the translated text more understandable and natural for Russian-speaking readers.

To sum up, proverbs and sayings are an integral part of language because they contain a meaningful cultural context and reflect the values of a society. These elements of language play an important role in conveying folk wisdom and moral standards, helping us to understand not only the language itself, but also the culture from which it comes.

References

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