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## **Some Problems of the Terminological and Translatological Analysis of a Detective Novel Written by M.C. Beaton Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death**

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### **Abstract**

This paper deals with some problems of the terminological and translatological analysis of a detective novel written by M. C. Beaton, the title is Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death. The Slovak translation was done by Emília Perez by the title Agatha Raisinová a otrávený koláč. Detective fictions are very popular literature for all age categories in all parts of our planet. The modern detective stories contain terms from different activities of human being and therefore the translators are very often solving the problems of translating them from source to target language. In our contribution we would like to point out some results of our research of the translation the terms of law, medicine, tourism, botany, toponymy and culture from English language to Slovakian language.

**Keywords:** term, terminology, detective novel, translation, legal term, medical term, appellations, ethnonyms, geographic names.

### **1. Introduction**

The main aim of this contribution is to evaluate the terminological and translatological analysis of the chosen detective novel and to make a conclusion about the results of the research. The text of the novel belongs to the literary texts and therefore it contains terminology from different fields such as law, leisure, travelling, tourisms and geography, tourist places of London and Oxfordshire. From the point of view term formation we can recognise the use of terms that are translating by existing terms. Our main target is to find out if the terms are translated into target language by terms or another translatological method is used.

### **2. Results and discussion**

#### **M.C. Beaton the author of detective novels**

The real name of the author is Marion Gibbons, her made name is Mc Chesney. She was born in Scotland, Glasgow in 1936. She is famous as writer of romance and mystery novels. Her first novels were published in 1979. She was using different pseudonyms, for example Helen Crampton, Ann Fairfax, Jennie Tremaine, Marion Chesney, Charlotte Ward and Sarah Chester. Pseudonym M.C. Beaton was used for popular mystery novels when the main character is Agatha Raisin. Agatha Raisin series consist of 27 mystery novels. The first one Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death was published in 1992 and in 2016 was published Pushing up daises.

To the Slovak language were translated four of them by Slovakian translator Emília Peréz (Janecová) and the mystery novel Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death was published in the Czech Republic in Prague by Publishing House Motto in 2013.

Marion Gibbons is a popular British writer of detective novels; during her life she had different professions, book seller, theatre critics, editor and newspaper journalist. Big influence on her life has her husband Harry Scott Gibbons, who was the Middle East correspondent. Her personal life has some common features with famous detective writer Agatha Christie. She was travelling a lot with her husband and son Charles. They stayed for a period in the USA and also

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France. In the United Kingdom they were staying in London and in their cottage house in Cotswold. In all series with Agatha Raisin we can notice common features of Marion Gibbons and the stories very often reflect her real life.

The detective story Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death took place in the village of Carsely and surrounding villages of Cotswolds, Oxfordshire. The main character is Agatha Raisin. She has sold her successful company for public relation in London and has moved to Cotswolds. She would like to take an active life in her new place of living and therefore she had decided to take part at the annual competition of baking cakes. She is very bad cook and so she had decided to cheat and had bought a spinach quiche in a bakery in London. Unfortunately, one of the arbiters of the competition had died after tasting of her quiche and she was a potential candidate for murderer. She with her neighbour had solved the detective problem and had found the real murderer. The book is a typical modern detective story with all attributes.

### **Terminology as a separate scientific discipline and its basic resources**

For a last couple of years we have dealt with terminology as a new modern scientific discipline. It became the separate discipline in the last century thanks to the big support of international organisations such as The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO and also with the support of such organizations as INFOTERM. All around the world documents are systematically published to guide the development and management of terminology. Theoretical works of such authors as Bowker, Lynch, Merritt, Picht, Cabré, Temmerman, Wright and Kageura are often presented and studied. Almost every country has various institutions dealing with terminology, which can be commissions within the respective ministries.

### **ISO 704 standard**

While processing and exploring the terminology in the detective novel, we have followed one of the fundamental materials for the field of terminology, the STN ISO 704 (01 0013) standard under the Slovakian title Terminologická práca. Princípy a metódy (Terminology work – Principles and methods). This standard is considered one of the most widely used study materials for terminology in various fields of science. Thus, when analysing the terminology in the selected detective novel, we mainly followed this, we believe, most accurate standard in scientific research of this type nowadays.

### **Terminology and its translation in selective detective story**

Before starting of our analysis of our research it is necessary mention some of the basic rules of translation methods using in the process of translation. “Translation is a process of communication with the objective of translating to impart the knowledge of the original to the foreign reader.” Taking into consideration the working situation of the translator, the translator is always solving problem when is making decisions of choosing the appropriate equivalent in concrete text. (Biloveský, Djovčoš, 2013: 65).

According to another world famous expert on theory of translation Nord, the translator is always dealing with “the greatest possible correspondence between source text and target text.” (Nord, 1991: 22).

According to Spanish expert on translation and terminology Cabré: “Translation is a process aimed at facilitating communication between speakers of different languages. Translation implies understanding the source text and this requires knowledges of the specific terms of the source and target languages.” (Cabré, 1999: 47).

The detective story contains terms from law tourism, medicine, botanic, culture, media and sociology. The text was full of appellations, such as toponyms, ethnonyms and names of public spaces, bodies, institutions and organisations, program and product names, position titles, social phenomena and document names. The most frequent appellations were toponyms, ethnonyms and names of public spaces, position titles, bodies, institutions and organisations, social phenomena, program and product names and document names. We used online databases [www.iate.eu](http://www.iate.eu) and also [www.eurovoc.europa.eu](http://www.eurovoc.europa.eu) and monolingual and bilingual and specialized dictionary in a particular subject field.

