The article analyses the lexical specificity of the story «Alice in Wonderland» and highlights the set expressions which, as the years go by, have become integral part.

Key words: set expressions, adjective, translation.

The article is devoted to the specifics of the usage and translation of the adjectives in the way of comparing the original text of the novel «Alice in Wonderland» by Lewis Carroll with its German and Ukrainian translation.

Language as the independent unit is full of historical events which are implemented in it. It seems that nothing else except the history can find itself in the language, can change it, develop and enrich it with numerous set expressions. But we still have a possibility to grand this role to the literature paying no attention to the author, plot and even the country where it has been written. It can play with words and sentences creating unusual phrases and making them wide-spread and full of bright pictures of the world. But language is enriched not just with set expressions, which are fully or partly expunged from the text but also with adjectives, which in the connection with the noun or with the help of unexpected grammar construction can gain the most incredible form and meaning. Talking about the grammar construction we should remember the difference between the way of the English, German and Ukrainian adjectives’ forming.

The second kind of specificity of the story is the game of words which can be often met in the works of the author. In the mentioned story there is just one case which answers the underlined purpose.

So we will start with grammar mistakes which have been done to implement a special emotional atmosphere or to highlight the definite moment of the passage. In the mentioned story there is just one case which answers the underlined purpose.

• «Curiouser and curiouser!» Cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English) [3, p. 29].

• « Верquerer und verquerer! » rief Alice (Sie war so überrascht, daß sie im Augenblick ihre eigene Sprache ganz vergaß) [2].

• « Все дивасніше й дивасніше! » вигукнула Аліса (з великого зачудування вона раптом забула як правильно говорити) [1].

The English language as well as the German one has almost the same specific of the comparison of adjectives (they both use endings -er and -est). But in English language almost all complex words or words with two syllables get the word «more/less» in the comparative form and the word «the most/the least» in the superlative one. So, in the first example we can see unusual grammar form for the English language (the author explains the reason of such process). The right variant will sound like «more curious and more curious». However in German variant such kind of mistake was omitted but the translator made another thing. In the German translation the word «curious», which means «strange» or «unusual» has been completely changed into the word «verquer» which means «tapsy-turvy», «the wrong way round» and «upside down». It, together with ending –er, creates unbelievable effect. In the Ukrainian translation can be seen unusual for the language form of the adjective «дивасніше й дивасніше» when the right form is «дивніше й дивніше».

The second kind of specificity of the story is the game of words which can be often met in the works of the author.
• «But do cats eat bats, I wonder?» And here Alice began to get rather sleepy, and went on saying to herself, in a dreamy sort of way, «Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?» and sometimes, «Do bats eat cats?» for, you see, as she couldn’t answer either question, it didn’t much matter which way she put it». [3, p. 25]

• «От лиши... чи їдять коти кротові? Тут Алісі повинно змалати сон, і вона вже бубніла собі під ніс, немов крізь дрімоту: «Чи їдять коти кротові?... Чи їдять коти кротові?». Часом виходило цією таке: «Чи їдять кротові коти?...», бо коли не знаєш відповіді на питання, то байдуже, з якого боку його ставити» [1].

So, in the English variant except a game of words we can see that the translators to keep the rhythm have substituted the word «bats» for «spatzen» (sparrow) in the German language and «kröten» (mole) in the Ukrainian one.

• «I wish I hadn’t cried so much!» said Alice, as she swam about, trying to find her way out. «I shall be punished for it now, I suppose, by being drowned in my own tears! That WILL be a queer thing, to be sure! However, everything is queer today» [3, p. 33].

• «Ich wünschte, ich hätte nicht so sehr weinte!» sagte Alice als sie unerschwert und sich herauszuhelfen suchte; «jetzt werde ich wohl dafür bestraft werden und in meinen eigenen Tränen ertrinken! Das wird sonderbar sein, das! Aber Alles ist heut so sonderbar» [2].

• «І чого було аж так ридати? – бідкалася Аліса, плаваючи туди сюди у пошуках берега. – За те мені й кара!.. Ще потону у власних сльозах! Ото була б дивина! Щоправда, сьогодні – все дивина» [1].

In the English passage there is the phraseological unit «be drowned in tears». But the Ukrainian translation as well as in the German one is mostly based on the phrase «po-мокрі» which change the word-combination with the phrase of the Target Languages «по-мокри».

The next aspects we are to pay attention to are set expressions. Some phrases or word-combinations become a part of the language as an independent unit and gain not just unpredictable meaning but also the specific emotionality. This aspect is suitable just for the English language (the Source Language of the story): 1) «as mad as a March hare» (it means that a person is completely mad or irrational); 2) «as mad as a hatter» (it can be used speaking about a fussy person).

The Ukrainian and German languages do not have set expressions which are connected with the names «Kapetlach» and «Капелюшник» thus in the texts can be met both variants which are translated with the help of word-for-word rendering and which change the word-combination with the phrase of the Target Languages «капелюшник» in German and «божевільний» in Ukrainian.

3) «grin like a Cheshire cat»(this one refers to a person who have a broad fixed smile on his/her face);

The Ukrainian language has no adequate equivalent because this passage has no background as it is in the Source Language, but if it is needed the translator can use word-for-word translation and receive the following variant – «по-сміхатися як Чеширський кіт».

4) «to be the White Rabbit» (it can be used speaking about a fuss person).

This phrase did not find any repercussion in the Ukrainian language as well as in the German one.

Having analyzed all above mentioned aspects it is possible to say that the biggest part of emotionally marked units can be met in the Source Language of the story as a result of background associations what cannot be said about the Target Languages. The Ukrainian and German languages implement all aspects of the discussed passages but only in accordance to the features of the translated language (some cases do not allow the translator to make the translation faithful because of the fact that every language has its own grammar and lexical specifics). Turning to the set expressions which were observed in the article we can see that they have not found any equivalents because of the absence of the links between the Source Language and Target Languages. So, summing-up we can underline that the biggest role in the process of translation is played by the background and social peculiarities.

Література: