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## PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING COMPUTER SLANG INTO UKRAINIAN

*The article examines the challenges of translating English computer slang into Ukrainian. Given the deep technical meaning of computer slang, translating it accurately while maintaining relevance and context is very difficult. The authors assert that automatic translation often falls short in capturing the technical nuances of computer slang, emphasizing the need for a professional understanding to ensure precision and adequacy in translation. Additionally, the article explores various translation techniques, including transcription, transliteration, equivalent selection, calquing, literal translation, and descriptive translation, as key approaches when translating English computer slang into Ukrainian. It is important to note that maintaining slang in a foreign language does not always aid in the comprehension of language units by readers or listeners.*

*This article outlines the primary techniques for translating computer slang. These techniques can vary depending on the context and specific patterns of English slang. For technical slang, common methods include transcription, transliteration, and the selection of equivalents or analogs to ensure accuracy and adequacy in translation. In the case of information and entertainment slang, the focus is usually on the use of transcription, transliteration, and the selection of equivalents or analogs. Descriptive translation is typically employed to preserve humor and irony.*

*The article highlights the difficulties of translating computer slang. Technical slang presents problems due to the deep technical meanings of the terms, requiring translators to have a deep knowledge of the field, understand the text, and have experience in translating technical terms. Inadequate equivalency of terminology in the target languages can also result in incorrect translation. In general, translating computer slang, including English, is a complex task that necessitates a translator's understanding of technological field-specific issues, cultural competence, and creativity.*

**Key words:** computer slang, specification, generalization, compensation, antonymic translation, euphemistic translation.

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## **ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ ТЕХНІЧНОГО КОМП'ЮТЕРНОГО СЛЕНГУ УКРАЇНСЬКОЮ МОВОЮ**

*У статті проаналізовано особливості перекладу технічного комп'ютерного сленгу на українську мову. Оскільки комп'ютерний сленг має глибокий технічний підтекст, то це робить його переклад надзвичайно вимогливим завданням. Для ефективного перекладу технічного комп'ютерного сленгу важливими є точність, адекватність і збереження контексту. Автоматичний переклад не завжди здатний відтворювати технічний контекст і специфічні нюанси комп'ютерного сленгу. Авторський підхід, заснований на фаховому розумінні, виявився більш точним та адекватним засобом досягнення успішного перекладу. Під час аналізу різних прийомів перекладу, стало очевидним, що транскрипція, транслітерація, добір аналогу або еквівалента, калькування, дослівний та описовий переклад є ключовими у процесі перекладу англійського технічного комп'ютерного сленгу на українську мову. Важливо враховувати, що збереження сленгу іноземною мовою не завжди сприяє розумінню згаданих мовних одиниць читачами чи слухачами.*

*У статті описано основні прийоми перекладу комп'ютерного сленгу. Ці прийоми варіюються залежно від контексту та специфіки англійських сленгових виразів. Так, для технічного сленгу здебільшого використовуються транскрипція, транслітерація та добір еквівалентів або аналогів для забезпечення точності та адекватності перекладу. У випадку інформаційно-розважального сленгу акцент, як правило, робиться на використанні транскрипції і транслітерації, доборі еквівалентів або аналогів. Описовий переклад використовується зазвичай для збереження гумору та іронії.*

*У статті автори наголошують на низці причин, які створюють проблеми і труднощі під час перекладу комп'ютерного сленгу. Для технічного сленгу ці труднощі полягають, насамперед, у глибокому технічному підтексті термінів, що вимагає від перекладачів глибокого знання галузі, до якої належить текст, розуміння тексту, що перекладається, а також досвід перекладу технічних сленгізмів перекладачем. Недостатність співвідношення термінології у досліджуваних мовах також може призвести до невдалого перекладу. Загалом, переклад комп'ютерного сленгу, у тому числі й англійського, є складним завданням, що вимагає поєднання розуміння перекладачем проблем у певній галузі техніки, культурних компетенцій і творчого підходу перекладача.*