In our article we would like to pay attention to legal terms and their translation into Slovak language. The novel contains totally 388 legal terms. Frequently used legal terms were verb *accuse*, Latin origin; noun *assault*, Latin origin; noun *attack*, Florentine Italian, *culprit*, Anglo-French origin; *inquest* Old French; *marriage*, Old French origin; *summon*, Latin origin; *warrant*, German origin.

In general we can summarise the origin of legal terms in chosen novel as mostly Latin, Late Middle English, Germanic, Old French, Florentine Italian, Anglo-Latin and Medieval Latin. The result of our research confirms the ideas of our specialists on Legal English Bázlik and Ambrus: "The reasons for this special character of legal English are manifold. One of them is the history of law in the British Isles, where Roman law has not been adopted in contrast to many countries in continental Europe, where it still forms one of the sources of the law." (Bázlik, Ambrus, 2008: 11).

The legal terms used in detective novel belong to criminal law. This is typical features for all detective stories. As examples we can mentioned: *accused of murder*, *armed robbery*, *assailant*, *assault*, *attack*, *blackmail*, *burglar*, *crime*, *criminal*, *criminal record*, *deception*, *evidence*, *fingerprints*, *guilty*, *investigate*, *investigation*, *motive*, *murder*, *murderer*, *murderess*, *proof*, *suspect*, *victim* and *warrant*.

In the next part of our contribution we would like to pay attention to the translational processes used in our novel translated into the Slovakian language.

General principle is based on the rule to translate the English legal term by the Slovak legal term. This method is typical for translation by direct equivalent. According to our research in the text were 83 terms, recurrence of terms were 388; legal English terms and 67 from them were translated by direct equivalent into Slovak language, that means it is 80.72 %.

In the next part of our contribution we can give examples from the original text and their translation into Slovak language.

1. "Mrs. Cummings-Browne, said Agatha, I know you murdered your husband." (Beaton, 2004: 220).

"Pani Cummings-Brownová, začala Agatha, viem, že ste zavraždili svojho manžela." (Beaton, 2013, p. 180).

2. "You're a heavy woman. But you'll be pleased to know that Vera Cummings-Browne is under arrest, although whether she'll stay trail is another matter." (Beaton, 2004: 225).

"Ste poriadne ťažká. Ale určite vás poteší, že sme zatkli Veru Cummings-Brownovú, hoci ešte uvidíme, či sa celá záležitosť dostane pred súd." (Beaton, 2013, p. 185).

3. "Perhaps I might be able to help you with some of your cases?" (Beaton, 2004: 228).

"Možno by som vám mohla pomôcť s nejakými prípadmi?" (Beaton, 2013: 188).

Our research of selected detective story confirms that the most frequent method of translation of legal terms from English into the Slovak language was used the method by the translation by direct equivalent. The original text is written in English used in the United Kingdom and also the story took place on this territory and therefore it is used mostly British legal language and the most understandable method is therefore to use translation by direct equivalent.

In the next part of our contribution we would like to pay attention to the translation of medical terms in our selected detective story. In the story were used 40 medical term, their total recurrence of medical terms were total 196. Some of them were Latin, Modern Latin, Greek, Arabic, Old English, Late Latin, Germanic and Middle English origin. The terms with the highest frequency were *ambulance*, *body*, *death*, *hospital*, *stroke* and *pathologist*. The translator used the method by direct equivalent in 75 %.

In the searching translation of chosen detective story we had studied also terms from leisure, travel and tourism, business, botany, culture, media and sociology. After our research we can confirm that the rate of all mentioned terms were 79.80 %.

The detective novel took place mostly in London and the Carsey and area of Cotswolds. There were a large number of appellations, such as toponyms, ethnonyms and different names of public spaces. Some of the were Germanic, Latin, Old Spanish, Anglo-Saxon, Old English, Middle English, Late Latin, French, Italian, Old English Saxon, West Germanic, Persian, Greek, Arabic Celtic and Norse origin. Total numbers of appellations were 51 and their recurrence was 309. Of course, London was the most frequent toponyms in the story, it appeared 77 times. The next one was Cotswolds, which was mentioned 30 times. From the point of view translation studies it is

interesting the search that the translator in the Slovakian translation very often had left the original English version of the appellation, for example Bayswater, Bond Street, Constitution Hill, East Anglia, Embankment, Hyde Park, Knightsbridge, London Bridge, Oxford Street and Salisbury Plain. On the other hand some of the toponyms were translated by traditional Slovakian translation used for long period Thames Temža, Tuscany, Toskánsko, British Isles, Britské ostrovy, Trafalgar Square Trafalgarské námestie. Our research confirmed that the Slovakian translator was using the method of exotization; the majority of appellations were left in English language. The today's reader in the Slovak Republic is different than it was probably 30 years ago, and the translator proposed to use the method of naturalization in these cases is not convenient. Official Slovakian geographical names for appellation were used very rare. This was the direct decision of translator Emília Janecová (Perez).

### 3. Conclusion

The modern detective stories contain a large number of terms from different field of human activities, such as law, tourism medicine, travelling, business, economy, botany, culture, media terms, sociology, toponymy, and ethnology, military terms and therefore it is necessary to study terminology and the method of its translation from English language into the Slovak language. It is also a question how this translation from source to target language influences the Slovak reader. This can be a motive for our next research in translation methods used in detective stories.

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