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Problems and Features of Oil and Gas Industry Translation Terminology and Articles on Oil and Gas Business

M. A. Samadov
Senior teacher of Karshi engineering economics institute, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT: The purpose of the article is to study the problems associated with the translation into Russian of terminology found exclusively in the oil and gas business, to consider the problems of translating texts on the oil and gas business, as well as those inherent exclusively in this industry, and directly related to the translation of scientific texts in general, as well as to trace the problems of translating texts and terms into Russian by examples.

KEYWORD: oil and gas industry, English, terms, professionalism, abbreviation.

The oil and gas industry is one of the most important industries, and with the greater development of international relations and the processes of globalization, the need for translation of oil and gas terms and literature on the oil and gas business is growing. Oil and gas translation includes a huge layer of vocabulary, ranging from exploration and production, finishing with their transportation and storage, as well as sale. At the same time, the development of this industry and technological progress in each of its branches it leads to the introduction of new terms, and quite often oil and gas terminology is specific and is not used in other areas.

In addition, the oil and gas business is often associated with other industries, as well as with other areas, such as economics, accounting, law, which complicates the translation of this field.

The initial problems of translating texts on the oil and gas business are the same as in any other scientific and technical text. Characteristic the peculiarities of any technical text are it's in formativeness, accuracy and objectivity, which primarily implies the widespread use of scientific and technical terminology [1]. Speaking about the oil and gas industry these are terms such as fountain fittings (Christmas tree), low-sulfur oil (Sweet crude), casing pipes (Well casing), swivel (rotary swivel). By for this reason, there is a problem of translating terms from English into Russian, since it is necessary to ensure the equivalence of the meaning of the translation and the original. To do this, various translation methods are used, the main of which are highlighted by Kovalenko A.Ya. [3]: descriptive technique – word transmission using an extended explanation of the meaning of the English word (pressure equipment – high pressure equipment; shale shaker – vibration a sieve for cleaning drilling mud from sludge); translation using genitive case (permeable zone – permeability zone; borehole wall – borehole wall); calcification – translation from English into Russian by accurate translation of significant parts of the phrase (gravity platform –gravity platform; excess gas – excess gas; oil trap – oil trap). In total, almost 50% of all terms have been translated by calculus, using the genitive case – 31%, by description – 13% [4, p. 76].

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Transliteration of terms is also used quite rarely, but the use of such a method is fraught with the appearance of "false friends" of the translator, which can greatly distort the understanding of the text and make it difficult to translate (for example, the words: accurately – "accurately", not "accurately"; formation – in the oil and gas field it will be more accurate to translate as a "reservoir" or "productive horizon", not a "formation"; hydrocarbons – "hydrocarbons", not "hydro carbonates"). Also, one of the characteristic features of technical texts is: the desire for nominalization processes of action (to clean after the welding – to do post-welding cleaning); use of amplifying adverbs to convey expression in the necessary places (carefully, essentially, significantly); replacement of the verbal negation of does not with nominal none (liquid is non -volatile) [5, p. 242].

Since the oil and gas business is inextricably linked with a large number of other industries and with many sciences (geology, chemistry, physics), a huge number of terms are attracted from these areas (for example, core is a core, in fact the "core" of a core bit, which selects the rock for analysis). However, the technical documentation of the oil and gas industry has its own specific features that distinguish it from other industries. One of these features is specialized terms-metaphors, which often will not be clear to people who have no idea about the development of the well. For example, such a term is "Christmas tree" – fountain rebar, in this case, indicates an external resemblance to a Christmas tree; or "fishing" – fishing work, where the term partially reflects the method of work (equipment that has fallen into the well is designated as \ "fish", and fishing equipment – "fishing tools"). Particular attention should be paid to informal professionalisms (jargonizes) used in colloquial speech and sometimes used in literature. Their origin in it is mainly justified by the result of metaphorical transfer of the meanings of words from everyday (general) vocabulary to terms in this specialty. For example: roughneck (lit. "Rough neck"; drilling crew worker); bed (lit. bed; layer). What distinguishes them from the usual professionalisms is that the latter can eventually, as S. V. Grinev notes, acquire the status of terms and get a normative character. Ordinary jargon is not capable of to acquire normatively, as it is clearly felt by the colloquial term [6, p. 46]. For the most part, these are "zoonyms" – technical phraseological units, formed due to external or functional similarity with various animals. These include phrases such as derrick monkey (lit. monkey on the tower; a worker working at the top of the tower); catwalk (letters. the path of the cat; Catwalks, working platform) This oil sublanguage, used by a separate subgroup in ordinary official and informal communication, makes it possible to provide high-quality communication between people connected with work in the oil industry [7].

