

Treatment of Equivalence in the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary

By an explanatory dictionary in the traditional sense of the word we mean a dictionary, in which words from a language are explained in the same language.

(Explanatory Dictionary of the Georgian Language, volume 3).

Monolingual dictionaries are those in which the language of description is the same as the language being described (Henri Béjoint “The Lexicography of English”. 2010, p.45).

Whereas in bilingual/translation dictionaries words from one language are translated into another language, that is, words from one language are supplied with their equivalents from another language.

Bilingual dictionaries are designed for translation and provide equivalents (Henri Béjoint “The Lexicography of English”. 2010, p.45).

How unequivocal are the explanations cited above? How universal are these principles – explanations in explanatory dictionaries and equivalents in bilingual/translation ones?

The Dictionary of Lexicography by Hartmann and James gives the following definition of ‘equivalence’ and ‘equivalent’: “the relationship between words or phrases, from two or more languages, which share the same meaning.”

How possible is the existence of equivalence between words from two languages? Can the meanings of English words be equivalent to the meanings of corresponding Georgian words? We would like to cite several examples:

Reverberate:

to have a strong effect on people for a long time or over a large area

to have continuing and serious effects

... often negative effects...

... to effect everyone in a company, country, etc.

გამოხმაურება:

The showing of some kind of, usually positive, attitude towards something.

გამომდახილი: *იგივეა, რაც გამოხმაურება.*

As we can see from the above explanations, these two, seemingly equivalent, words are quite different. The English explanations indicate that a fact or event has a strong, often negative, effect on people for a long time or over a large area, which is considerably different from what we read in the explanation from the Explanatory Dictionary of the Georgian Language (EDGL), cited above.

Restless:

unable to stay still or be happy where you are, because you are bored or need a change.

მოუსვენარი:

Who or which can find no rest, cannot stay calm.

A comparison of these two definitions is enough to highlight the difference between seemingly similar English and Georgian words. The English definition stresses the components which make a person unable to stay still or be happy: he or she is bored with his or her situation and lifestyle, or needs a change. These components of the meaning of the English word in question are not found in the definition of the Georgian word „მოუსვენარი“

Rough:

having a surface diversified with small projections, points, bristles, etc., so as to be harsh or disagreeable to the touch; not even or smooth (OED)

უხეში:

which is no tender, rigid (not processed, unrefined, raw), harsh, coarse (EDGL)

The definition of the English word emphasises that the surface is not smooth, it is uneven, coarse (because of small projections, bristles, etc), is disagreeable or harsh to the touch, etc. These components of the meaning of the English word ‘rough’ are not present in the explanation of the Georgian word ‘უხეში’ – here the surface is not tender, it is not processed or refined, etc.

Such examples may be cited *ad infinitum*. This disparity between the seemingly similar words of the two languages represents a linguistic regularity and is a well-known fact to any proficient linguist.

As a result of this, the semantic structure of an English word corresponds to some part of that of a Georgian word, whereas its other parts relate to completely different Georgian words, requiring the use of different Georgian words in process of translation.

rough road ოღროზოღრო გზა (literally: uneven / rough / bumpy ground)

rough edges [surface] უსწორმასწორო კიდეები [ზედაპირი] (literally: uneven edges [surface])

rough skin ხორკლიანი / ხეშეში კანი (literally: calloused skin).

rough cloth უხეში / მქისე ქსოვილი (literally: coarse cloth)

The quotation from the Dictionary of Lexicography by Hartmann and James concerning “equivalence” and “equivalent” goes on as follows:

‘Because of linguistic and cultural anisomorphism, translation equivalents are typically partial, approximative, non-literal and asymmetrical (rather than full, direct, word-for-word and bidirectional). Their specification in the bilingual dictionary is therefore fraught with difficulties, and recourse must be made to surrogate explanatory equivalents’.

These definitions show how many problems semantic asymmetry between seemingly similar words of various languages poses for bilingual lexicographers. This semantic asymmetry is even wider between such genetically unrelated and systemically completely different languages as it is the case with the Georgian and English languages.

