

лентного звучания и смысла. Когда звукоподражание теряется, приоритет отдается передаче доминирующей эмоции лексическими средствами. Авторы манги часто создают уникальные “окказионализмы”, оживляющие персонажей и картинку, но усложняющие задачу переводчика из-за отсутствия прямых аналогов. Опыт и понимание контекста помогают переводчику даже без знания авторского замысла. Выбор между сохранением буквальной точности и использованием переводческих трансформаций – постоянный вопрос. Главное – найти функциональный эквивалент, сохраняющий семантику, прагматику и соответствие нормам языка перевода.

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РУССКАЯ ЛИТЕРАТУРА О ВЕЛИКОЙ ОТЕЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ВОЙНЕ В ПЕРЕВОДЕ НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

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Аннотация. Поднимается проблема распространения знаний о Великой Отечественной войне среди зарубежной аудитории путем перевода произведений российских писателей и поэтов на английский язык. Рассматриваются произведения В. Гроссмана, А. Твардовского, К. Симонова, Б. Васильева. Делается вывод о большом значении русской литературы о войне и интересе к ней англоязычных читателей.

Ключевые слова: Великая Отечественная война, память, советская литература, переводы на английский язык.

RUSSIAN LITERATURE ABOUT THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IN ENGLISH

Abstract. The authors deal with an issue of disseminating knowledge about the Great Patriotic War among international audiences by translating Russian writers and poets' works into English. Writing by V. Grossman, K. Simonov, A. Tvardovsky, and B. Vasilyev is reviewed. A conclusion is made about the great importance of Russian wartime literature and the interest of English-speaking readers in it.

Keywords: Great Patriotic War, memory, Soviet literature, translations into English.

As we are getting closer to the 80th anniversary of the great victory, it's important to discuss literature about the Great Patriotic War that was published in Russia and then translated into English. Soviet litera-

ture produced some of the most profound and moving works about the war, capturing the immense suffering, heroism, and moral complexities of the conflict. Writers such as Vasily Grossman, Konstantin Simonov, Alexander Tvardovsky, and Boris Vasilyev drew from their own wartime experiences to create powerful narratives that remain essential to understanding the Soviet perspective on the war.

Thus, the goal of the research is to explore the role of the Russian literature in shaping the narrative of the Great Patriotic War among English speaking readers. The topic has not been sufficiently studied, no similar research has been found on the Internet or other sources, that makes it quite relevant.

The objectives of this work are as follows:

- to introduce outstanding Soviet authors who wrote about the war (e.g., Alexander Tvardovsky, Konstantin Simonov, Vasily Grossman, Boris Vasilyev);
- to discuss English-language versions of their major literary works (*Vasily Tyorkin: a Book about a Soldier, Wait for Me, Life and Fate, The Dawns Here Are Quiet*);
- to assess the long-term impact of this literature on Soviet and post-Soviet memory of the war.

In the Soviet Union, remarkable books about the Great Patriotic War were published. The authors of many of them were war participants – war correspondents as Vasily Grossman, Alexander Tvardovsky and Konstantin Simonov, or in military units as Boris Vasilyev. This is the reason they could tell the readers about the war truthfully and convincingly.

The first translations of their books into English were made in the USSR to introduce them to overseas readers. But later, Anglophones themselves paid attention to these works, and new English-language versions of this literature appeared, translated by English speaking people.

The epic poem *Vasily Tyorkin: A Book about a Soldier* was among the first books translated into English. It is one of the most famous and beloved works of the Soviet wartime literature, written by Alexander Tvardovsky between 1941 and 1945. It is a long narrative poem that follows the adventures of a fictional Red Army soldier, Vasily Tyorkin, during the Great Patriotic War (World War II). Published in army newspapers and broadcast on the radio in 1942–1945, it captured the audience's attention, and its hero, Vasily Tyorkin, received national affection.

«Tvardovsky had succeeded in writing something timeless, courageous and unsullied, helped by a rare sense of proportion, all his own, or perhaps by a sensitive tact not unknown among peasants... Though he was not free to tell the whole truth about the war, Tvardovsky nevertheless always stopped just one millimeter short of falsehood, and nowhere did he ever overstep the one-millimeter mark. The result was a miracle». These are Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's words about A. Tvardovsky's poem [5].

The English language version of this poem belongs to James Womack. The translator managed to convey heroism and humour of the Russian soldier described in the original. In the preface, he expressed his own opinion about the work: 'It is an anti-war poem, an anti-fascist classic, and a reminder of the extraordinary endurance and heroism of the Soviet people during the war in which we were allies against Nazi Germany.' [5]

When translating poems, it is very important for the translator to be able to carry the same emotional meaning that author of the poem had [1], and James Womack's version has got brilliant reviews from readers.

'James Womack's new translation is outstanding.'

