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Translation Issues of Political and Social TV Debates

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Annotation: *Nowadays the mass media has become an integral part of our life. Social and political debates have a great impact on human mind. They influence the way we percept the world and shape our views. International channels arrange various debates and programs, attracting millions of viewers all over the world. The Republic of Kazakhstan is not an exception. Our local and national channels are broadcasting enjoyable debates on social and political issues. In order people of other nationalities to understand these debates and programs, there is an urgent need of interpreters, as they considered being the bridge between representatives of different cultures. It is interpreter's task to translate it adequately making sure the audience is provided with reliable information. In this article, the author tried to specify and give the general translation solutions of social and political television debates in Kazakh society.*

We all aware of a word *debate*. However, if we consider *debate* as a term, it refers to the discussion of a particular subject that often continues for a long time and in which people express different opinions; a formal discussion of a particular problem between representatives of different parties (1) According to the Dictionary of Synonyms, the term "debate" has a lot of synonyms, such as *discussion, dispute, argumentation, polemic, verbal controversy, altercation, wrangle, heated argument, difference of opinion, consideration and careful thought*. So, it is right that lots of people consider the debate to be the discussion (2).

In terms of the issue of our research, generally, in political discourse, the *TV debate* is the meeting of two or more candidates for any post. For example, in the United States of America, the debate is an integral part of presidential elections which they broadcast on national television. As a rule, candidates are given provocative and sensitive issues affecting the burning political, economic and social subjects. Debates help the people, who are likely to not even read the election programs, decide on their choice. Nevertheless, the reverse side of the coin is that the audience often focus their attention on the image of the candidate, his ability to defend and explain their point of view and not on the real political ideas. Debates will best reveal the personality traits of participants of the electoral process. They concentrate the audience's attention on the image of the candidates rather than on the substance of political issues. Therefore, this method of personalization is fully consistent with both the needs of the mass audience, and the interests of political groups (3).

We have observed that almost in all former Soviet countries, presidential election process has different shape in comparison with the US election. Post-Soviet states do not hold presidential elections with the help of debates between candidates, broadcasting live. The TV debates in these countries, including Kazakhstan, have become a powerful tool for influencing public opinion. Our TV debates pursue another objective. TV debates, which broadcast in regional and local channels of Kazakhstan, are likely to be the TV programs, where two opposing parties, representatives of two different groups discuss definite issues as the theme of the discussion.

We are all aware of the fact that the world community recognizes our country, the Republic of Kazakhstan, as the state with a market economy, and the country, which reached considerable growth of political position in the world arena with a stable and solid foundation. Entering into the world economic community has demanded more reforms in social spheres. That is why, social issues have become one of the topical questions of TV debates and discussion programs in Kazakhstan. Usually during such debates, people talk over social issues, such as education, healthcare, unemployment, corruption, environmental problems and etc. Two parties polemicize, share opinions, ideas, thoughts, trying to make a decision on a concrete question. Therefore, in this regard, we agreed that it is appropriate to consider TV debates of mass media in Kazakh culture as discussion programs that have heated arguments on a certain theme.

So, we can conclude that a debate – is an attractive genre of the mass media, it demonstrates the process of living thought, its birth, development and movement towards the goal, what is happening in front of the audience. The clash of different opinions includes television audience in the research process, enhancing the intellectual activity, overcoming the passivity characteristic perception of ready truths. Hence the high cognitive potential of the genre occurs.

We have identified several types of such debates in mass media. They can be differentiated according to the theme of discussion, such as economy, politics, social problems, etc. Within the general category of social discourse, experts in various fields use more specific kinds of related discourse to do research that applies to those fields. The purpose of these discussions is to create a platform for dialogue and exchange of views between politicians, public figures, civil society activists and people interested in current events in the country.

As a rule, the first phrase in the beginning, moderator reports that people are going to argue, make statements and polemicize in the studio, they have different points of view on the subject matter, which is indicated in the introductory words of the moderator.

The subject of the dispute must meet the requirements: topic is quite controversial, suggests at least a few options a possible solution, it is clear to the audience so that they can feel the arbitrators. Finally, the subject of discussion, of course, must be interesting, socially significant.