***Ключові слова:** технічний комп'ютерний сленг, конкретизація, генералізація, компенсація, антонімічний переклад, евфемістичний переклад.*

**Defining the problem and argumentation of the topicality of the consideration.** In 1946, the first electronic computers appeared in the United States. Since the mid-1980s, there has been a significant integration of information and communication technologies into all aspects of human life and activities such as education, work, communication, and entertainment. The rapid growth of globalization and computerization has led to the development of a new specific vocabulary related to information and communication technologies. This vocabulary primarily originates from the English language, as almost all modern information and communication technologies originate in the United States, particularly in Silicon Valley, known for its numerous research centers in this field. Consequently, these technologies naturally receive their names and designations in English.

Computer slang is not only used when discussing computers and software, but is also a common feature of all forms of electronic communication. It's important to understand computer slang to be proficient in this field and avoid confusion with the

vast amount of information available on the World Wide Web. Modern English is characterized by rapid linguistic changes, making it a focus of recent research. Researchers are particularly interested in studying the dynamic nature of language in general and English in particular.

The **proposed study** is relevant due to the widespread use of computer-related slang vocabulary and the need for a more in-depth analysis of slang translation.

**The purpose and objectives of the article.** The research aims to study English-language computer slang and consider the peculiarities of its translation. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to solve several **tasks**: investigating the formation of English computer slang, identifying the main methods of translating English computer slang, and providing methodological recommendations for studying computer-related slang in classes on the practice of translation from English.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Slang is one of the most interesting and complex linguistic phenomena. Many researchers usually refer

to slang as social dialects. Dialect in this context is a territorial, temporary, or social type of language (Карабан В. І., 2004: 204).

Slang is a phrase that is the result of a favorite game among young and energetic people who play with words and rename things and actions. To be in trend some people invent new words, while others distort or misuse old ones to make them new (Гудзь Н. О., 2015: 21).

The term «slang» became widespread in English lexicography at the beginning of the last century. Currently, there is no simple and clear definition of the term «slang», but linguists interpret it as a linguistic phenomenon that is constantly changing and takes place in every subculture around the world. Some argue that slang exists because humans need to find ways to define new technological processes that have emerged over time. Others say they use slang to avoid repeating the same word. There is an opinion that computer slang can replace the words of the literary language.

The initial manifestations of slang were in ancient times, and its study was significantly influenced by English culture. The British scientist Michael Halliday, who was one of the first to study slang in the twentieth century, coined the term «anti-language», which is characterized as a secret code of subcultures with their inherent features of lexicalization (Halliday M., Michael A., 1978: 102).

According to the Great Explanatory Dictionary of the Modern Ukrainian Language, the term «slang» is defined as a «*colloquial variant of professional speech, jargon; jargon words or expressions characteristic of the speech of people of certain professions or social layers that penetrate the literary language and acquire a noticeable emotional and expressive color*» (Великий тлумачний словник, 2007: 1147).

Even at the level of the general interpretation of the term, there is a certain ambiguity, i.e. the synonymy of the distinctive terms «slang» and «jargon». The definitions of slang provided by scholars either require significant clarification or are rather superficial or even erroneous. It is worth noting that slang is a secondary formation in comparison to jargon, as it draws material primarily from social and group jargons.

The British lexicographer Eric Partridge gives the following definition of «slang»: «*A very fragile, unstable, uncodified, and often completely disordered and random collection of lexemes that exist in the conversational sphere, which reflect the social consciousness of people involved in a certain social or professional field of activity*» (Partridge E., 1979: 129).

Slang is a type of spoken language that society considers to be highly informal and characterized by a dynamic change in lexical composition, which is replenished through argot (conventional expressions and words used by a separate or professional group, circle, etc.), jargon (the language of any social or other group united by common interests, which contains many words and expressions different from the common language), vulgarisms (words and expressions inherent in familiar or rude language), neologisms (newly invented words or expressions) (Шумейко А., 2011: 32).