There are certain difficulties in translating ambiguous terms and abbreviations. Often a word has many meanings depending on the context, so when translating it is worth taking into account their ambiguity [8]. One of such words that are often found in the oil and gas business is production and development. Production stands for "production" (oil and gas), however, can also have the meanings of "exploitation" and "fishing", which can be seen in the following phrases: production rate – debit (wells); oil production – oil field; production test – trial operation; production efficiency – productivity coefficient; production facility – the object of operation. Similarly, development has values «field development", "fine-tuning, debugging".

There are also others the meanings of this term are: development of heat – heat generation; advanced development — development of a prototype; marginal development —drilling of a field from the periphery to the center; early development —initial development, etc. [8].

Among other things, abbreviations are quite common in the oil and gas industry, since sometimes their use greatly simplifies work. For example, abbreviations such as CWI (Completion and well intervention – overhaul of wells or cattle), DHP (Dehydration plant) are common – installation of pre-discharge of water or UPSV), CPF (Central Processing Facility – oil treatment plant or UPN).

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However, sometimes there may be problems with the translation of abbreviations, because the same the abbreviation can have different meanings, for example, ESP – "Electrical Submersible Pump" or "Ensure Safe Production (Ensuring safe mining)".

Let's consider examples of the use of oil and gas terminology in texts, as well as examples of their translation and the problems associated with this: The oil rigs and work over rigs used to drill and complete the well have moved off the wellbore, and the top is usually outfitted with a collection of valves called a «Christmas Tree» …(Baker R. "A Primer of Oil Well Drilling",2001, Austin, Texas) – Drilling rigs and lifting units for major repairs, which were used during drilling and development of the well, were moved away from the wellbore, and the mouth is usually equipped with a valve system called "fountain fittings" ...

This excerpt clearly shows the widespread use of oil and gas terminology in the text (work over rigs, valves, wellbore), including the term is a metaphor of "Christmas tree" (fountain fittings). You can also to trace how the terms used in the usual vocabulary in one meaning in the oil and gas industry take on a completely new meaning (complete – "complete", "formalize", here it also makes sense to "master". Top – "top", however, in this sentence, since we are talking about a well, it will be correct to translate "mouth").

… Natural gas sweetening methods include absorption processes, cryogenic processes, adsorption processes (PSA, TSA and iron sponge) and membranes… (Havard Devold "Oil and gas production handbook. An introduction to oil and gas production, transport, refining and petrochemical industry" Edition 3 Oslo, August 2013) – Methods of desulfurization of natural gas include absorption, low-temperature, adsorption (adsorption at variable pressure, adsorption with temperature fluctuations and an iron sponge) and membrane processes.

The following example shows the importance of knowledge of terminology when translating texts on oil and gas on the example of the phrase "gas sweeting method", which means "desulfurization methods", not "methods sweetening" of gas (this feature of terminology is due to the content of hydrogen sulfide H2S in the gas, which is known for an unpleasant odor, which is why a gas with a high content of hydrogen sulfide is called "sour gas" or "sour gas" in literal translation. "Sweet" or low-sulfur gas, on the contrary, contains a small amount of H2S, so it seems to be the opposite of "sour", that is, "sweet"). Here you can clearly see the problem of translating abbreviations, since the abbreviations PSA (Pressure swing adsorption) and TSA (Temperature Swing Adsorption) in Russian do not have similar, therefore, the names of the processes must be recorded in full. It is also worth noting the need to understand the processes, described in the text, using the example of the following phrase: "methods include … membranes». Here the word "membranes" does not mean "membranes", but "membrane processes" (it can also be translated as "membrane installations"), since we are talking about gas desulfurization methods.

… Roustabouts and roughnecks work as part of a small team on offshore oil or gas drilling rigs or production platforms (Job guide – oil drilling roustabout/roughneck) – Handymen and drilling rig workers work as part of small teams on an offshore gas or oil drilling rig or on operational offshore platforms.

Professional jargon is used here, such as «Roustabout" and "roughneck", which are used to refer to simple workers on drilling rigs. It is worth noting that unlike the previous two sentences, which were excerpts from articles and textbooks, this sentence was not taken from a scientific text, which is why more "colloquial" jargon was used in the text.

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The translation of terms and texts of the oil and gas field contains a large number of features and nuances that imply knowledge of special literature and the meaning of a large number of terminologies. Considering also that the oil and gas industry is associated with a large the number of other specialties, as well as developing quite rapidly and undergoing changes, will often need to be updated materials on various fields to cope with translation difficulties. The features noted in this article, as well as examples of text translation, allow us to better understand the methods, as well as the problems that can be encountered during translation.

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