'I have always had the feeling that any attempt to translate Tyorkin into English was likely to produce a colourless mishmash. James Womack has managed to find apt, often zesty equivalents, all while reproducing an approximation of Tvardovsky's metre and rhyme scheme. For the first time, it enables the English-language reader to obtain a vivid impression of Tvardovsky's remarkable resourcefulness, of his at times unflinching realism combined with unflinching courage and cheerfulness. There should be a Tyorkin in every library.' [7]

It was a real challenge to translate another famous poem, *Wait for Me (Жди меня)*, written by Konstantin Simonov in 1941. Similar to A. Tvardovsky, the young and talented playwright and poet Simonov served as a war correspondent writing for the official army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star). It was he who wrote news and articles about Soviet Army wins in Europe, as far as Berlin.

His poem *Wait for Me* was dedicated to his future wife, the actress Valentina Serova. As soon as it was published in *Pravda* in February 1942, when the Germans were outside Moscow, it became a cultural phenomenon in the Soviet Union – a sincere appeal not to lose hope and continue waiting for those who were fighting with the enemy. It emphasized that those who were remembered and waited for would surely survive. It is not a surprise that Simonov's *Wait for Me* is considered the most emotionally powerful poems about the Great Patriotic War.

The poem was translated into English by Mike Munford who was so impressed by Simonov's verses that he decided to translate some more of his wartime writing and published a book *Wait for Me: Selected poems of Konstantin Simonov*. He wrote lately about his work: 'Translating Russian verse is easier than translating French. The poetic rhythms of English and Russian are surprisingly similar, so that in many poems, I have been able to copy the Russian rhythms fairly accurately and without much incongruity in English. There is one or two exceptions to this: Simonov (like other Russian poets) habitually uses alternate "male" lines (ending with a stress) alternating with "female" (with an extra unstressed syllable) and I have done so in the translations. But where he rhymes MFMF, as he often does, I have mostly used FMFM, which sounds easier in English, and makes it possible to dispense with the female rhyme.' [6]

Mike Munford's translation of Simonov's verses can be found on the Internet, including the translator's site dedicated to the Russian poet. Designed in 2003, the site reflects the translator's great respect to the Russian poet and his works.

One of the most famous Soviet novels about the Great Patriotic War is *The Dawns Here Are Quiet* (А зори здесь тихие), written by Boris Vasilyev in 1969 and adapted into a film in 1972. It tells the tragic story of a group of young women, actually teenaged girls, who were fighting as anti-aircraft gunners in Karelia forests. Unlike most Soviet war stories focused on male heroism, it shows the tragedy of young women forced into combat against German invaders.

The plot of this novel translated by Alex Miller was transformed into a play by James Morgan and has come to the American stage. The New York Times wrote: 'As directed by Alex Dmitriev at the McCarter Theater, that adaptation reminds one of such humanitarian Russian films as "The Cranes Are Flying" and "The Ballad of a Soldier." In common with those movies, "The Dawns Are Quiet Here" personalizes the horrific effects of war on its heroic victims.' [4]

The author of the monumental novel *Life and Fate* (Жизнь и судьба) Vasily Grossman became a correspondent for the military paper *Krasnaya Zvezda* in 1941 and spent approximately 1,000 days on the front lines reporting about combats. His famous novel, often compared to Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, was written after the war, in 1959, and was immediately banned by Soviet authorities for its obvious critique of Stalinism and its comparing with Nazi rule.

This story of an ordinary Soviet family during the Great Patriotic War depicted the tragedy of the common people and became one of the most profound literary works to emerge from World War II. In 2021, the critic and editor Robert Gottlieb, contemplating about the most remarkable XX century books, wrote 'What to me is the most impressive novel written since World War II – Vasily Grossman's overpowering *Life and Fate*.' [3]

Grossman's *Life and Fate* was translated into English by Robert Chandler, who, while working, noted novel's comparison with Tolstoy and with 'something Chekhovian'. [2, p. 57]. An English-language radio adaptation of the novel was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 from 18 to 25 September 2011.

Thus, having examined Alexander Tvardovsky, Konstantin Simonov, Vasily Grossman, and Boris Vasilyev's works about the Great Patriotic War we can conclude that they, being translated into English, played a great part in disseminating knowledge about the war among international audience. Their books are rightfully on the list of the most significant works about the Great Patriotic War. Containing the anti-war message, they received worldwide recognition.

The theme of the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945) resonated with many peoples, including those in English-speaking countries, for several key reasons:

- The global scale of the conflict. The Great Patriotic War was part of World War II, in which dozens of nations were involved. English-speaking nations (UK, USA, Canada, Australia, etc.) were allies of the USSR in the fight against Nazi Germany, so their historical memory is also linked to these events.

- Shared values. The war and the struggle against Nazism are perceived as opposition to the evil forces and defence of humanity. The feat of the Soviet people, who made enormous sacrifices (over 27 million dead), is respected throughout the world.

- Relevance: memory and history lessons. With the revival of neo-nazism and military conflicts in the XXIst century, the anti-fascism theme remains relevant. Literary works that raise war issues remind us of the shared victory.

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