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EXPLORING THE CATEGORIES IN TRANSLATING CULTURAL-SPECIFIC LEXICON IN THE NOVEL *THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE* BY V.E. SCHWAB

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Cultural-specific lexicon includes linguistic elements that have meanings deeply embedded within a culture and may encompass items like idioms, traditional food names, historical events, and terms tied to a country's unique social practices. These terms highlight cultural uniqueness and differentiate one cultural community from another, thus enriching a text with local color [2]. In common definition, cultural-specific lexicon comprises words, phrases, and expressions unique to a specific culture, reflecting its historical, social, and contextual values. Translating these elements, often termed *culture-bound terms* or *realia*, presents a significant challenge for translators due to the lack of exact equivalents in the target language [1]. Cultural-specific lexicon is frequently resistant to literal translation, as target languages may lack lexical or conceptual equivalents. This challenge underscores the significance of cultural awareness in translation, as misunderstandings or misinterpretations could hinder the target audience's comprehension of the text [3].

The mentioned above leads to the necessity of exploring the categories within cultural-specific lexicon which contribute to a deeper understanding of linguistic and cultural characteristics that make the culture-bound lexicon translating challenges less resistant.

The aim of the paper is to analyze culturally specific aspects of lexicon in the text and their translation into Ukrainian through the understanding of these categories which aid translators in further developing appropriate strategies. The novel *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab is taken as the research topic due to its deep themes of personal identity, female self-determination, eternity, immortality and force of love which are extremely relevant in a globalized world, where cultural exchanges are becoming commonplace. An analysis of how Schwab's novel is transmitted through translation can show which values and ideas are preserved, and which are changing.

Cultural-specific lexicon can be grouped into four several types: material culture, social culture, historical references and linguistic items [4].

Material culture in *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is expressed through the description of objects that symbolize memory, connection with the past and individual identity of the characters. For example (1-s) *She wishes she could touch the little bird, run her finger along its wing, the way she always did, even though she knows it's not the one she lost, knows this one wasn't carved by her father's strong hands, but by a stranger* [6]. – (1-t) *Хотіла б Addі торкнутися пташечки, провести пальцями по крилу, як вона завжди робила, хоч і розуміє, що це зовсім не та пташка, яку вона загубила, не та пташка, яку своїми дужими руками вирізьбив її батько, а інша, зроблена незнайомцем* [7]. Here the material object, a wooden bird carved by the protagonist's father, fulfills not only a functional role but also emotionally manifests its close ties with family and traditions as a necessary part of culture.

Social culture in *the novel* is revealed through the characters' interactions with social norms, values, and social structures, in particular through social relations and reactions to phenomena that determine their place in the world. For example (2-s) *Adeline is sixteen now, and everyone speaks of her as if she is a summer bloom, something to be plucked, and propped within a vase, intended only to flower and then to rot* [6]– (2-t) *Аделіні вже шістнадцять, і всі говорять про неї так, наче*

вона квіточка влітку, яку слід зірвати й поставити у вазу, де вона відцвіте й зів'яне [7]. This sentence is an illustration of social culture, as it reflects patriarchal ideas about the role of women in eighteenth-century society. It emphasizes gender expectations, where a girl's youth and beauty determine her value in the social context, and her life path is limited to her role in marriage. The metaphor *summer bloom* perfectly conveys the ephemerality and limited social status of women. When translating, it is important to preserve the imagery and the implication of criticism, which demonstrates the limitations of freedom of choice.

In *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*, historical elements play a key role in creating a multilayered atmosphere, as the events of the book span several centuries. Victoria Schwab skillfully integrates different stages of history, allowing the reader to experience the evolution of characters and the change of cultural contexts. It becomes clear that this approach helps to understand more deeply the transformation of not only the characters but also the society around them. For example (3-s) *Three hundred years is such a long time. You were there for wars and revolutions. You saw trains and cars and planes and televisions. You witnessed history as it was happening* [6] – (3-t) *Триста років — це так довго! Ти пережила війни й революції. Бачила появу потягів, автомобілів, літаків і телебачення. Ти була свідком історії під час її творення* [7]. The cultural transformation associated with the main political streams, globalization, urbanization, and the development of communications is presented through the reference to important historic events (wars and revolutions) and technological advances (transportation and television).

The linguistic objects in *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* are metaphors, temporal constructions, and emotional phrases to comprehend the theme of time and oblivion. For example (4-s) *Every time he took a drag, he thought of her, and felt ill, and he didn't know if it was the memory or the taste, only knew it wasn't worth it* [6]. – (4-t) *Щоразу, роблячи затяжку, Генрі згадував її, і йому ставало зле. Він не був певен, це від спогадів чи від смаку, але розумів, що воно того не варте* [7].

Each category contributes unique cultural information. For instance, material culture items may evoke sensory imagery, while historical references offer a glimpse into a culture's past and identity. The cultural significance of these categories must be considered to retain meaning while making the text accessible to the target audience [5].

In *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab, cultural-specific lexicon appears extensively, reflecting the novel's setting across various historical periods and locations. Terms associated with French culture, such as *bonsoir* or *le Marais*, convey specific cultural and geographical contexts that deepen readers' engagement with the story. Translating such elements into another language, like Ukrainian, demands strategic decisions that preserve cultural richness without hindering readability.

In conclusion, cultural-specific lexicon forms an integral part of literary translation, demanding both technical skill and cultural sensitivity. Successful translation of cultural-specific lexicon depends on the translator's ability to navigate the intricate relationship between language and culture, allowing readers from diverse backgrounds to access and appreciate the richness of the original text. By carefully selecting translation strategies, translators strive to recreate the source text's cultural ambiance while ensuring comprehension in the target language. This balance is crucial in translating works like *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*, where cultural elements are woven into the fabric of the narrative and maintain the deep awareness of the author's message.

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