

LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN ECONOMIC RESEARCHES AND TRANSLATIONS OF ECONOMIC CONCEPTS: ESSENCE, LEVELS OF OCCURRENCE, METHODS OF OVERCOMING

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1. Introduction

During the study of the essence of the foreign exchange regulation, we carried out a critical review of the views of foreign authors on this problem. We have faced with a specific problem that affects both the economic and linguistic sphere, viz. – with a lack of consensus about the translation of the adjective “валютний” from Ukrainian and Russian into English. The lack of clear compliance with the lexical meaning of the terms in these languages distorts not only the meaning of this word, but also the validity of the results of economic researches of the problems of the foreign exchange policy, foreign exchange regulation and foreign exchange control in the views of foreign scientists.

The review and analysis of the specialized literature, dictionaries and thesauruses showed that this problem has not yet received an academic decision, in spite of all its relevance. We found that every single author translates the adjective “валютний” into English as he or she sees it appropriate.

All this leads to misunderstandings, to a violation of the logic of research and to a substitution of concepts when citing the English sources in the Ukrainian and Russian translation. We believe that the identified problem must be solved immediately.

Based on this, the main objective of our research is to study the essence and levels of occurrence of the language barriers in economic researches, and to find a way to solve the problem of the translation of such widely used in banking, international economics and macroeconomics concepts as “foreign exchange policy”, “foreign exchange regulation”, “foreign exchange control”.

2. The main section

Ukraine’s integration into the European and global economic, cultural and political space actively affects all aspects of the society. It was not exception for a scientific sphere. Domestic scientists have received an access to the developments of their colleagues from Western Europe and the USA, and at the same time have become able to share their experiences and discoveries. However, existing cultural and linguistic differences do not allow scientific thought to fully integrate.

The most urgent problem is an existence of language barriers. These barriers are a kind of communication barriers and can distort the perception of the same concepts by the representatives of different language environments. Therefore a very important task for today is to overcome language barriers, including a use of the refinement of the rational translation of certain terms.

A need to overcome language barriers is also due to the active use of new types of verbal communication: distant dialogues and polilogues on the languages of international communication, strengthening of interaction of verbal and written forms of the speech in the native and foreign languages, accelerating of the development of science and technology microlanguages. These effects are typical attributes of the restructuring of a communicative mechanism of professional scientific and technical activities [1, p.84].

In the specialized literature on philology and psychology, there is no single interpretation of the term of “language barrier”. It can refer to completely different concepts. Each researcher has his/her

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own understanding of the place of the barrier and its significance. There are those who say that such a barrier does not exist. Therefore, in order to understand this phenomenon, it is necessary to bring its definition, to find reasons and ways to eliminate its misunderstanding.

Studies of modern scientists have shown that the essence of the language barrier can be seen in several aspects. For example, it can be considered as the inability to communicate owing to the lack of knowledge of a foreign language. However, ignorance of the language itself, in our opinion, cannot be any barrier itself or its source.

Other authors [1, p.84] define the language barrier as difficult communication situations arising as a consequence of ignorance of the basic rules and norms of interpersonal communication; ignorance of the characteristics of the culture of studying language' country; inability of unprepared monologue in a foreign language; unpreparedness for the very existence of intercultural communication difficulties.

There is also an opinion, that the language barrier is a misunderstanding due to incorrect coding, or misinterpretation of the transmitted messages. According to foreign researchers, the language barrier is a lack of a possibility to understand and respond to the spontaneous speech of the collocutor of foreign language learners and talkers, even if they master an arsenal of necessary language instruments.

In our opinion, the language barrier is a violation of the true perception or interpretation of the foreign speech as a result of numerous cultural, motivational, practical and pedagogical reasons.

Let us consider the levels of occurrence of language barriers. First, differences in the cultures of a speaker and a listener may be the cause of wrong perception of information in a foreign language environment. The process of cross-cultural communications doesn't take place smoothly and often is characterized by noises, arising in the process of communication between representatives of different cultures. Such interference is called the communication barriers, the essence of which has two aspects: linguistic and psychological.

