

PROBLEM OF INTERLINGUAL EQUIVALENCE IN THE SPHERE OF LEXICAL SEMANTICS

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Abstract: In this article the problem of the interlingual equivalence in the aspect of vocabulary and text is investigated. The possibilities of a new approach to this question - from the position of contrastive linguistics - are demonstrated. The notion of interlingual equivalence in the field of lexical semantics is defined not as the relation between two lexemes, but as the relation between a lexeme and a semantic field. The main types of corresponding fields are described. The analysis is based on confrontation of the lexico-semantic spheres of Russian and German.

Keywords: interlingual equivalence, lexical semantics, vocabulary, text, contrastive linguistics, prototype.

1. THE CONCEPT OF EQUIVALENCE IN THE INTERLINGUAL ASPECT.

The question, what is the basis of interlingual equivalence and what are the criteria, which allow to affirm that the lexical unit A of the language X is equivalent to the lexical unit B of the language Y, has been considered till recently either solely with practical aim (in the process of creating bilingual dictionaries) or in the bounds of translation theory. After contrastive linguistics came into existence the course of the problem was changed, namely, questions concerning the theoretical comprehension of the interlingual equivalence in the system of language, about the essence and confines of this phenomenon were raised, and also if the factors, which have an influence on the equivalent relations of a lexical unit, are identical in language and in speech. This subject was partially touched upon in lexicographic investigations, which were directed towards elaborating a theoretical basis for preparing and creating bilingual dictionaries (s., e. g., Berkov 1977). In the range of tasks, questions and problems, which the contrastive linguistics seeks to solve, the problem of interlingual equivalence takes a special place. The equivalence is the criterion and standard of the contrastive analysis, because the exposure of similarities and differences between the units of languages - the main objective of contrastive linguistics - can be in another way defined as the investigation of factors, which create and violate the equivalent relations. Among scientific works, which have been written along this line, the papers of W. Gladrow (1986, 1990, 1994), I. Sternin (1989), V. Devkin (1990) should be named.

Thus, the theory of translation and the lexicography deal with the problem of equivalence first of all in the applied aspect: the theory of translation - in texts of different functional styles, the lexicography - in bilingual dictionaries. The contrastive linguistics studies the equivalence

in the system of language (in wide sense), that means, in the system of vocabulary and in the system of its realizations (s. fig. I).

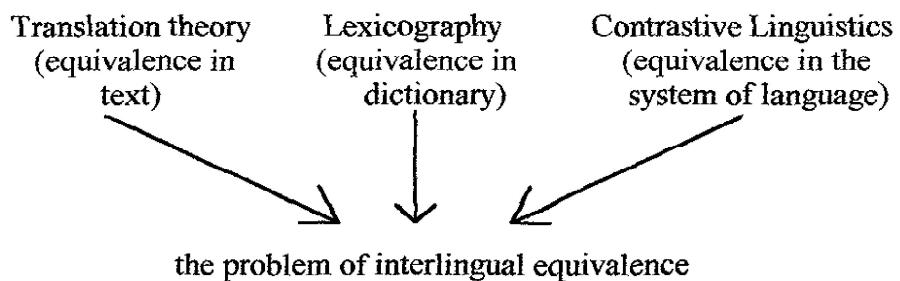


Fig. I. Treatment of the problem of interlingual equivalence by different theories.

1.1. The competence of a bilingual individual as a criterion for equivalence of interlingual relations.

While discussing the criteria of interlingual equivalence, scientists often consider the most reliable criterion to be the competence of a bilingual individual, who masters in equal measure the source language and the language to compare. Indeed, there are no objective criteria (and they cannot exist in all probability) on the grounds of which it would be possible to determine the measure of equivalence of lexical units of languages, if only one of them is unknown or not well known to the investigator. "Truth in the highest sense" was and remains the speaker who often finds it difficult himself to analyze what his intuition is based on. W. Koller writes about the competence of the individual in the following way: "Beispielleferant und Beurteilungsinstanz bei kontrastiven Analysen ist der (ideal) zweisprachige Sprecher, der in einer bestimmten Situation einen bestimmten Sachverhalt sowohl mit dem Ausdruck A in L₁, als auch mit dem Ausdruck Z in L₂ verbalisieren kann" (Koller 1992: 219).

Let us try to find out, if only in general way, what is the intuition of the informant based on. If one asks the speaker, who masters in equal measure Russian and German, what is the Russian for *spielen*, he will answer without a hitch - *играть*, but if one will consult the dictionary, it will be clear, that the word *spielen* can correspond also in certain cases to Russian words *испинять*, *притворяться*, *забавляться*, *происходить*, *иметь оттенок*. To the request to translate the word *scheinen* You can get with the same probability two answers: *светить* and *казаться*. In the case of *jodeln* the informant can find himself in difficulties, instead of a simple translation a certain description such as *неть с переливами* or *неть на тирольский лад* is demanded. What is the cause of the fact, that in one case the translation of a foreign word can be fulfilled without a hitch and in another case demands reflections and long explanations?

