

The notion and concept of anti-patriotism: fake or fact?

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Abstract: This article highlights the problem of verification of the concept *anti-patriotism* on the basis of cognitive linguistics from the point of view of translational studies. The transcoding of this concept into target culture gains additional importance dealing with not so much informational texts, as with texts, which have strongly-pronounced pragmatic and aesthetic character such as poetry on military topics. The results of this study may prove the relevancy of the concept *anti-patriotism* for adequacy of translation not only poetic texts, but also for texts of political and mass-media discourses.

Keywords: *concept, anti-patriotism, translation, cognitive linguistics, patriotism.*

Historical events on the territories of Eastern and Southern Ukraine formed a sufficient space for accentuation of such a concept as anti-patriotism, which is now reflected in vast majority of informational editions, blogosphere and news along with the theatrical performances, fiction and poetry. That is why the research of the ways of transcoding social and political moods is of vital importance in modern translation and interpretation studies. Especially, it concerns such types of texts, which have strongly-pronounced pragmatic and esthetic character. Among such types of texts are poetic texts on military topics, which could be presented by the oeuvre of modern Russian poet Alexander Byvshev in English translational versions.

Social and political background creates the great need of verification of the concept *anti-patriotism* from the point of view of translational studies, which forms the **aim** of this study. It is known that the notion of *anti-patriotism* was not yet in the field of scientific research as a concept, but this article is an attempt to find out and describe the imaginative, notional and evaluative constituencies of this notion, which will serve the sufficient ground to prove the existence of conceptual nature of anti-patriotism.

The aim of the study demands the usage of the following methods of analysis: definitive method presupposes the comparison of the existing definitions to the notion of *anti-patriotism*; analytical method gives the possibility to find out the relevant theoretical observations on the key terms of the article and to point out three obligatory conceptual constituents, which give us the possibility to transfer the notion of *anti-patriotism* to the category of a concept.

The understanding of such notion as anti-patriotism varies throughout the European civilization history from the cosmopolitanism of Ancient Greece origin to the anti-patriotic movements in the beginning of XXI century, which is connected with the events in the South and East of Ukraine. In its history, Europe experienced the peaks of anti-patriotic social movements, for example bourgeois revolution in France in the end of XVIII century, when the level of monarch patriotism reached its extremely low point; English revolution of 1643-1650; the rise to power of fascist elite in Italy in 1930-s and others. In spite of the fact that this notion has more than thousand-year history, it has been never highlighted from linguistic or translational perspective, moreover, it was not even fixed in written sources. The existence of this concept in the society can only be proved by logical contemplation and the

analysis of European social and political movements in the whole.

It is widely known that the antonym to the notion *patriotism* is *cosmopolitanism*. The definition of this notion can be presented by the following dictionary entry: 'Cosmopolitanism, in international relations, school of thought in which the essence of international society is defined in terms of social bonds that link people, communities, and societies... More broadly, it presents a political-moral philosophy that posits people as citizens of the world rather than of a particular nation-state [5].' It is flown from the definition that the point is in the denial from national loyalty of a person. At the same time it is hard to accept the idea that the core principle of cosmopolitanism is the *denial from national sovereignty*, as far as it does not concern the statehood. What is meant here is the conscious preference of a person not for a national, rather for the world/universal traditions and cultures.

From the point of view of the linguistics the lexical token *cosmopolitanism* is a dictionary antonym to *patriotism*, at the same time in the more wide – historical context – the antonym to this notion is *anti-patriotism*.

To make the understanding of the notion *anti-patriotism* more precise, we will base on the following definition: 'Anti-patriotism is the ideology that opposes patriotism; it usually refers to those with cosmopolitan views and is usually of an anti-nationalist nature as well. Normally, anti-patriotism stems from the belief that patriotism is wrong since people born in a country, whether they like it or not and regardless of their individuality, are encouraged to love the country or sacrifice themselves for it; consequently, people who oppose patriotism may oppose its perceived authoritarianism, while others may believe that patriotism may lead to war because of geopolitical disputes, so it may be viewed from a pacifist or anti-militarist point of view [7, p. 57].'

According to George Kateb, patriotism to much more extent than any other passions, which exist in political life, forces the virtue to serve the vice and to praise this vice as a disguised virtue. In such a way it supports the full wrench of morality. Thus, if there were not patriots on the Earth, we would live in a much unharmed world, than we have right now and where patriots are in their majority. 'The idea of patriotism is inseparable from killing and dying for your country. A good patriot is a good killer [3].'

In its turn Anarchist Encyclopedia points out that anti-patriotism is a reaction of mind and feelings against the domination of patriotism. It can take the different forms

depending on more or less conscious reliance on individualism, love to all people, love to one person, or even on motivated or emotional prevailing of laws and traditions of other country [6].

On the contrary to these definitions, nowadays the other point of view on the notion *anti-patriotism* is gaining actualization. For this one, the core accent is given to the actions against the homeland.

Taking into consideration different definitions of *anti-patriotism* and *antipatriotic* given by Russian dictionaries [1], we can make a conclusion that in Russian culture the notion *anti-patriotism* can be understood as the movement of the people against the motherland at the time, when in Western cultures antipatriotic ideology is always stated as a movement against the existing government and its usage of the feeling of patriotism in its own aims. It allows to give a new look at the difference of cultures and the attitude to patriotism and anti-patriotism in different countries.