Another reason of it may be the lack of true motivation of a listener or a speaker. Often, this is due to the low level of development of the individual. Sometimes the problem of "what to say" is more important than "how to say".

The next level of the occurrence of the language barrier is the lack of a language communication culture. Such culture is a certain way of messaging within a group or organization [2, p.12]. For example, the more formal a group of interlocutors is, the more official must be a conversation. It depends on vocabulary, jargon, a style of statements and, especially, terminology.

Another source of language barriers is the lack of a speech practice. In order to a reason that a person could put into practice all that he or she has studied at foreign language lessons, it is need to automate both language and speech skills. Therefore it is necessary to create situations as close to reality as possible. Also linked to this level is a problem of the pedagogical nature. Often, an inconsistency or an irrelevant, for demand of time, studied material leads to the fact that a person has difficulties in real communications, even if he or she was a conscientious student at foreign language lectures.

An important aspect of this problem is how to resolve language barriers. These activities can be carried out both at the stage of learning a foreign language, and with the help of philological analysis of the problem of translated concepts and categories. The results of this analysis can reveal the most accurate linguistic and semantic consistency between pairs of terms. However, this analysis requires from a researcher not only high language skills, but also a professional training in the sphere of science, which includes the analyzed concept.

Speaking about language barriers arising in the study of foreign exchange policy and foreign exchange regulation, we note that among the Ukrainian authors only O. Chugaev said that "due to the common practice, an English word "monetary" is usually translated as "валютний"... but the use of the term "монетарний" is also possible" [3, p.10]. We cannot agree with this opinion

without a review of this “common practice”, to which Mr. Chugaev, unfortunately, does not give the references.

By studying the reference books, dictionaries and thesauri, we are faced with several translations of the adjective “валютний” in the context of the concepts of “policy”, “regulation”, “control”, “rate”, “fund” etc. (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1. Variants of the translation of the adjective “валютний” into English in the references

English	Ukrainian	Source
exchange [control]	валютний [контроль], валютне [регулювання]	(Favorov, 1973)
foreign exchange [control]	валютне [регулювання]	(Sipols, 2011)
monetary; money; currency; foreign exchange	валютний	(Terekhova, 2012)
monetary [policy]	валютна [політика]	
exchange [control]	валютне [регулювання]	
exchange [control]	валютне [регулювання]	(Svetlanin, 2013)
exchange [control]	валютний [контроль], валютне [регулювання]	(Levitan, 2013)
currency	валютний	(Airlie, 2010)
exchange [control]	валютний [контроль]	
[rate of] exchange	валютний [курс]	
currency [reserves]	валютний [фонд]	

Source: [4, p.29; 5, p.158; 6, p.123; 7, p.245; 8, p.305; 9, p.33].

As it can be seen from the Tab. 1, there are at least 3 variants of the translation of the adjective “валютний”: “(foreign) exchange”, “currency” and “monetary”. It should be noted that the variant “(foreign) exchange” is used advantageously mostly in combination with the words “control” and “rate”, while “monetary” – in combination with “policy”, and “currency” – with “reserves”. We believe that the use of the adjective “monetary” in the sense of “валютний” is not acceptable, since this way translates also the adjective “грошово-кредитний”. Based on the fact that monetary policy includes foreign exchange policy (i.e. broader in relation to it), such a translation results in a distortion of the meaning of these two concepts: the foreign exchange regulation is an activity of the entitled authorities for administrating the foreign exchange relations through using the complex of instruments and methods to achieve the objectives of the foreign exchange policy [10, p.189].

However, the official names of such important international organizations as the International Monetary Fund (hereinafter – IMF), European Monetary Agreement, European Monetary Institute, Economic and Monetary Union consistently use the adjective “monetary”. We can explain such lie of the land as incorrect translation, since the word “валютний” does not reflect the essence of the tasks assigned to these organizations.