The world surrounding a person is reflected in his language mind in the form of numerous groups of extralinguistic phenomena, each of which is allotted to a certain language sign. These phenomenal groups, like semantic fields, have no strict outlined bounds, they can be superimposed on one another and thus the same phenomenon can be designated by different words or word groups. Recently, opinions were expressed that a set of potential referents, which are allotted to a language sign, has the organization of a prototype category. It means that in most cases it is possible to single out a phenomenon, which is allotted in priority to this sign, all other phenomena are located near it or far from it depending on the number of

features common to it, that is to say, that they are united around the prototypical equivalent in accordance with the measure of coincidence with the sought model (s. Krzeszowski 1986: 8, Wierzbicka 1990: 366).

For example, the word *кошка* in Russian is allotted in priority to 'domestic animal who annihilates mice and rats'. This referent is prototypical among the others, which also can be designated by this word. To these referents belong: 'predatory feline', 'cat fur', 'device in form of metal teeth fastened to shoes for climbing poles etc.', 'belt lash with several ends, which was used in olden times for corporal punishment'. The first two referents from the aforementioned are sufficiently near to the prototype in difference to the next two, which have only remote associative traits common to the prototype, but it stipulates their belonging to the set of phenomena denoted by this word.

The language articulation of reality is not the same for speakers of different languages. The bilingual informant, who has mastered the system of correlations "language - reality" of two (or more) languages, compares these two systems during the search for equivalent correspondences. The existence of similarities in the language articulation facilitates finding interlingual equivalents, while differences, naturally, impede this process. The peculiarities of describing extralinguistic reality by means of each language under comparison have as a consequence the fact, that the lexical unit of source language as a rule correlates depending on different contextual and situational conditions with a row of lexical units of the language to compare. Thus, while comparing the vocabulary of two languages, it is not only necessary to look at corresponding lexemes, but rather to take into consideration the lexical field in the language under comparison, which corresponds to the lexeme of the source language.

1.2. The main types of corresponding fields.

The revealed possible equivalents, which form the corresponding field, are not of equal value. Some of them are perceived by the speakers as versions of top priority, others as second-rate or as corresponding to the source lexeme only in exceptional circumstances. Therefore, it is possible to distinguish the core and the periphery in the structure of the corresponding lexical field. The core contains the prototypical equivalent (or equivalents). The other possible corresponding lexemes are situated on the periphery of the field.

The contrastive analysis of German and Russian vocabulary resulted in distinguishing the following types of structure of corresponding lexical fields.

A corresponding field with a strongly pronounced core (s. fig. II). This case (just as following cases) has two variations

a) A corresponding field with a strongly pronounced and with a richly represented periphery. For example, the prototypical equivalent for the German word *fliegen* is the Russian word *летать/лететь*, but there is also a great number of other Russian lexemes, which correspond to *fliegen* depending on the semantic and lexical compatibility of words: *взлететь, разлетаться, скользнуть, развеваться, трястить* etc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) <i>das Papier flog mir aus der Hand</i> | <i>бумага <u>вылетела</u> из моих рук;</i> |
| (2) <i>der Pilot fliegt diese Maschine</i> | <i>летчик <u>ведет</u> этот самолет</i> |
| <i>zum ersten Mal</i> | <i>в первый раз;</i> |
| (3) <i>ein Lächeln flog über sein Gesicht</i> | <i>улыбка <u>скользнула</u> по его лицу;</i> |
| (4) <i>seine Augen flogen über die Versammlung</i> | <i>он <u>окинул</u> взглядом собрание</i> |

Language X

Language Y

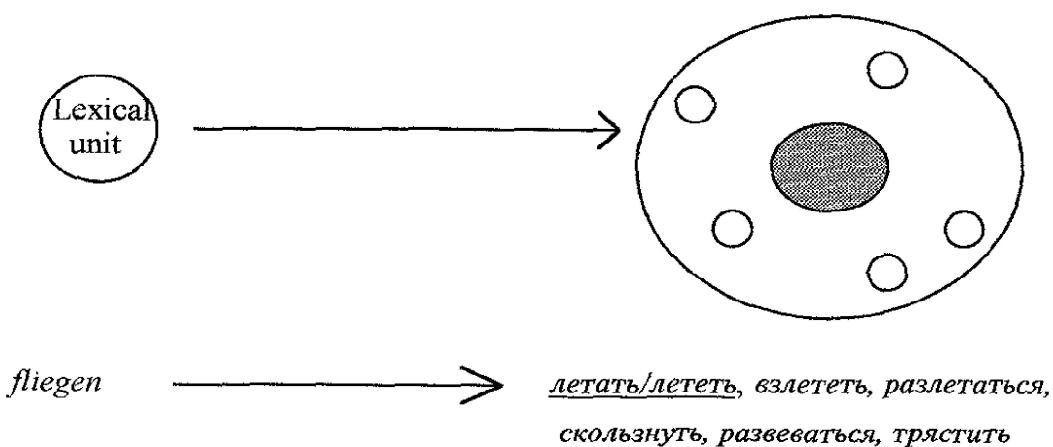


Fig. II. A corresponding field with a strongly pronounced core.

The second variation is

b) A corresponding field with a strongly pronounced and with a poorly represented periphery, e.g. German *gelb* - Russian *желтый*. The periphery in this case is represented only with idiomatic combinations, e. g. *gelbe Rübe* - *морковь*.

(5) *gelbe Rüben* (ю-нем.) *морковь,*

(6) *der gelbe Onkel* *просты, розга.*

(7) *sich gelb und grün ärgern* *быть вне себя от злости*
(позеленеть от злости).

A corresponding field with a split core (s. fig. III). The source lexeme has in this case two (or more) equal prototypical equivalents in the other language. The reason for this is the different conceptual or lexematical structuring of the speaker's reality.

It is possible to see on fig. III, that both the core and the whole lexical field are divided in two parts - the first prototypical equivalent of the word *scheinen* is *светить* - that is the left part of the core and the left part of the lexical field with less prototypical equivalents *сиять, лучиться*, and the second prototypical equivalent of the word *scheinen* is *казаться* - that is the right part of the core and the right part of the lexical field with less prototypical equivalents *мниться, мерещиться*.

Also examples

Traum – *мечта, сновидение:*

(8) *Glauben Sie etwa an Träume?*

Разве Вы верите в сны?

(9) *Aber vorläufig ist das offenbar
ein unerfüllbarer Traum.*

*Но пока, по-видимому,
это несбыточная мечта.*

Hals – *шея, горло:*

(10) *Die Kinder fielen ihm um den Hals.*

Дети бросились ему на шею.

(11) *Tut Ihnen der Hals weh?*

У Вас болит горло?

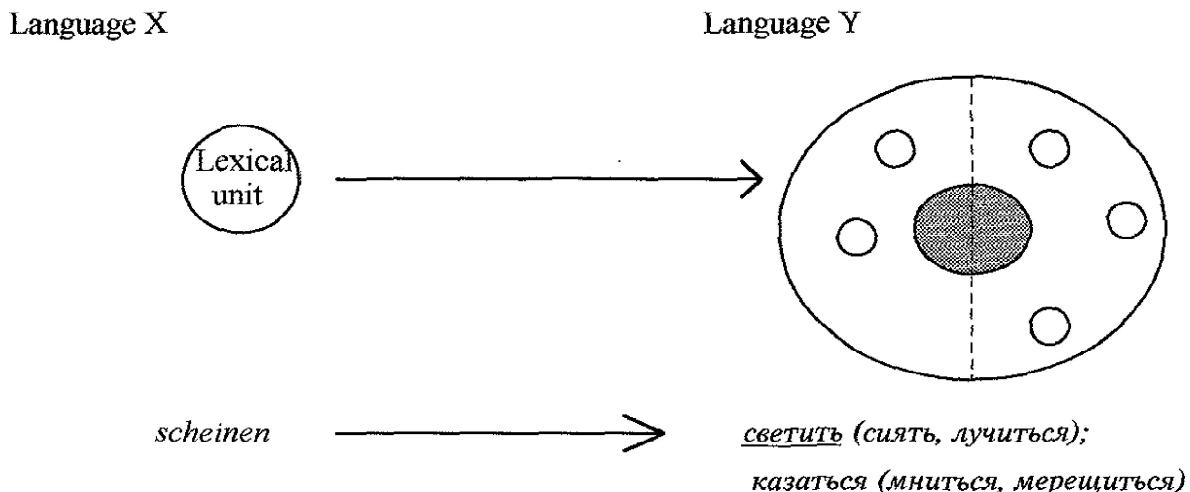


Fig. III. A corresponding field with a split core

A corresponding field with a vague core (s. fig. IV.). The semantic components, which compose the concept expressed through the given lexeme in the source language are distributed in a number of lexemes in the other language, e.g. German *Bahn* - Russian *дорога, путь, трасса, траектория*. In this case the Russian equivalents have in German their own prototypical equivalents, e.g. *дорога, путь* - *Weg*, *трасса* - *Trasse*, but neither of them is *Bahn*. It is noteworthy that although the content of each of these lexemes is near to the content of the source lexeme, neither of them is prototypically equivalent to it. The next examples are:

Jammer – (громкий) плач, причитания, вопли, стенания:

(12) *Ihr Jammer schallte durch
das ganze Haus.*

Её причитания (вопли,
стенания, плач) были
слышны по всему дому.

bummeln - гулять, фланировать, болтаться, шататься:

(13) *Sie wollten durch die Stadt bummeln
und Schaufenster ansehen.*

Они хотели погулять
(поболтаться, пошататься) по
городу и поглядеть на витрины.

