

Zoriana Kunch

Department of Ukrainian Language
Lviv Polytechnic National University

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FEATURES OF UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION OF PASSIVE VERBAL CONSTRUCTIONS FROM RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIO-POLITICAL TEXTS

Key words: the Ukrainian language, translation, scientific and technical language, passive verbal constructions, impersonal forms of the verb

In the globalization context of the present day, the issue of translation of scientific and technical texts becomes urgent. Translation is the most important means of exchanging scientific and technical information and one of the most important ways of intercultural communication.

Scientific discussions of recent years have shown that the issue of how to preserve the national specific of Ukrainian scientific language remains the most important problem of contemporary Ukrainian stylistics and lingual culture. Particularly acute in this context is the problem of restoring the national specific of the Ukrainian syntax. After all, today the use of syntactic constructions with verbal passive voice unreasonably becomes a common phenomenon in the Ukrainian scientific and socio-political language, with some researchers even including such constructions in the category of typical features of the Ukrainian scientific style. However, their presence is the result of language interference caused by tracing existing syntactic units of the Russian language. The most striking interference processes are seen in the cases of translated abstracts of scholarly papers, since their authors are not professional translators and try to convey the content of their publications in different languages in the most accurate way, without considering structural and grammatical language peculiarities.

The purpose of this study is to find out the specific morphological and syntactic features of Ukrainian scientific and socio-political language in

the context of the unreasonable introduction of passive verbal constructs into the Ukrainian language, as well as to offer adequate methods for the translation of passive constructions from the Russian language into Ukrainian. In order to achieve this goal, we set the following objectives: to trace out the most common mistakes in translating syntactic constructs with passive verbal forms from the Russian language into Ukrainian; to take into account the grammatical works of previous periods, to analyze the causes of the appearance of these false constructions and justify the inexpediency of their use; and to pay attention to the specific Ukrainian constructions, which should be considered to be normative correspondents of Russian passive verbal constructions.

The abstracts of the scientific papers published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine for 2015–2017 years serve as the material for this study¹.

Historical conditions through the emergence of false (error) syntactic constructions

The problem of inappropriate use of syntactic models with passive verb forms in the professional communication has already appeared as the subject of scientific research in Ukrainian linguistics. While specialists in philology consider it from different points of view: Y. Shevelev, N. Babich, K. Horodenska, Z. Kunch, N. Nepivoda, O. Serbenskaya and others terminology specialists propose recommendations. Terminologists-practitioners work out their recommendations and make their own conclusions [Гінзбург 2008, 26-32]. This issue was raised in the contributions of Ukrainian linguists of 1920s-1930s (O. Kurilo [Курило 1930, 1-39], O. Sinyavsky [Синявський 1941], M. Gladky [Гладкий 1928, 144–154], M. Sulima [Сулима 1927] etc.).

The development of the grammatical system of the national language and its stylistic features primarily depends on the historical circumstances of its formation. Therefore, considering the differences in the transmission of certain syntactic constructions in Ukrainian and Russian, first of all it is worth noticing the sources of the development of specific morphological and syntactic features of each language. As it is well-known, modern Ukrainian literary language was formed on the basis of dialects of the popular language and preferred active structures. It is characterized by dynamism, condensation of thought, and this is largely due to its attachment to active verbal forms [Куньч 2004, 3]. The Russian literary language sympathetically perceives passive models, laying the foundation for the formation of its book Church Slavonic language [Шахматов 1941, 60]. This distinction has become the basis for the emergence of interference phenomena, which are considered in this research.

¹ <http://visnyk.academy.gov.ua/?lang=ukr&tip=dop&tipn=Page&page=68>.

The second factor, which is essential for the development of the grammatical and stylistic specificity of the language, is the tradition that manifests itself particularly in book styles, in scientific ones in particular. The decisive influence on the formation of traditions is provided by certain language trends, which find their expression in the formulation of typical phrases, language clichés, and repeated from text to text. The long period of coexistence of the two language systems, one of which (Russian) is prevalent in the scientific discourse, has led to distortions of official, business, scientific style in the direction of the Russian language. As O. Lavrinets rightly observes, “to date, the choice of active or passive constructions is carried out by scientists mainly by intuition, often guided by considerations of not just linguistic, but political, social, and culturological character” [Лаврінець 2014, 63].