Meanings of apparently similar English and Georgian words overlap one another in various proportions, which may be graphically represented in the following way:



As we can see, the overlap can be rather insignificant, medium, or comparatively extensive. The fourth graph above shows the cases, where English-language concepts are not lexicalized in Georgian, and there is, consequently, no overlap of meanings whatsoever.

E.g.

brocket *ორი წლის ხარირეში.*

overspill *ჭარბი მოსახლეობის მიგრაცია დიდი ქალაქიდან ქვეყნის ნაკლებად დასახლებულ ადგილას.*

My aim in the present paper is to show how the editors of the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary (CEGD) have solved this important problem of bilingual lexicography and how and by which means they are trying to render meanings of English words with the precision required in case of such a canonical scholarly work, as dictionary

Linguistic equivalence must be examined at the level of lexical units, lexico-semantic variants of polysemous words.

We have adduced above a meaning of the adjective ‘**rough**’, which requires different Georgian equivalents in different contexts:

rough road *ოღროხოლო გზა*

rough edges [surface] *უსწორმასწორო კიდეები [ზედაპირი]*

rough skin *ხორკლიანი / ხეშეში კანი*

rough cloth *უხეში / მქისე ქსოვილი*

rough hands *უხეში / დაკოჟრებული ხელები.*

What is the meaning of the English adjective ‘**rough**’ in this particular case, ‘მქისე’, ‘დაკოჟრებული’, or ‘ხეშეში’? ...

The above-cited words are translational equivalents of ‘**rough**’ in specific contexts, they are words with more specific contents and do not equate with the definition of ‘**rough**’ cited above. ‘*ოღროხოლო*’, ‘*ხეშეში*’, ‘*მქისე*’, ‘*დაკოჟრებული*’ are translational/contextual equivalents of ‘**rough**’, whereas the Georgian equivalent of the meaning itself is selected with the maximum approximation to the English definition: *უსწორმასწორო, ხორკლიანი, უხეში/არაგლუვი ზედაპირის მქონე.*

It should be noted, that the Comprehensive Georgian-English Dictionary published under the general editorship of Donald Rayfield does not indicate the English word '**rough**' as an equivalent of any of these Georgian words.

E.g.

მქისე *coarse, uncouth*

ხეშეში *coarse (cloth); dry and hard (leather, wool)*

დაკოჭრებული *calloused (skin).*

ოდროზოდრო *uneven, bumpy*

Rough უსწორმასწორო, ხორკლიანი, უხეში / არაგლუვი ზედაპირის მქონე; *rough road* ოდროზოდრო გზა; *rough edges [surface]* უსწორმასწორო კიდეები [ზედაპირი]; *rough skin* ხორკლიანი / ხეშეში კანი; *rough cloth* უხეში / მქისე ქსოვილი; *rough hands* უხეში / დაკოჭრებული ხელები.

Thus, in the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary we distinguish

equivalent of meaning

and

translational/contextual equivalent.

The goal of the editors of the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary has always been to describe the equivalence between the English and Georgian languages on a **more general, systemic level** of the two languages, rather than give only Georgian equivalents of English words found in specific, particular contexts.

I would like to dwell on several typical cases:

1. At times, the meaning of an English word is so broad as compared with the Georgian meaning that it comprises several Georgian words; e.g.

Facility (facilities) *buildings, services, equipment, etc. that are provided for a particular purpose.*

Squawk *a loud grating call or cry of birds (parrots, seagulls, peacocks, etc).*

In such cases, those Georgian words are given by the editors as equivalents of the meaning, which are comprised by the meaning of the English word in question.

E.g.