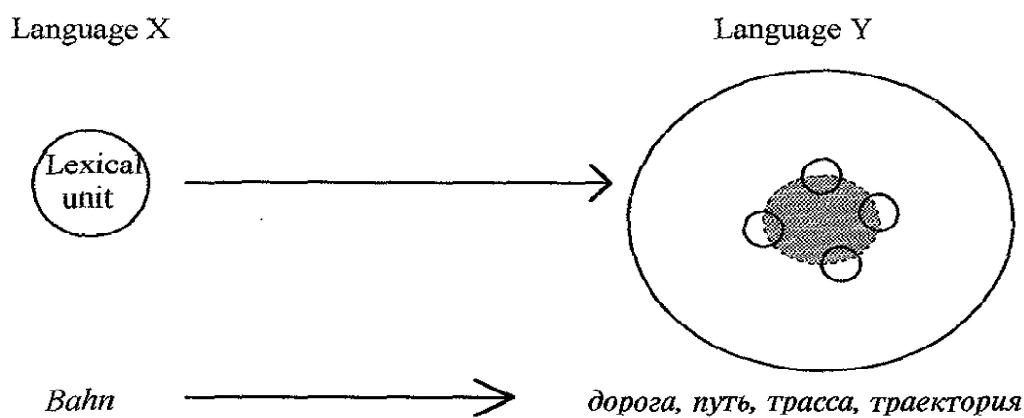


Fig IV. A corresponding field with a vague core

A corresponding field without a core (s. fig. V.). The source lexeme cannot be expressed with any lexeme in the other language but only with a description. The cause of this is the absence of the given concept (conceptual gaps) or of the lexeme expressing the given concept (lexical gaps) in the language under comparison, e.g. German *Eintopf* - Russian *густой суп, заменяющий первое и второе блюдо*; German *rodeln* - Russian *кататься на санках с гор*.

- (14) *Gesinge* — надоедливое громкое пение;
(15) *Volksdeutsche* — лицо немецкой национальности,
проживающее за пределами Германии;
(16) *Schienenersatzverkehr* — перевозка (пассажиров) автобусами (при отмене движения железнодорожного или трамвайного транспорта во время аварий или ремонтно-строительных работ).

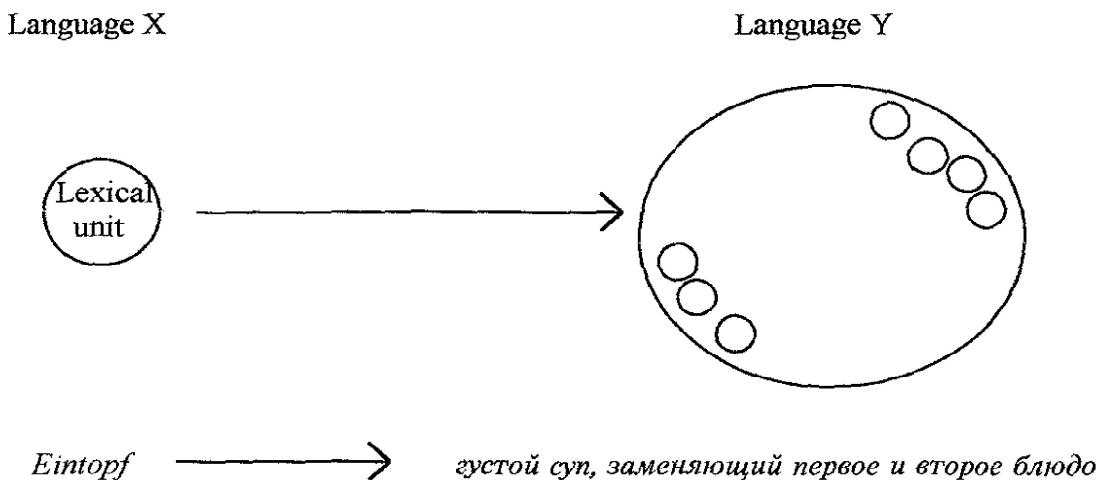


Fig. V. A corresponding field without a core

The description of types of corresponding fields makes it possible to define the notion of interlingual equivalence in the field of lexical semantics not as the relation between two lexemes, but as the relation between a lexeme and a semantic field.