The third is the socio-political factor. The article *Ukrainian Identity and Language Issue in the Russian Empire: An Attempt for State Regulation* accentuates the following: “The way for the Ukrainian language to conquer its space was complicated, the Empire considered any step in this direction as a manifestation of political separatism” [Українська ідентичність... 2016, XXXI]. Analyzing the status of the Ukrainian language at the beginning of the 20th century, the prominent linguist Yu. Shevelov correctly noted that for the Ukrainians, “the linguistic issue inevitably ceases to be merely a linguistic one, or, better to say, directly linguistic, but also becomes – and this is often the first issue, political, social and cultural” [Шевельов 1998]. Socio-political factors are reflected in the language legislation of previous periods and in the forced inculcation of the Russian language during the Soviet period, what Ivan Dzyuba thoroughly wrote about in the essay *Internationalism or Russification?* [Дзюба 2005]. Such linguistic policy has inhibited and distorted the development of the literary Ukrainian language, which resulted in the fact that the Russian language gained a high prestige.

One of the most important problems of the modern scientific and technical style, as V. Piletsky rightly points out, remains “the issue of how to preserve the national spirit of Ukrainian terminology in the context of the wide globalization processes nowadays” [Пілецький 2016, 237].

Typical false constructions (errors) and ways of their fixing

Among the typical variants of false syntactic constructions, we distinguish the following:

The first group (Table 1) of false constructions is the use of the name of a person-figure (logical subject) in the form of an instrumental case in the construction containing an impersonal form of the verb.

Table 1

The first group

Russian text	Ukrainian text	Source
“Автором проанализированы донаучные представления о среде, реализованные в мифотворчестве, средневековых утопических текстах, которые получили продолжение в современных теориях среды”	“Автором проаналізовано донаукові уявлення про середовище, що реалізовані у мифотворчості, середньовічних утопічних текстах, які отримали продовження в сучасних середовищних теоріях”	2017, no. 2

Passive participle is used in the Russian text, and it agrees with the noun in the instrumental case, which is a logical subject. The given Ukrainian construction is unacceptable because of the message logic (impersonal form at -но, -то, which transmits the impersonal meaning “someone has done”, therefore the subject (neither grammatical nor logical) can be in the message); and according to the grammatical norms of the literary Ukrainian language (verbal forms at -но, -то- are immutable, they do not have a termination that would indicate a person-figure). It is also not feasible to translate this sentence into the Ukrainian language with the help of passive participle, since it is more likely to be in the role of a definition in the sentence. Therefore, in our opinion, it would be more natural, to call a person in the form of a noun or pronoun in an ornamental case to replace the form of the nominative case and create an active structure: “Автор проаналізував донаукові уявлення про середовище...”.

Another option which suggests that we want to emphasize the action, without emphasizing who is its performer is also possible. Then you should leave the predicate in an impersonal form, removing the person from the sentence: “Проаналізовано донаукові уявлення про середовище”. The second option, in our opinion, is stylistically justifiable, although it departs from the original lexical content. The specificity of the scientific style implies the rejection of the researcher into the background, which is why in Ukrainian professional language impersonal constructions are prevailing.

The second group (Table 2) of false syntactical constructions is the use of the name of a person-figure (logical subjective) in the form of an instrumental case in a construct with a verb in a passive form and with a grammatical subject – the object of the action.