The main features of slang are rapid change, subject to fashion, instability, and uncertainty. New names can appear quickly and disappear quickly, so they need to be recorded in the dictionary. This proves the relevance and necessity of the theoretical and lexicographic study of slang, which has recently become one of the main means of communication (Заводна Л., 2014: 53).

Many linguists believe that slang is the result of the rapid creation of new words, which occurs as a creative expression to make words simpler and easier to pronounce. Due to the fast development of language, slang words are commonly found even in literary language. Slang terms become part of everyday speech, as well as scientific language, blurring the boundaries between formal and informal language. Slang spreads quickly, especially among young people, due to media influence. Researcher S. Martos sees «slang» as a dynamic subsystem that varies based on specific ethnolinguistic and cultural features of the region (Мароч С. А., 2005: 200).

According to slang researcher L. O. Stavvytska, the concept of «slang» lacks a clear definition. She interprets it as the most dynamic layer of spoken English, incorporating words and expressions borrowed from English or created using English word-formation patterns. These words and expressions are used with more specific and emotionally charged meanings (Ставицька Л., 2005: 32). One prevalent type of specialized slang is English computer slang, which has become fundamental for Internet users worldwide due to English being the language of international communication.

The authors of the NetLingo Internet Dictionary, Erin Jansen and Vincent James, define computer slang as a «specialized language, chat abbreviations, text message abbreviations» (Erin Jansen, Vincent James, 2002: 378).

Contemporary British linguist Tony Thorne offers a more general definition, describing computer slang as «informal, abbreviated, or humorous terms» used in online communication (Thorne T., 2007: 425).

### The outline of the main research material.

Computer slang can be divided into many subtypes based on the diversity of Internet users. They vary by age, by social group, and often have nothing in common. It is appropriate to consider such subtypes of computer slang as the language of gamers and the slang of programmers. These types of computer slang are among the most difficult to understand. Here are some typical examples: *Black art – programming using undocumented techniques* (Ukr. програмування з використанням недокументованих прийомів); *“She’s trying to master the **black art** of setting up a computer network”* (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 19.11.2020) – *Вона намагається освоїти програмування з використанням недокументованих прийомів* для налаштування комп’ютерної мережі.

*BSoD – (від англ. Blue Screen of Death – the name given to the screen with an error message on Windows systems because it is blue)* (Ukr. синій екран смерті – назва, яку отримав екран з повідомленням про помилку в системах сімейства Windows, через те, що він синього кольору); *“Even now, the **Blue Screen of Death** is a semi-regular phenomenon for most Windows users”* (The Sociable, 19.11.2020) – *Навіть зараз «Синій екран смерті» є напіврегулярним явищем для більшості користувачів Windows.*

*XSS – (від англ. Cross Site Scripting) міжсайтовий скриптинг, вид хакерської атаки.*

*“Later in December 2006, another critical XSS attack through PDF documents was discovered”* (Itcha.net, 19.11.2020) – *Пізніше, у грудні 2006 р., була виявлена ще одна критична атака «міжсайтовий скриптинг» через документи PDF.*

There are several methods a translator can use to translate lexical units of computer slang, namely direct and indirect ones. The first type, direct translation, includes such methods of translation as transcription, transliteration, and calquing. The use of these techniques becomes adequate only under certain conditions. They are appropriate to use only in cases where the meaning of the original English word is clear from the context, and the translation does not violate the norms of the Ukrainian language (Драбов Н., 2015: 177). To confirm the above statement, some examples are provided: *Firewall – фаїрвол* (Брандмауер);

*“A **firewall** is essential in preventing others from breaking into your machine”* (SafetyDetectives, 22.11.2020) – *Брандмауер необхідний для запобігання проникненню інших людей у ваш персональний комп’ютер.*

*Beta-tester – бета-тестер (a person who is appointed as a tester of a new program, software, etc. in order to detect errors and get the user’s opinion);*

*“Entertainer, teacher, consultant, writer and **beta tester** always linked to the fascinating world of 3D and visual effects”* (ReversoContext, 20.11.2020) – *Конферансьє, викладач, консультант, письменник та **бета-тестер** завжди пов’язані із захопливим світом 3D та візуальними ефектами.*