2. EQUIVALENCE IN DICTIONARY AND IN TEXT. THE MAIN FACTORS TO IDENTIFY THE EQUIVALENT RELATIONS.

2.1. The word in the aspect of language and in the aspect of speech.

The fact, that the word has different status in language and in speech (the opposition *langue* - *parole* in the sense of F. de Saussure is meant) attracted attention of linguists for a long time (s., e. g., Frege 1892, Potebnja 1892, Vygotski 1934, Bühler 1934). Nowadays the consecutive differentiation of the language and speech status of the word is carried out in the bounds of different logical-semantic theories (s., e. g., Ullmann 1957, Coseriu 1981, Bierwisch and Lang 1987, Komlev 1992), but is recognized almost unanimously. The most important directions of this differentiation are the following.

The notional-semantic characteristic of the word. In the aspect of language the word is not connected with any specific referent, it expresses a certain common notion which is realized in any way in speech. The word is characterized by coexistence of several meanings, i. e. by polysemy. In the aspect of speech the relation between the word and a concrete object or natural phenomenon is created. The word loses its potential polysemy, only one of existent meanings is actualized in the context (we do not consider here the cases of intentional ambiguity of the text).

The morpho-syntactic characteristic of the word. The word in dictionary is a certain invariant, it is given in a conditionally neutral form, which can be different in different languages (for instance, in Russian, German, English and a number of other languages the neutral form of the verb is considered to be the infinitive, but in Greek it is the form of the 1st Person Singular Present). This neutral form has however its morphological and syntactic potential, which is conditioned by the categories peculiar to this grammatical class. The word in speech appears as a word form and is characterized by a certain set of morphological characteristics and by a certain syntactic function.

The connotative-stylistic characteristic of the word. The words of a language are differentiated according to their belonging to different strata of literary language - styles, and also to the layers of vocabulary, which are outside of the literary language or stand on its boundaries. The invariant (extracontextual) meaning of the word shows, what stylistic key this word imparts to the utterance in the overwhelming majority of cases. In speech contextual stylistic meanings of the used words can directly realize their language stylistic meanings, but it happens, that the word has a particular stylistic task and its contextual stylistic meaning disagrees (does not coincide) with the extracontextual one. These are the cases of stylistic contrast as a specific stylistic device and also some peculiarities of the communication in small social groups.

The language and the speech status of the word interact. The accumulation of speech phenomena involves changes in the system of language. The common model of the actualization of some language units can be carried on the units which did not belong to this model before and in this way change the character of their realization in speech. However, if in language there is not and can not be anything, that would not be realized in some way or other in speech, the speech can contain the facts, which are not fixed by language. They reflect the development of the potentials of language and actualize not a concrete lexical unit but one of the existing models of the language.

For further reasoning it is also important to distinguish between the notions of „word in language“ and „word in dictionary“. The word in the aspect of language is an abstract model, it exists in the consciousness of speakers and includes the set of possible nominative potentials of the word and the algorithms of their realization. Word in dictionary (or isolated word) is a concrete unit from some list. By means of dictionary articles and dictionary marks the authors of dictionaries try to reflect the abstract model of the word, to embody it in form of its semantic, grammatical and stylistic characteristics. Such a description is always fragmentary, it depends on the aims of the dictionary and on the linguistic views of its authors. Thus, the word in the aspect of language is a unit, which belongs to the mental reality of speakers, the word in dictionary is one of the possibilities of its description.

2.2. Equivalence in dictionary.

While studying the interlingual equivalence in the sphere of lexical semantics, one must take into account the above mentioned differences between the language and speech status of the word. These differences exert influence on the mood of establishing equivalent relations between the lexical units of different languages. In the aspect of language the interlingual equivalent relations are fixed and described in bilingual dictionaries.

The following factors serve, as usual, as a ground for detecting interlingual equivalence when searching for such a correspondence in another language, which could be defined as a lexicographic equivalent to the source word.

Potential of reference. The word in dictionary is not directly connected with any referent of extralinguistic reality, but potentially it can signify some objects, phenomena or relations. The article in bilingual dictionary includes the range of possible referents of the word (or at least the main part of them) and reflects in such a way the competence of a bilingual speaker. While defining the relations of the word A in the language X and the word B in the language Y from the point of view of their equivalence/nonequivalence, one must define the potential of reference of each lexical unit to be compared. The closer is the range of potential referents of two words to be considered, the higher is the measure of their equivalence.

The semantic structure of significata. The notional content of the word is described in dictionary as a sum of its meanings. It is not their simple mechanical sum, the meanings are hierarchized in a certain way and form the structure of the significatum. Important parameters of this structure are the number of meanings belonging to the significatum and also the characteristic of each meaning as main/secondary, direct/transferred, motivated/non motivated.

