

UNITS OF INTERNATIONAL LEXICON AND WAYS OF RENDERING THEIR MEANING AND LINGUAL FORM

Internationalisms are such language units which are borrowed from one and the same source language by at least three genealogically different languages in the same or similar lingual form and identical meaning (cf. *долар, атом, інтерес, директор, база, стадіон, театр, фізика*, etc.). International may be not only words and phrases/word-groups, but also morphemes – prefixes, suffixes and even inflexions.

Among the most often occurring international affixes in English and Ukrainian are the following:

1) prefixes: **anti-/анти-, ex-/екс-, inter-/інтер-, trans-/транс-, ultra-/ультра-** as in *antibody – антитіло, export (v.) – експортувати, international – інтернаціональний, ultraviolet – ультрафіолетовий*.

2) suffixes: **-ar/-ар, -er/-ер, -ist/-ист/-іст, -ssion/-сія, -tion/-ція**, etc. as in *actor/актор, volunteer/волонтер, humanist/гуманіст, constitution/конституція, aggression/агресія, humorist/гуморист*, etc.

3) inflexions: **-um/-ум, (memorandum/меморандум), -us/-ус, (radius/радіус), -al/-а (formula/формула)**, etc.

The bulk of these borrowed morphemes, lexemes and syntaxemes are found in many languages of a culturally, historically, and often geographically common area as Europe, the Middle East or the Far East. They are used to designate notions belonging to different domains of human knowledge or activity.

Hence, there is distinguished:

a) the social and political terminology comprising the most commonly used political, economic, philosophical, historical, sociological units of lexicon (*audit, bank, constitution, parliament, party, president, barter, sophism, etc.*). Here also belong terms designating international law, diplomacy, literary terms (*drama, poet, metaphor, epithet, hyperbole, etc.*);

b) natural history/sciences terminology (*physics, mathematics, genetics, chemistry*) used not only in special but also in scientific and popular works and in mass media (*chemical/physical reaction, genes, pneumonia, etc.*);

c) numerous technical terms (names of machines and their parts: *motor, carter, starter, accelerator, battery*), as well as names of different means of transport (*bus, metro, taxi*) and communication (*fax, telegraph, telex, radio, e-mail*), etc.

These and other words and phrases of the kind are referred to as internationalisms, or more precisely **genuine internationalisms**. Their main characteristic feature is semantic singularity. It means that their lexical identity and orthographic similarity in the source language and in all target languages remains unchanged both at language level (when taken separate) and at speech level, i.e., when used in texts/speech.

Apart from genuine internationalisms there exists one more group of international lexis called **translation loan units of lexicon**. These have also a generally common structural form (of word, word-combination) but rarely a similarity in their orthographic form or sounding. Loan internationalisms are mostly different terms designating scientific and technological notions: *citric acid – лимонна кислота, surplus value – додана вартість, agreement – узгодження*, etc.

Along with these two groups of word internationalisms there also exist many stable **international phraseological/idiomatic expressions** in each language's lexicon. Their fund is constituted by the so-called absolute and near equivalents having a common language of origin – Greek, Latin or modern: *Heel of Achilles – ахіллесова п'ята; to cross/pass the Rubicon – перейти Рубікон; the die is cast – жереб кинуто; after us the deluge – після нас хоч потоп; the fair sex – прекрасна стать; the tree of knowledge – дерево пізнання*, etc.

A separate subgroup of genuine internationalisms constitute proverbs, sayings and set expressions which are used in their foreign/original lingual form (they are predominantly of Latin, French, English, German origin): *status in statu – держава у державі; repetitio est mater studiorum (Lat.) – повторення – мати навчання; finita la commedia (Ital.) – настав кінець, крах (справі кінець); da ist der Hund begraben! (Germ.) – ось де собака закопаній!; O.K., all right (Engl.) – усе гаразд; c'est la vie (Fr.) – таке життя*.

Identification of International Lexicon Units

The units of genuine international lexicon are identified on the basis of their common in different languages lexical meaning and identical or only similar lingual form. Loan internationalisms, on the other hand, are identified mainly on the basis of their common sphere of use, their lexical meaning, functional significance and partly – structural form.

Internationalisms are characterized by a similarity of their lexical meaning, by an identity or similarity in their orthographic and sounding form, by their denotative meaning and sometimes by their motivation. Their meaning does not change in any contextual environment.

The identification of the international meaning of some lexemes becomes much more difficult when dealing with polysemantic language signs. That is because in English a lot of lexemes may often have one and the same lingual form for several notions, as, for example, in the noun **conductor**:

Conductor	{	кондуктор	– genuine internationalism
		провідник	– international loan word
		провід	– international loan word
		громовідвід	– international loan word
		диригент	– pseudo-internationalism
		керівник	– pseudo-internationalism

Apart from the polysemantic words with several meanings, one of which is genuine international and the rest pseudo-international, i.e., non-international, there are also quite a few words in present-day English and Ukrainian which have an identical orthographic form but quite different lexical meaning: **accurate** – *точний, правильний* but not *акуратний*; **data** – *дані* but not *дата*; **intelligence** – *розум* but not *інтелегенція*; **matrass** – *колба* but not *матрац*; **obligation** – *зобов'язання* but not *облігація*; **prospect** – *перспектива* but not *проєкт*; **replica** – *точна копія* but not *репліка*, etc.

These and the like pseudo-international words are often referred to as ‘false friends of the translator’ (удавані друзі перекладача).