Topics of discussion must be contemporary, interesting to the public, and sometimes demand the solution to the problem. However, every linguist considers discussion from

linguistic point of view, therefore the language of speakers should be understandable and simple. Therefore, way in implementing the debates involves not only linguistic resources, but also factors that determine the communication and cognitive structures that contribute to the existence of the discourse (3).

There are certain demands of TV debates, such as the need to divide the group into sympathizers, opponents and indifferent. During this process should take into account that the audience is mobile and can change their position in relation to the speaker, not its principles and ideals. The great importance played by facial expressions, gestures, mannerisms. The audience is always necessary to say that the person is able to understand. It is necessary to clearly see how the problem is solved in the discussion. If the basis for the discussion are likely truth, which everyone agrees, it loses its meaning. The debate should not be overloaded with emotions and intensity. Opponents should always respect each other, to listen till the end. They can not put pressure on each other mentally refer to the authorities, etc. Supporters of different points of view are sometimes seated at different tables, with a certain distance between each other. Moderator directs discussions so that all present could speak. However, it is important to ensure that the conversation is not turned into a very specialized discussion, not clear to the public. It is vital to sort out the problem and find interesting key points by means of comparison. The parties, in turn, must also speak clearly, share opinions and try to discuss the theme thoroughly (4).

Under the conditions of an emerging information society, the study of mass media language has become particularly important. Political discourse – an integral part of social relations, because it is formed by them and at the same time creates them, as a complex unity of forms of knowledge and action. Political and social situation and their changes play a significant role in the development of language. And it is interpreter's task to make a bridge between speaker and audience, taking into account pragmatic aspects of translation, using the convenient phrases, and explaining the political or social system.

According to the outcomes of our research, the most important characteristic of social and political debates is the cultural specificity. The social and political debates of the media, as a subject of interest of Cultural Linguistics, is a momentary point of linguistic and cultural state of the society. Media discourse which comprises culturally valued information is recorded and reflected both general and specific features of the functioning of national languages and cultures. That is why the identification and description of the components of culturally valued information in discussions today is one of the most important research tasks. The cultural characteristics of the social and political debates are closely linked to national features, realia, notions that are not clear for foreigners, etc. In this regard, it is vital to interpret adequately in order not to cause misunderstanding. Translation of social and political debates has a number of functional and stylistic features that are directly dependent on the characteristics of such debates. From the general language features most relevant to political and social debates is a function of the impact on the recipient. The Theory of Translation at the present stage of development draws attention to the relationship of translation and sociolinguistic factors. It concludes that the recipient always receives the translated text through the prism of their national culture and therefore some substantial aspects of the statements will be understood or misinterpreted.

In this regard, it is vital to teach beginner interpreters how to cope with translation problems occurring in the process of social and political debates. Every speaker has its own manner and style of speaking, if one prefers using simple words that are understandable for the audience, the others keen on speaking in a more complicated way, for example using phraseological units, sayings and proverbs, aphorisms, etc. It is the interpreter's task to transfer the source language information into the target one with the help of the translation strategies and transformations. The ability to understand the language lead the discussion on socio-political issues included in the terms of relevant competences of students of humanitarian, economic and technical areas. Students, who study a foreign language in the universities, are increasingly face with the problems of translation of lexical units of political and social debates in the course of professionally oriented translation in the framework of discipline of simultaneous interpretation. In this connection it is necessary to pay special attention to the areas of knowledge, such as the political debates on the media, cultural component of the socio-political discourse, and especially the translation of articles of socio-political themes.

We have considered the simultaneous interpretation of TV debates “Жекпе-жек” (“Duel”) which broadcasts on Khabar channel (5). In this program opponents discuss topical political and social issues, argue and prove their opinions. It is about vital problems that relates to each of us. The organizers do their best in order to invite only those who are up to date with issues, and make sure that conversation was transparent and frank. There are constructive criticism and beautiful rhetoric. Everyone has an opportunity to express his/her point of view. All participants of the debates will be engaged in the search for truth, because it is well known that Thought thrives on conflict. The program which we have chosen is devoted to the moratorium on death penalty in Kazakhstan (6). The advocates, representatives of two opposing parties, discussed the pros and con of adopting such moratorium. Moderator and independent experts regulated the disputes among them. The discussion was so extensive, that interpreter faced some challenges that come across with cultural discrepancies.