Connotative characteristics. Dictionaries give as a rule also supplementary information, which reflects in broad sense the conditions of use for a certain word. This sort of information is called connotative or „non denotative“ (cf. Ludwig 1991), various marks serve to express it. These marks differ from dictionary to dictionary, but in the main they reflect the following connotative characteristics (cf. the classification in Neubert 1982: 19-25 and Ludwig 1991: 237-267).

a) Belonging of the word to elevated, neutral or lower style, in Russian dictionaries the marks are: *высок.* (высокий стиль), *поэт.* (поэтическое слово, выражение), *разг.* (разговорное слово или выражение), *груб.* (грубое слово, выражение), *сульг.* (вульгарное слово, выражение). The absence of the mark means belonging to the neutral style.

b) Use of the word in a definite sphere of communication, the marks are: *офиц.* (официальный термин, выражение), *канц.* (канцелярское слово или выражение), *книжн.* (книжный стиль) and a series of marks, which reflect belonging of the word to the range of terms of a definite science: *астр.* (астрономия), *биол.* (биология), *геогр.* (география), *мат.* (математика) etc. Belonging to professional or social cant can also be fixed, the marks are: *охот.* (охота), *мор.* (морское дело), *студ.* (студенческое выражение) etc.

c) Expressive-emotional estimation of the referent, which can be signified by the word, the marks are: *ласк.* (ласкательное слово, выражение), *ирон.* (в ироническом смысле), *шутл.* (шутливо), *неодобр.* (неодобрительно), *презр.* (презрительно), *пренебр.* (пренебрежительно) etc.

d) temporal marking of the word, the marks are: *уст.* (устаревшее слово, выражение), *ист.* (историзм), *арх.* (архаизм).

Some of these marks give to the word more than one connotative characteristic, e. g. Russian *разг.* - using of the word in a definite communicative sphere and belonging to the lower style, German *arch.* (archaisierend) - characteristic of the word as an obsolete language unit and as a rule belonging to elevated or to bookish style.

The above mentioned marks are taken from Russian dictionaries, but in German dictionaries they are almost the same: *geh.* (gehoben), *umg.* (umgangssprachlich), *iron.* (ironisch), *pej.* (pejorativ), *spez.* (speziell), *Chem.* (Chemie), *Jagdw.* (Jagdwesen) etc. It should be mentioned, that there are considerably more marks in German dictionaries, which point to the regional use of the lexical unit, e. g. *norddt.* (norddeutsch), *berl.* (berlinisch), *österr.* (österreichisch), *schweiz.* (schweizerisch) etc. In Russian lexicographical practice only the mark *обл.* (областное) countervail the abundance of marks of this kind in German.

The closer are the connotative characteristics of two words in interlingual comparison, the higher is the measure of their equivalence.

Grammatical characteristics. The headwords in dictionary are provided also with grammatical marks. Each word is characterized first of all from the point of its belonging to a definite part of speech. If it is already clear from the form of a word, then the word has as a rule no mark. But in case of doubt the grammatical marking is obligatory. When establishing interlingual equivalence in dictionary the words to be concerned must belong to the same part of speech, what is not obligatory while establishing interlingual equivalence in texts, e. g.:

(16) *Странно, почему мы так же, как и перед родителями, всякий раз чувствуем свою вину перед учителями?* (Rasputin 1984: 71)

Merkwürdig: Warum fühlen wir uns immer wieder vor unseren Lehrern genauso schuldig, wie vor unseren Eltern? (Übers. von C. Williams).

Exceptions in the aspect of dictionary are possible only in case of absence of the given part of speech in the language to compare. From other grammatical marks, such as gender and number by substantives, conjugation art by verbs etc., it is necessary to pay attention to phenomena absent in other language. e. g. perfective/imperfective aspect of the verb in Russian in comparison to German, and to interlingual contrasts, e. g. concerning *singularia tantum* and *pluralia tantum*. Thus, for establishing interlingual equivalence the belonging of the word to a certain part of speech is of great importance, a considerable role belongs also to contrasting grammatical phenomena.

The measure of frequency of the correspondence. The interaction of language and speech status of the word finds reflection in this factor. While a certain lexical unit of source language is being realized in speech utterances, absolutely different words of other language can turn out to be equivalent to it in different contexts. However, the closer are referential, significative and connotative characteristics of lexical units in two languages, the more often they prove to be translational equivalents. This is the consequence of the fact, that the possibilities of the realization of the word are defined by its language potential. But because the dictionary article is a description of language characteristics of the word, the authors of the dictionary consider the frequency of contextual correspondences an important criterion in establishing interlingual equivalence, as it reflects relatively objectively the measure of equivalence of two lexemes (cf. Komissarov 1973: 35, where the equivalence is defined as „statistically overwhelming correspondence“). The higher is the frequency of reproducing of the word in one language by means of the word in the other language in process of translation in texts and in communication, the higher is the measure of their equivalence.

2.3. Equivalence in text.

While contrasting pieces of texts of two or several languages, which describe or express the same speech situation, state of affairs, intentions, naturally the question appears, if these segments (which can consist of one word) are equivalent or non. During the interlingual contrastive analysis of texts and words in their structure it becomes clear, that in this case other factors are valid in establishing interlingual equivalence than in comparison of isolated words, and the equal factors should be interpreted otherwise. The most important from them are the following.