Table 2

The second group

Russian text	Ukrainian text	Source
“Авторами обосновываются теоретические основы формирования механизмов государственного регулирования рынка услуг автомобильного транспорта в регионе”	“Авторами обґрунтовуються теоретичні засади формування механізмів державного регулювання ринку послуг автомобільного транспорту в регіоні”	2016, no. 2

According to the Logical structure of the message, this model “reduces the communicative rank of the main participant of the situation – the subject of the action taken in the position of the original subject, because it is transferred to another participant of the situation – the object of the action” [Вихованець 2004, 244]. According to the grammatical rules of the Ukrainian language, such a construction is false. Since the logical subject is called the figure and should be a subject, it has become a grammatical application in the ornamental case, and the logical object towards which the action is directed and which should be in the sentence as the application and act as a substitute. Such a structure in Ukrainian can be translated only as active one: “*Автори обґрунтовують теоретичні засади формування механізмів державного регулювання ринку послуг автомобільного транспорту в регіоні*” presented as follows.

The third group (Table 3) of false constructions is the use of verbal forms -ться, -ся, at non-subjective structures. These structures are widespread in scientific texts.

Table 3

The third group

Russian text	Ukrainian text	Source
“В статье анализируются три группы характеристик коммуникатора”	“У статті аналізуються три групи характеристик комунікатора”	2015, no. 1
“Обоснована необходимость создания технологии профессиональной подготовки руководящих кадров сферы управления высшим образованием и переподготовки руководящих кадров высших учебных заведений”	“Доводиться доцільність розробки технології професійної підготовки керівних кадрів сфери управління вищою освітою та перепідготовки керівних кадрів вищих навчальних закладів”	2015, no. 2
“Внимание уделяется исследованию понятия «конфликт», начиная со времен античности до наших дней. Исследуются два основных направления определения конфликта: «конфликтная школа» и «школа консенсуса». Определяется место конфликта в процессе взаимодействия органов законодательной и исполнительной власти”	“Увага приділяється дослідженню поняття «конфлікт», починаючи з часів античності до сьогодення. Досліджуються два основних напрями визначення конфлікту: «конфліктна школа» та «школа консенсусу». Визначається місце конфлікту в процесі взаємодії органів законодавчої та виконавчої влади”	2015, no. 1
“В статье рассматриваются миграционные процессы на современном рынке труда Украины в условиях социально-экономических угроз”	“У статті розглядаються міграційні процеси на сучасному ринку праці України в умовах соціально-економічних загроз”	2017, no. 2
“Особое внимание уделяется Украине, события в которой существенно влияют на Евразийское и мировое политическое пространство”	“Особливу увагу приділяється Україні, події в якій суттєво впливають на Євразійський і світовий політичний простір”	2016, no. 2

Passive constructions with an invalid verb and with a postfix -ся differ from the two structures considered due to the absence of a logical subject. These phrases indicate either an action which is happening or unfinished action. It is known that “in the syntactic system of the Ukrainian language, the passive structures are mentioned in contrast to other Slavic languages on the extreme periphery” [Вихованець 2004, 243]. The grammatical matches of such constructions, in accordance with the traditions of the Ukrainian language, are generalized-personal sentences (in which an unnamed person-figure is conceived as a broad, generalized circle of people). Therefore, the phrases given in our examples should be translated from Russian into one of the following structures:

– if it is a completed action, then it is worth using an impersonal form with -но, -то, which reflects the effectiveness:

“У статті проаналізовано три групи характеристик комунікатора”;

“Доведено доцільність розробки технології професійної підготовки керівних кадрів...”;

“Увагу приділено дослідженню поняття «конфлікт»...”.

We would like to emphasize that impersonal forms with -но, -то, have a rather long tradition of use in Ukrainian book-writing, they are recorded in the Ukrainian business style memos from 14th – 15th centuries [Лаврінець 2014, 61-75]. Therefore, their application is justified and the requirements of logic, accuracy of language, and compliance with the traditions of the Ukrainian book style, and, of course, the requirement of normativity.

– in the case of an action with a certain length of time or unfinished action, it is worthwhile translating the indeterminate-person construct with the verb in the first or third person in plural:

“У статті розглядаємо міграційні процеси на сучасному ринку праці України в умовах соціально-економічних загроз”;

“Досліджуємо два основні напрями визначення конфлікту...”;

“Визначаємо місце конфлікту в процесі взаємодії органів законодавчої та виконавчої влади”;

“Особливу увагу приділяють Україні, події в якій суттєво впливають на Євразійський і світовий політичний простір”.