Cultural dissonance in TV discourse can lead to misunderstanding, confusion and disharmony between two cultures, because Kazakh and English languages are totally different, so it is interpreter's task to bring in the mutual understanding, common values and consensus. They problems occur due to the fact, that Kazakh language is one of the rich languages and has a plenty of comparisons and epithets. For example, the sentence *Еуропадағы инквизиция соты шіркеудің ілімінен тыс ойлағандарды, мейлі ғалымы, мейлі басқасы болсын, басын доңша домалатты.* The interpreter faced translation problems with word combination *басын доңша домалатты*. It is obvious, that this phrase has an indirect meaning, as *decapitate*, and *доңша* means that *all scientists and all people underwent decapitation*. In simultaneous interpretation there is a lack of time, that is why the interpreter has not so much time to think over an appropriate equivalent of word *доңша*. It is possible to use compression strategy and omit this word. Therefore, *Inquisitorial court of Europe decapitated all scientists and other people, who denied church doctrine* is considered as right interpretation.

Although, there are a lot of repetitions in Kazakh language. For example, *туған-туысқан, жора-жолдас, бала-шаға* means that Kazakh person has a lot of relatives and

sibling. Again, during simultaneous interpretation it is possible to use compression and interpret as *all relatives*.

Kazakh speakers always use quotes, proverbs or saying in their speech. They can use several quotes that convey the only one meaning. Interpreter should be ready to tackle the challenges of giving several appropriate equivalents in target language or the repetition should be solved by compression. For example, one of the opponent quoted the saying of Charles De Montesquieu, French lawyer, man of letters, and political philosopher, as “*Кез келген заңды нәрсе әділетті бола бермейді, керісінше, әділетті нәрсе заңды болады*”. Here, interpreter translated as “*Not every legitimate decision is fair, vice-versa, every fair decision is legitimate*”. Because of the lack of time, interpreter could not recall in mind the original version of this quote, that is why translated word-by-word, we think that it is a good decision.

Another problem of cultural dissonance during TV debates might be the difference between Kazakh and English history. In most cases, the interpreter should use the strategy of decompression, in other words explain or add into translation the information to make sure that listeners or audience are provided with reliable information (7). Let us consider the phrase “*Қасым ханның қасқа жолы*”. Not every non-Kazakh speaking audience know about Kasym Khan. Here, the interpreter should have a rich background knowledge of Kazakh history and explain the audience about its peculiarities. During the interpretation of this phrase, the interpreter used decompression strategy and said “*code of laws “Qasym Khannyn Qasqa Zholy” adding “Bright Road of Kasym Khan*”. Therefore, interpreter explained that it is document, a code of laws, and expanded its etymology. Such strategy suits best for interpretation of Kazakh national and cultural peculiarities (8).

Human society consists of hundred and thousand nationalities. Social and political relations between them play a vital role in the development of human society, in other words, literature, culture, society of every country develops only due to the mutual understanding and social interaction.

Nowadays the Republic of Kazakhstan has achieved great results in addressing topical issues in the framework of international agenda. Our country became an example for other states as the place with stable economy and sustainable growth. In this regard, Kazakhstan attracts an attention of international channels. That is why, local TV programs and social and political debates should be understandable for foreign people. In this regard, interpretation can be a tool of cooperation and integration between representatives of various nations. Translators have to be aware of all aspects of interpreting such programs, as they become a bridge between the cultures and countries.

As we all aware of the fact, that interpretation of social and political TV debates vital nowadays, translation strategies and coping tactics should be taught in a comprehensive and accurate manner. In order to become a high-qualified interpreter, students should train every day because this type of interpretation requires accurate and complete work, orally and at the same rate of speech as the speaker, with only a few seconds of lag time.

Moreover, misinterpretation of TV debates can bring about the misunderstanding, misperception and disharmony between two parties, two people, so it is interpreter's objective to bring in the mutual understanding, common values and consensus.

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