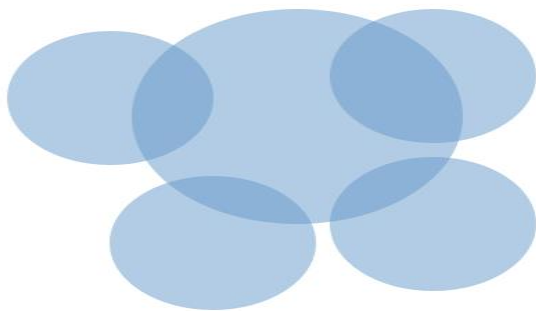
Facility (facilities) *ნაგებობა, ობიექტი; ტერიტორია, ადგილი; სათავსო, ოთახი (ამა თუ იმ დანიშნულებისა).*

or

A short explanation, followed by other Georgian words, is composed to serve as an equivalent of the English meaning.

E.g. **Squawk** *ხმამაღალი, მკვეთრი ხმის გამოცემა (გამოსცემს); ჩხავილი, კივილი, ყივილი, ყიყინი, კრიახი და ა.შ.*

Graphically, this may be represented in the following way:



2. The meaning of an English word may be rather narrow.

E.g. **rough** *having large and dangerous waves (of sea)*.

In such cases, the Georgian equivalent of a meaning is supplied with an appropriate additional clarification in brackets: *აბობოქრებული (ითქმის ზღვის შესახებ)*.

rough *wild and with storms (of weather)*.

ქარიშხლიანი (ითქმის ამინდის შესახებ).

3. Such additional clarifications are frequent in the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary, which has set as its specific goal to make to the maximum degree possible the meaning of English words understandable to the Georgian users; e.g.

squeamish *ნერვიული, ზიზღიანი, ადვილად რომ ხდება ცუდად (რაიმე არასასიამოვნოს, განსაკ. სისხლის დანახვაზე)*.

4. Frequently, we chose as an equivalent of a meaning the word (or words) with more general meanings that is (are) most informative for dictionary users; e.g.

to mar is rendered in Georgian by general equivalents: *gaputcheba, dazianeba* ('to spoil', 'to damage'). In the illustrative phrases: *to mar one's joy; to mar one's happiness; small-pox marred her face; smth. mars the beauty of the landscape* - the entry word **to mar** is translated by different contextual equivalents: *chamtsareba* (lit. 'embittering'); *chrdilis miqeneba* (lit. 'casting shadow'); *dakenkva* (lit. 'disfiguring with pock-marks'); *daushnoeba* ('making smb., smth. ugly'). These translational equivalents provide good, literary translations of English phrases and sentences into Georgian in particular contexts, thus providing different single lexical equivalents for the English word **to mar**.

Escape *თავის არიდება (აარიდებს), თავიდან აცილება, აცდენა (საფრთხისა, უსიამოვნებისა და ა.შ.); to escape a blow დარტყმის აცდენა; to escape punishment ◦ სასჯელს დაუძვრა, დაუსჯელი დარჩა; they escaped suspicion მათზე ეჭვიც კი არავის მიუტანია; they barely escaped with their lives ≅ სულზე გაასწრეს, ძლივს დააღწიეს თავი; he narrowly escaped being drowned ბეჭვზე გადარჩა დახრჩობას.*

5. Several Georgian synonymous words may be represented as the equivalents of a meaning; e.g.

delicate დახვეწილი, ნატიფი, ფაქიზი; *delicate taste* დახვეწილი გემოვნება; *delicate mind* რაფინირებული გონება; *delicate style* დახვეწილი/ფილიგრანული სტილი; *delicate hint* მოხდენილი გადაკვრა (სიტყვისა); *delicate wine* ნაზი ბუკეტის მქონე ღვინო; *delicate casket* ნატიფი ზარდახშა; *delicate operation* ვირტუოზული ოპერაცია; *delicate lace* ნატიფად ნაქსოვი მაქმანი; *delicate features* დახვეწილი/ნატიფი სახის ნაკვთები; *delicate figure* წერწეტა/კენარი ტანი.