*Mainframe computer – мейнфрейм (a large universal high-performance fault-tolerant server).* *“Douglas, the developer of a graphical tic-tac-toe game in 1952 on a **mainframe computer** at the University of Cambridge”* (Your Dictionary, 20.11.2020) – *Дуглас, розробник графічної гри в хрестики-нулики в 1952 році на **мейнфреймовому комп’ютері** Кембриджського університету.*

In such cases, translators usually resort to indirect translation or use translation transformations. The purpose of using this approach is to render slang units more accurately and logically correct employing the target language. Adequate translation requires compliance with the stylistic norms of the Ukrainian language to create a stylistic analog of the original word (Драбов Н., 2015: 178).

For a better understanding of the types of lexical transformations, it is reasonable to consider the classification proposed by V. Karaban (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 210):

1. Specification. Specification is the replacement of a word or a whole phrase with a broader meaning with a word or phrase with a narrower meaning. A typical example of the technique of specification is the replacement of the verbs *to say* and *to tell* in translation, which can be interpreted into Ukrainian not only as “говорити” and “розповідати”, but also as “повторити”, “заперечити”, “помітити”, “відзначити”, “стверджувати”, “повідомляти”, “висловлюватися”, “запитати”, etc.

2. Generalization. Generalization is the replacement of a source language unit with a narrower meaning by a language unit with a broader meaning (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 216). For example: *central processing unit* або *CPU – центральний процесор* (або центральний процесорний пристрій);

*“Early computers had a **central processing unit** and remote terminals”* (The Pennsylvania State University. Open Resource Publishing, 22.11.2020) – *Перші комп’ютери мали **центральний процесор** і дистанційні термінали.*

3. Replacing an effect with a cause and vice versa. In the process of translation, lexical substitutions based on cause-and-effect relationships between concepts often occur. Thus, a word or phrase of the source language can be replaced in translation by a word or phrase of the target language that denotes the

cause of an action or state (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 217). For example: *Bus* – комп'ютерна шина;

“In computer architecture, a **bus** is a communication system that transfers data between components inside a computer, or between computers” (Wikipedia, 20.11.2020) – В комп'ютерній архітектурі **шина** – це система зв'язку, яка передає дані між компонентами всередині комп'ютера або між комп'ютерами.

4. Compensation. One of the ways to achieve equivalence in translation is to use compensation. This technique is used in cases where some elements of the source language text do not have equivalents in the target language and cannot be conveyed by its means (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 217). For example: *Casual* – казуал (a person who is not seriously and constantly engaged in any business and is not deeply interested in it, but from time to time shows interest in it).

5. Anonymic translation. The essence of this technique is lexical and grammatical substitution, i.e. in the transformation of a construction into a negative or vice versa (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 212). For example: “She is not unworthy of your attention” (Collins English Dictionary, 20.11.2020) – Вона заслуговує твоєї уваги.

6. Descriptive translation. It is necessary to resort to descriptive translation when there is no variant equivalent of an English word in the Ukrainian language. A descriptive translation is to convey the meaning of an English word through a more common explanation (Драбов Н., 2015: 210). For example: *Doomer* – шанувальник комп'ютерної гри Doom.

7. Omission. Omission is a method of translation in which some words are removed from the text. They can be articles, possessive pronouns or some lexemes (Драбов Н., 2015: 212). For example: *Cache replacement policies* – алгоритми кешування.

“In computing, cache algorithms (also frequently called **cache replacement algorithms** or **cache replacement policies**) are optimizing instructions-or algorithms-that a computer program or a hardware-maintained structure can follow in order to manage a cache of information stored on the computer”. (Microsoft Academic, 23.11.2020) – В обчислювальній техніці **алгоритми кешування** (також часто звані алгоритмами заміни кеша або правилами заміни кеша) оптимізують інструкції або алгоритми, яким може слідувати комп'ютерна програма або підтримувана апаратним забезпеченням структура для управління кеш-пам'яттю інформації, що зберігається на комп'ютері.