Just a generalized-personal construct with a verb in the first person of the plural is, in our opinion, one of the stylistic features of Ukrainian scientific and technical language and is well-suited for use, in particular, in scientific work abstracts, when we express the tint of collaboration with other scholars and readers. The construction of a verb in a third person of a set in a generalized meaning, which we also recommend for widespread use, is more commonly used in the official-business style, although the scientific one often applies it.

The fourth group (Table 4) of false syntactic constructions is the use of passive participle as a predicate.

Table 4

The fourth group

Russian text	Ukrainian text	Source
“В статье <i>изложены ретроспективы</i> внедрения современных механизмов обеспечения гендерной политики в Украине”	“У статті <i>викладені ретроспективи</i> впровадження сучасних механізмів забезпечення гендерної політики в Україні”	2016, no. 2
“ <i>Статья посвящена</i> исследованию сущности публичного управления, публичного администрирования, хорошего (должного) управления”	“ <i>Стаття присвячена</i> дослідженню сутності публічного управління, публічного адміністрування, доброго врядування”	2017, no. 2
“ <i>Приоритет должен быть предоставлен</i> тем инвестиционным проектам, которые имеют большое значение для экономического развития региона”	“ <i>Приоритет має бути наданий</i> тим інвестиційним проектам, які мають важливе значення для економічного розвитку регіону”	2017, no. 2
“ <i>Особое внимание уделено</i> формированию и особенностям субъектов национального рынка”	“ <i>Окрема увага приділена</i> формуванню та особливостям суб'єктів національного ринку”	2016, no. 3

According to the morphological and syntactic specifics passive acts are intended to be used where it is necessary to note not the process, but a sign acquired as a result of the process. Therefore, we recommend the use of passive adjectives according to their direct purpose, that is, in the role of definitions, and verbal forms -но, -то, that is, in the role of a predicate, which will give expression to the accuracy and correctness. Therefore, the above phrases should be translated as follows:

“У статті *викладено ретроспективи* впровадження сучасних механізмів забезпечення гендерної політики в Україні”;

“*Статтю присвячено* дослідженню сутності публічного управління, публічного адміністрування, доброго врядування”;

“*Приоритет має бути надано* тим інвестиційним проектам, які мають важливе значення для економічного розвитку регіону”;

“*Окрему увагу приділено* формуванню та особливостям суб'єктів національного ринку”.

In general, sentences with an impersonal verb form with -но, -то can be considered active, although they do not have a subject. They focus on the completeness, effectiveness of the action, but do not take into account the performer. Ukrainian passive participles also lost their passive significance to a certain extent as they approached the syntactic role of adjectives. In the early 1950s, Yuriy Sherikh noted that the name “passive participles” “relies more on the history of language rather than on its “present state”, because they “are approaching the role of the adjective in general, the universal participle, often no longer having passive value” [Шерех 1951, 320]. We emphasize that verbal forms with -но, -то, and passive participles in the Ukrainian literary language are normative models, but there is a significant difference in their syntactic use.

In addition to the described methods for the translation of such structures, we consider also a model that combines the modal word “треба”, “можна” or “слід” with an indefinite form of the verb. Such a model can be widely used in concluding wording, for example, in sentences “*Приоритет должен быть предоставлен тем инвестиционным проектам, которые имеют большое значение для экономического развития региона*” (2017, no. 2) it should be translated “*Пріоритет треба надавати тим інвестиційним проектам, які мають важливе значення для економічного розвитку регіону*”; the sentence “*Особое внимание уделено формированию и особенностям субъектов национального рынка*” (2016, no. 3) could be translated as “*Окрему увагу слід приділити формуванню та особливостям суб’єктів національного ринку*” etc.

The fifth group (Table 5) of false constructions is the combination of the subordinate sentence and the participial construction.