6. An equivalent of an English word is often explanatory; e.g.

Rewarding ღირებული, მნიშვნელოვანი; სულიერი, მორალური კმაყოფილება რომ მოაქვს; მასზე დახარჯულ დროდ, ენერგიად, ფულად რომ ღირს; *a rewarding book* ყურადსაღები / ღირებული წიგნი; წიგნი, რომლის წაკითხვაც ღირს.

Privacy პირადი ცხოვრების ხელშეუხებლობა (საზოგადოების ჩარევისაგან).

Equivalents of explanatory type are used when English concepts are not lexicalized in Georgian, or when the overlap between the English and Georgian meanings is very insignificant.

The most detailed possible representation of the meanings of English words is achieved in the Dictionary by means of combining equivalents of meanings with translational/contextual equivalents. Consequently, the **illustrative material** becomes vitally important for the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary and is heavily relied upon. On the one hand, context is shown in order to provide dictionary users with contextual equivalents of an English word, which are indispensable for grammatically adequate, competent translation; e.g.

Facility ნაგებობა, ობიექტი; ტერიტორია, ადგილი; სათავსო, ოთახი (ამა თუ იმ დანიშნულებისა); *a military facility* სამხედრო ობიექტი; *a storage facility* სასაწყობო სათავსო / ფართი, საწყობი; *a parking facility* ავტომანქანის სადგომი / დასაყენებელი ადგილი; *a research facility* კვლევითი დაწესებულება; *a medical facility* სამედიცინო დაწესებულება.

On the other hand, the editors of the CEGD have always regarded illustrative material as an important component of highlighting the meaning of English words. In many cases, the meaning of a word is fully revealed by means of illustrative material; e.g.

reverberate დიდი რეზონანსის / გამოძახილის ქონა (აქვს), დიდი ზემოქმედების / გავლენის მოხდენა / ქონა.

As we have seen above, none of these words is an equivalent of the English word 'reverberate'. Consequently, the semantic value of the English word is fully revealed in the relevant illustrative material. The first example - *the surge in US share prices reverberated across the global financial world* ამერიკულ აქციებზე ფასების უეცარმა გაზრდამ უდიდესი ზეგავლენა მოახდინა მსოფლიო ფინანსურ სამყაროზე / შეაზანზარა მსოფლიო ფინანსური სამყარო - shows one component of the English definition, namely:

'to have a strong effect on people over a large area'; whereas the second illustration - *the events of the September 11 will reverberate through history* ისტორია არასოდეს დაივიწყებს 11 სექტემბრის მოვლენებს - highlights the second aspect of the English definition, namely *'to have a strong effect on people for a long time'*.

Thus, the editors of the Comprehensive English-Georgian Dictionary distinguish between equivalents of the meaning of a word and its translational/contextual equivalents. They have developed the technique of combining equivalents of meaning (informatively more valuable or explanatory equivalents of lexical units) with translational equivalents represented in numerous illustrative phrases and sentences.

We must mention separately the issue of equivalence at the level of polysemantic word. It should be noted that Georgian and English words have different polysemantic meanings. Here the degree of convergence is very low; e.g.

eruption ამოხეთქა (ვულკანისა); ამოფრქვევა, ამოტყორცნა (ლავისა, ფერფლისა);

ცეცხლის ალის ამოვარდნა;

წყლის გამოხეთქა/წყლის მიერ ჯებირის და ა.შ. გარღვევა;

გრძნობების და ა.შ. ამოხეთქა/ მოზღვაება;

ეპიდემიის გაჩენა; ომის ატყდომა;

ერთბაშად, უხვად ამოსვლა (კვირტებისა, შტოებისა, ფესვებისა და ა.შ.);

კანზე გამოყრა.

კბილების ამოჭრა/ამოსვლა.

This results in one English word with multiple Georgian correspondences and vice versa – one Georgian word with multiple English correspondences.

The combination of equivalents of meaning and translational/contextual equivalents, the application of certain principles of explanatory dictionaries and careful selection of illustrative material enable us to fully expound the meanings of English words and to most adequately describe all aspects, all nuances of the meaning. This is the novelty introduced by our team in English-Georgian lexicography.