8. Addition. Addition is the opposite of omission and is an expansion of the original due to the need

to supplement its content (Міщук І. М., 2013: 71). For example: *Network* – Обчислювальна мережа. *By rank, computer networks can be divided into local area networks within the enterprise, organization and global or WAN networks of subscribers that connect countries and continents.* (GeeksForGeeks, 23.11.2020) – За рангом **обчислювальні мережі** можна поділити на локальні LAN-мережі в межах підприємства, організації та глобальні або WAN-мережі абонентів, які з'єднують країни, континенти.

9. Euphemistic translation. Euphemistic translation is the replacement of obscene words in the source language with words with less strong expression in the target language. This technique is used when the original text contains rude words and obscene vocabulary. The use of such words is common among Internet users (Карабаан В. І., 2004: 214). For example: *Noob* – нуб (чайник, новачок в будь-якій грі). *Once a noob, always a noob* (Reddit, 23.11.2020) – Якщо «чайник», то це назавжди.

A characteristic feature of computer slang is the widespread use of emoticons in correspondence, which are intended to denote certain emotions (both positive and negative), jokes and irony. Since Internet communication, like any other type of non-verbal communication, has a number of difficulties in conveying the emotional state of the subject of communication, there is a need for some kind of symbolic designation of emotions. Emoticons allow expressing a wide range of emotions of the person who sent the message. When translating such messages, emoticons should be left unchanged. For example:

1. >,< – irritation;
2. >.< – disappointment, anger;
3. (– sadness, sorrow.

It should also be noted that in the Ukrainian language, slangisms can be formed independently of English, and when translating, you only need to use an existing equivalent. For example: *TLTR* (*Too Long To Read*) – забагато літер.

Also, in the Ukrainian language, some words are characteristic only of speakers of a certain group, while in English they have no coloration. For example.: *Комп.* – computer; *хакнути, ломанути* – to hack.

A rather interesting phenomenon in modern English is the use of modern Internet slang among young people, not only in oral but also in written speech. This leads to the conclusion that the Internet has given rise to an interesting phenomenon – written spoken language. Examples include:

- B4* – Before;  
*Sum I* – Someone;

*AFAIK – As Far As I Know;*

*AFAIK, it has nothing to do with Internet Explorer.*

Abbreviations are quite common in English, especially among personal computer users. When translated into Ukrainian, abbreviations can be translated by different parts of speech or whole phrases, for example:

*IC – I See – зрозуміло (adv.);*

*WBU – What about you – Ти як? (phrase);*

*ASAP – As soon as possible – якомога швидше – (phrase).*

Thus, it is confirmed that the translation of English slang in general and computer language in particular is characterized by the same translation techniques as for the literary language. There are two so-called ways a translator can translate slang units: direct and indirect. In such cases, translators usually resort to indirect translation or the so-called translation transformations: specification, generalization, substitution of effect for cause, compensation, antonymic translation, descriptive translation, omission, addition, and euphemistic translation.

**Conclusions and directions for further research.** In the course of the study, which examined the peculiarities of translating English-language computer slang, it was found that the concept of

«slang» in modern linguistics is ambiguous and rather difficult to interpret.

It has been studied that there are two main ways to translate computer slang: direct and indirect. The first method (direct) includes transcription, transliteration and calquing. These methods are adequate only under certain conditions. They are appropriate when the meaning of the original English word is clear from the context and the translation does not violate the norms of the Ukrainian language.

The second group of methods (indirect) includes specification; generalization; substitution of effect for cause and vice versa; compensation; antonymic translation; descriptive translation; omission; addition; and euphemistic translation. These methods are used to render slang units more accurately and logically correct in the target language. Adequate translation requires compliance with the stylistic norms of the Ukrainian language to create an analog of the original word.

English-language computer slang is worth further research, as it is an insufficiently studied layer of vocabulary. Therefore, along with the rapid development of computer technologies, it can take a prominent place in oral and written forms of communication.

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