Referential connection. The first and the most important factor is also connected with the commonness of reference of the units to compare. But if in the aspect of language all potential possibilities of reference must be taken into account, in the aspect of text only one of them is considered. And it is often so, that in definite segments of text the words, which are not primary prototypical equivalents prove to be interlingual equivalents, e. g.:

(17) *Im Kopf der Zeitung kann man gewöhnlich auch ihren Preis finden.*

В шапке газеты обычно можно найти ее цену.

The words *Kopf* and *шапка* signify the same phenomenon although they are not prototypical equivalents in the aspect of dictionary. The referent „the upper part of the first page of the newspaper, which contains its name and some additional information“, lays on the periphery of the sphere of reference both of the word *Kopf* and of the word *шапка*, but in the process of communication just these potentials of nomination of both words are actualized and thus they turn out to be prototypical equivalents in the above mentioned sentence - in the aspect of text.

Lexical compatibility of words. Syntagmatic relations between words play an important role in text. Accordingly the choice of the word depends on the fact, what other words are used in the given segment of text. It is also important to distinguish the notions of semantic and lexical compatibility (s. Apresjan 1969: 81, Kominč 1986: 99). The semantic compatibility of the word depends on its meanings (lexico-semantic variations) and is bound up with the semantic structure of the significatum. The lexical compatibility means its ability to combine without regard for any variation of meaning only with certain words, what becomes clear only in context. When one compares the significata of the words *töten* and *убить*, it can be easily ascertain, that a series of meanings of these verbs coincide, among them:

töten 1. a) den Tod von jmdm., etw. herbeiführen, verursachen, verschulden.

2. (ugs.) bewirken, daß etw. zerstört, vernichtet wird. (Duden, Vol. 7, p. 3414);

убить - 1. Лишить жизни, умертвить.

2. (перен.) Уничтожить, погубить, разрушить. (MAS, Vol. 4, p. 444).

But the range of substantives, which can be used with these verbs in above mentioned transferred meanings, is not the same:

(18) *jmds. Liebe töten*
die Zeit töten
die Hoffnung töten

убить чью-л. любовь,
убить время,
убить надежду;

but:

die Glut[der Zigarette] töten
убить кучу денег
das Fleisch töten
ein paar Flaschen Bier töten

затушить огонь [сигареты],
eine Menge Geld ausgeben,
умерщвлять плоть,
раздавить пару бутылок пива.

The peculiarities of compatibility of both words are the cause for the fact, that in certain contexts *töten* and *убить* can in no way be considered as equivalents.

Situational compatibility of words. The choice of word in communication depends not only on lexical filling of the sentence, but also on the situation, in which this communication proceeds. Thus, the factor having influence on the equivalence of relations is not only linguistic, but also pragmatic context. It means, that in a certain situation such words and constructions must be used in the language to compare, which have „the same implications, presuppositions and illocutionary force as the analogous constructions in the source language“ (Levinson 1994: 374). So, for example, for Russian passengers of the Moscow metro the phrase said by the train-driver *„Остаться (на перроне)!"*, would be unexpected, could cause confusion and maybe even panic. The reason would be the disturbance of situational-pragmatic rules of intercourse. Deviation from the conventional formula : *„Осторожно, двери закрываются!"* could provoke suspicion, that something extraordinary has happened. Thus, the habitual in analogous situation for a German *„Zurückbleiben"* is equivalent not to its dictionary prototype, but to the habitual for Russian usage : *„Осторожно, двери закрываются!"* Cf. as well:

(19) У меня сегодня гости – *Ich bekomme heute Besuch;*

Вас к телефону – *Telefon für Sie;*

Чья очередь? – *Wer ist dran?;*

Эти книги можно опустить (in the library) – *Diese Bücher können zurück etc.*

Encyclopedic erudition of speakers. Also the extralinguistic realities, the knowledge of life and culture, which are inherent to each speaker, must be taken into account.

The sentences

(20) Уже издалека я увидела серое пятиэтажное здание, в котором жила Вера and

Schon von weitem habe ich das graue fünfstöckige Gebäude gesehen, in dem Vera wohnte

are not equivalent. In this context the word *пятиэтажный* must be rendered by word *vierstöckig*, because the count of floors begins in Russia with the ground floor, while in Germany with the floor above the ground floor (cf.. Biel./Löt., Vol. 3, p. 240: *ein Haus mit zwei [sechs] Stockwerken* – дом в три этажа [в семь этажей], *das Haus hat drei Stockwerke* – у дома четыре этажа, дом четырехэтажный; also in Lep./Str., p. 785: *das Haus ist acht Stockwerke hoch* – дом восьмиэтажный (соответствует русскому девятиэтажный)).