The collected data also show the problem with the translation of the word “регулювання”, which in all sources is translated as “control”. It is worth to be noted, that such translation is more or less settled, but the foreign science in recent decades has become equating “foreign exchange regulation” and “foreign exchange control”. In our opinion, this is due to the fact that in developed countries are rarely used foreign exchange restrictions [11, p.30], which constitute a part of the action of either the foreign exchange regulation (in terms of their settings), and foreign exchange control (in terms of a monitoring). Nevertheless, it is still irrelevant for the majority of Eastern European countries (including Ukraine), Asia and Africa. Thus, for the transmission of differences between the foreign exchange regulation and control, we suggest to use two separate terms “regulation” and “control”.

In order to solve the problem of choosing between “monetary” and “(foreign) exchange”, let us refer to the official recommendations of the IMF (Tab. 2).

As it is seen from the Tab. 2, the adjective “monetary” is used primarily for “грошово-кредитний” or “монетарний” (but not for “валютний”!). At the same time, for the translation of such key terms as “валютний контроль”, “валютні обмеження”, “валютна політика” and “валютний курс” IMF proposes to use the adjective “foreign exchange”.

Tab. 2: Extracts from the official IMF Glossary

English	Examples of use	Ukrainian
monetary	monetary base	грошова база
	monetary aggregate	грошово-кредитний агрегат
	monetary asset	грошовий актив
	monetary authorities	органи грошово-кредитного регулювання
	monetary control	грошово-кредитний контроль
	monetary management	грошово-кредитне регулювання
	monetary policy	грошово-кредитна політика
(foreign) exchange	exchange rate regime	режим обмінного курсу
	exchange control	валютний контроль
	exchange restriction	валютне обмеження
	exchange rate management	регулювання обмінного курсу
	foreign exchange policy	валютна політика
	rate of exchange	валютний курс
	foreign exchange reserves	валютні резерви
	exchange, foreign currency, foreign exchange, forex	(іноземна) валюта
currency	foreign exchange market	валютний ринок
	reserve currency	резервна валюта
	monocurrency loan	одновалютна позика
	unilateral currency union	односторонній валютний союз
	currency issuing agency	банк-емітент
	currency zone	валютна зона
	currency basket	валютна корзина

Source: [12].

Unfortunately, we have not found an official translation of the concept of “валютне регулювання” in the IMF Glossary. Following the examples of related concepts we can come to the conclusion that it should be translated as the “foreign exchange management”. At the same time, we propose to use the noun “regulation” instead of “management”, since the last one in a non-English language environment is perceived to be accepted as a synonym for “управління” or literally “менеджмент”. And the regulation itself is a function of management, i.e. a part of it.

3. Conclusions

From the foregoing the following conclusions can be done. Language barrier is a violation of the true perception or interpretation of the foreign speech as a result of numerous cultural, motivational, practical and pedagogical reasons. Such barriers may occur at the levels of cultural differences, speech motivation, language communication culture, speech and pedagogical practices. Overcoming the language barriers in the field of science is possible through the analysis and clarification of the translation of certain terms.

The linguistic analysis, which was carried out by us, showed that a widespread translation of the adjective “валютний” as “monetary” distorts the essence of the scientific categories and causes communication barriers between the scientists. We came to the conclusion that the term “валютна політика”, “валютне регулювання” and “валютний контроль” must be translated into English as

the terms of “foreign exchange policy”, “foreign exchange regulation” and “foreign exchange control”. Such translation will help to overcome language barriers and misunderstandings as well.

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Summary

The article is devoted to the problem of the language barriers in economic researches. Authors touch upon the essence, levels of occurrence and methods of those barriers overcoming. On the example of English-Ukrainian and English-Russian translations of the notions of “foreign exchange policy”, “foreign exchange regulation”, “foreign exchange control” it is shown, that there are multiple opinions about the way for the correct translation of these terms. The authors come to the conclusion that these terms must be translated into English with the adjective “foreign exchange”.

Keywords: economic concepts; foreign exchange control; foreign exchange policy; foreign exchange regulation; language barriers; translation of terms.

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