Table 5

The fifth group

Russian text	Ukrainian text	Source
“Права человека, закрепленные в Конституции Украины, в большинстве своем декларативные...”	“Права людини, <i>що закріплені</i> в Конституції України, є переважно декларативними...”	2015, no. 2

Such false constructions can not be justified even with the requirement of the accuracy of the translation, since the Russian original has only the participial construction. Normative translation here may be provided by either the use of a description turn (“Права людини, *закріплені* в Конституції України, є переважно декларативними...”; “*Закріплені* в Конституції України права людини є переважно декларативними”), or the use of a subordinate clause with a predicate in an impersonal form (“Права людини, *що їх закріплено* в Конституції України, є переважно декларативними”). All these options in the translation of the syntactic norm of the literary Ukrainian language are adequate, and the choice of one of them depends only on the construction of adjacent sentences, not to cause overlapping of the text with identical models.

Conclusions

Consequently, by the principle of equivalent communicative effect the translation must correctly reproduce the content of the original and also transmit the same ideas and emotions as in the original. However, the translation should not be literal and it should not allow making mistakes associated with copying the semantic or grammatical units of the original. In addition to the fact that

such mistakes indicate a low level of understanding of the target language, and lead to the clogging of the target language into non-normative elements that are unprofessional.

We believe that modern translation studies should pay special attention to the specifics of the translation of the scientific and technical text. In view of the fact that Ukrainian language was actively influenced by the Russian language for a long time, there was a tradition to translate Russian passive verbal constructs literally, with the same passive constructs.

The language of each nation is characterized by its own syntactic traditions, which are manifested in the specifics of sentences construction, the prevalence of one or the other grammatical means. The modern Ukrainian literary language, which was formed on the basis of dialects of the folk language, has a person in the center of the message. Therefore, active constructs predominate in the Ukrainian literary language, but when there is a need to focus attention on the actions, not taking into account the subject, the Ukrainian language uses constructs with predicative forms on -но, -то, that is, a specific feature of the Ukrainian syntax [1: 278-279; 27: 3].

Russian literary language is based on the main features of the Church Slavonic language and pushes the person to the background. As a result, in the Russian literary language in the scientific style passive syntactic constructions dominate and the predicate is usually expressed by verbs on -ся and short forms of participles.

We emphasize the fact that passive models depersonalise the Ukrainian language, exposing as in the role of a subjective inanimate object, which often contradicts with both the grammatical laws of the Ukrainian language and the logical principles of constructing judgments. Active structures, in turn, are characterized by stylistic neutrality, unambiguousness, which is an important feature of the scientific and technical style. In artistic language, passive structures often acquire a certain emotional and expressive tone of value that is unacceptable for a scientific and technical style.

In the translation of scientific and technical texts, we recommend to activate the original Ukrainian patterns: impersonal, unanimous sentences of various types (with the verbal form with -но, -то, with the modal words “треба”, “можна”, “слід” in combination with an indefinite form of the verb, etc.); indefinite person models in which the figure is not named, but can be perceived as a certain circle of people; generalized personal sentences expressing broad generalization, general judgments, or manifested through the form of plurality of shades of collaboration with the reader; and active constructions with different forms of verbal constructions, which transmit the dynamics of thought, and precisely and accurately reproduce the living folk language.

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Summary

FEATURES OF UKRAINIAN TRANSLATION OF PASSIVE VERBAL CONSTRUCTIONS FROM RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIO-POLITICAL TEXTS

This work describes specific morphological and syntactic features of Ukrainian scientific and technical speech in the context of the appearance of non-substantiated norms of the literary Ukrainian language of passive verbal constructions, and provides adequate methods for the translation of passive constructions from Russian into Ukrainian. The most common mistakes are found in the translation from the Russian language into Ukrainian syntactic constructions with passive verb forms, the causes for the appearance of these false constructions are analyzed, and their inexpedient use is justified, as well as the need to use specific Ukrainian constructions when translating from Russian passive verbal constructions to the Ukrainian language.

Kontakt z Avtorĉa:
zorjana.kunch@gmail.com