In analogous way the ordinal number in designation of series of a serial do not coincide in Russian and German, as in German the first film does not count. Thus, *пятисерийный фильм* is not *ein Film mit fünf Folgen*, but *ein Film mit vier Folgen*.

The word-combination *кухонная ниша* signifys in Russian properly ‘a niche in the kitchen’, but in German *Küchennische* signifys a special kind of kitchen (cf. Duden, Vol. 4, p. 2014: *Küchennische, die* - Kochnische), which is not intrinsic in Russian culture and consequently in Russian language. Thus, there are no equivalent relations between the sentences:

(21) *Meine Tochter begab sich in die Küchennische, um Milch aus dem Kühlschrank zu holen.*

Моя дочь направилась в кухонную нишу (нишу кухни), чтобы достать молоко из холодильника.

In Russian in this context simply the word *кухня* should be used, because there is no difference in Russian between the kinds of kitchens, rendered with German lexemes *Küche* and *Küchennische*.

Also the categorization of objects and phenomena of the environment can be different with different peoples. It influences also the range of equivalence relations of corresponding lexemes. So the word *Kirschen* 'cherries' according to the ideas of a German belongs to the category of fruits:

Kirsche - 1. kleine, fast runde, meist rote, süß oder säuerlich schmeckende Frucht mit langem Stiel und hartem, rundlichem Kern; Frucht des Kirschbaums (Duden, Vol. 4: 1859).

For a Russian *вишни* 'cherries' are berries

вишня - 1. Плодовое дерево или кустарник семейства розоцветных с сочными съедобными ягодами темно-красного (реже светло-красного) цвета.
2. Ягода такого растения (BAS, Vol. 2: 281)

For that reason in the Russian sentence

(22) *В конце сада, около большой аллеи, росла вишня, – вся она густо была покрыта черными ягодами* (Вересаев. В юные годы.)

the word *ягода* can correspond only to the word *Frucht*: ... war mit schwarzen *Früchten* bedeckt.

Also the description of gestures can often be rightly interpreted only on the basis of background knowledge (encyclopedic erudition of speakers).

2.4. Equivalence and adequacy.

In addition to the above mentioned factors also such as connotation, stylistic colouring, expressive colouring, word-play and other should be taken into account (s., e. g., Švejcer 1989; Snell-Hornby 1994; Vermeer 1994 and others). The diversity of factors, which are operating while establishing interlingual equivalence in texts, lead to the fact, that under particular conditions of proceeding of communication act equivalent relation must be replaced by adequate ones. In this case separate language units can be nonequivalent to each other. Thus, if to the source lexeme of language in a certain context accordingly to certain reasons (semantic, grammatical, stylistic etc.) corresponds the word of other language, which do not belong to the range of its systemic equivalents (neither to central, nor to the peripheric), one ought to speak about adequate relations, s. the following examples:

(23) - *Хорошо, – подбадривала меня Лидия Михайловна. – В этой четверти пятёрка еще не получится, а в следующей – обязательно* (Rasputin 1984: 129)

„*Gut*“, spornte mich Lidija Michailowna an, „*diesmal kommst du noch nicht auf eine Eins, aber ganz bestimmt im nächsten Zeugnis*“ (Übers. von C. Williams).

(24) *Er hatte oft genug bei den Einsätzen seinen Hals riskiert.*

В боях он довольно часто рисковал своей головой.

(25) *Natalja Selezneva ist Journalistin: Ihre Tochter wird es auch.*

Наталья Селезнева – журналистка. Ее дочь тоже станет журналисткой.

Concluding this section, I shall summarize all above stated:

- 1) When establishing interlingual equivalence in dictionary the commonness of reference is overlapped by peculiarities of significative kind, when establishing interlingual equivalence in text the commonness of reference is overlapped by peculiarities of situational-communicative kind.
- 2) Factors, which must be taken into account while determining the equivalence of relations between lexical units of two languages, are different in dictionary and in text. In the aspect of dictionary there are the semantic structure of the significatum, stylistic and partially grammatical characteristics, the measure of frequency of correspondence, and in the aspect of text there are lexical and situational compatibility and also the encyclopedic erudition of speaker.
- 3) In the aspect of dictionary the relations of equivalence are establishing as a rule between separate lexemes (dictionaries of idioms are disregarded here), but in text it is much more important to consider the relations between more or less long pieces of text.
- 4) In dictionary the scope of fluctuations of equivalent relations is spread from zero equivalence through partial equivalence to full equivalence, the last can be found in a very limited volume. The text serves as a rule the purpose of realization of communication and so the measure of equivalence can not be between pieces of text on zero level, otherwise the process of communication can not take place. But because it is not always possible to establish the relations of full equivalence between the segments of text, they are often replaced by the relations of adequacy.

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Abbreviations

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