The most majority of events that can be traced documentary, which are connected with antipatriotic movements, took place in the USA. And all of them had anti-military character. Situational anti-patriotism was shown by Henry David Thoreau, who protested against the war with Mexico and slavery and stated that a person can not connect him/herself with the government of the USA without being dishonored. After proclaiming this statement he demonstratively denied to pay taxes [7, p. 125].

So, we can make a conclusion that *anti-patriotism* – is a natural reaction of society against the expansive politics of the government. As it known, the notion *patriotism* is more often “reanimated” by the governments of countries for the propaganda of war. Anti-patriotism – is a correspond movement against such a usage of noble feelings. Thus, we can state that anti-patriotism – is an ideological movement against the existing government, where a person was born and now lives. Historical events also show that this movement appears as a counter to extremist streams such as tyranny in the Ancient Greece, monarchy in France of XVIII century, Mexican expansion of the USA in the beginning of XIX century, fascism and Nazism of XX century, and now – expansive policy of Russian Federation.

According to our research, the notion *anti-patriotism* has all needed traits for its understanding as a concept like a common known concept of *patriotism*, which has to be proved basing on the researches in the sphere of cognitive linguistics, but from the angle of translational and interpretive studies.

From the positions of cognitive linguistics the concept is understood as “mental entity in the consciousness of a person, which forms conceptual sphere of a society, it’s culture [4, p. 73].” Linguistic and stylistic understanding of the concept is based on the differentiation of mental entity “image – notion” and verbal forms of its objectification.

Linguistic and cultural approach to the understanding of the concept lies in the fact that “the structure of the concept as a basic unit of the culture involves all factors, which make it a fact of a culture [2, p. 39].” The dominant

idea of the concept is formed by the imaginative, notional and evaluative categories [2, p. 41].

The imaginative constituent of the concept involves the elements of practical knowledge (visual, acoustic, tactile, gustatory characteristics of items, phenomena, events, existing in our memory).

The notional constituent deals with the verbal objectification of the concept (its definition, description, structure).

The evaluative constituent is an identifying characteristic for the detachment of this concept, as far as “values and top orienteers, which define the behavior of a person, exist in the culture not isolated, but integrated and form the evaluative world image (a part of the linguistic world image)”[2, p. 67].

In our project the linguistic and cultural approach is used in order to prove the existence of such concept as *anti-patriotism* and to verify its relevancy for the further researches in the sphere of theory and practice of translation and interpretation.

The concept *anti-patriotism* has its imaginative layer, which is formed by the number of social and political events connected with military conflict on Donbass through the involving of the wide international context of Minsk agreements, the existence of these agreements in different languages, which a priori leads to some nonoccurrence in understanding of their main points, associative aftermath to the notion *annexation* of the time of national-social Germany and Austria, Ukrainian AR Crimea.

The concept of *anti-patriotism* is also formed by such elements as antisocialism, antisovietism, antifascism, cosmopolitanism, patriotism, national policy, geopolitical conflicts, and military conflicts. All these elements raise the possibility of appearance and existence of such concept as *anti-patriotism* in the modern world, despite the fact that there is no traditional and common known definition for this phenomenon.

The evaluative layer of the concept *anti-patriotism* reflects the evaluative world image of the society through such notions as pacifism, antimilitarism, value of human life and dignity, amorality of military conflicts. This element of the concept forms anti- or pan-patriotic moods in society according to the level of authoritativeness of a country.

Historical events nowadays form huge space for creation in Russian and Ukrainian cultures texts on military topics. Particularly, it is reflected in journalistic and fiction literature through the articles of bloggers, news-sites, interview with politicians, examples of theatrical and fiction satire, poetry. International resonance after events in Ukraine raises the vital need in presenting of social and political moods in Ukraine and Russia to world society, which demands the accentuation on qualified translation. The problem of the adequate translation here is complicated not only with the need in truly showed events, but especially because of the accentuation of the concept *anti-patriotism* not so much in informational texts, as in texts, which have strongly-pronounced pragmatic and esthetic character that is military poetry.

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Понятие и концепт АНТИПАТРИОТИЗМ: фейк или факт?

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Аннотация: Данная статья представляет собой попытку доказать существование такого концепта, как АНТИПАТРИОТИЗМ, с точки зрения переводоведения с упором на исследования в области когнитивной лингвистики. Перевод текстов, содержащих концепт АНТИПАТРИОТИЗМ, представляет для переводчика особую сложность в тех случаях, когда речь идет не столько об информационных текстах, сколько о текстах с явно выраженной прагматикой и эстетической функцией, к которым, в частности, относятся поэтические тексты военной тематики. Результаты проведенного исследования подтверждают релевантность концепта АНТИПАТРИОТИЗМ для достижения адекватности при переводе не только поэтических текстов, но и для текстов политического и массмедийного дискурсов.

Ключевые слова: *концепт, АНТИПАТРИОТИЗМ, перевод, когнитивная лингвистика, патриотизм.*