

General and translational characteristics of the Macedonian orthodox terminology

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- **Challenges when translating a religious text:**
- The nature of the translating process;
- Cultural, geographic and other differences;
- The fidelity to the Word of God;
- High sensitivity of the target public etc.

- *Because of the complexity of religious texts translation the terminologist's role can be of great importance*
- *Terminology analysis can solve a great deal of some translator's dilemmas*

**we can't put a strict line between the orthodox terminology and the Christian terminology in general*

**object –Macedonian orthodox terms and their French and English equivalents*

Characteristics of orthodox terms

1. Orthography
2. Etymology
3. Complex form (compound terms)
4. Lexical (terminology) gaps

Orthographic characteristics of orthodox terms

- The specific orthography is in function of expressing the piety for some supreme religious concepts
- use of **capital letter** when writing about God and His hypostasis, even when it comes to the personal pronouns and possessive pronouns and adjectives

Examples: на англиски не пишуваат голема буква?

- *Adjectives written with capital letters:*
- *Свет дух –Saint –Esprit- Holy Spirit*

Etymology specifics

- **Greek terms** –
- Macedonian : апокалипса, икона, литургија / керигма, доксологија, хипостаза, тронар
- French: *apocalypse, icône, liturgie / kérigme, doxologie, hypostase, tropaire, //*
- English: apocalypse, icon, liturgy / kerygma, doxology, hypostasis, Troparion,
- *High level of equivalence in Macedonian, French and English*

- In France – a numerous orthodox community (Saint Serge Institute in Paris)
- The need of expressing orthodox concepts in French results in *the use of Greek terms in orthodox contexts – Théotokos besides mère de Dieu, la Vièrge*
- *Thus opening the door towards the individualization of the orthodox terminology in French*
- *на англиски isto e Theotokos*

Hebrew, Latin and Italian terms

- Hebrew terms : practically identical in all three languages
- *месија - le messi – the messiah ; херувими –chérubins- cherubim; / серафими -séraphins - seraphim*
- *Алелуја- alléluia – alleluia /; осана- hosanna - hosanna*
- There are some contemporary French and English equivalents whereas in Macedonian- only the Hebrew word
- *амен – amen (Ainsi soit-il) - amen*
- *Саваот -Dieu de l'univers –God of Hostes*
- Latin terms-rare-calque of a Greek word

консубстанцијалност –consubstantialité –consubstantial (transcribed : филиокве -filioque/ the hymne Санктус/Sanctus)

- Italian terms –art concepts -*фреска - fresque - fresco= a fresco*
Мандорла - mandorle – mandorla =mandorla (almond shape frame)

Old Church Slavonic terms

- Predominant in the Macedonian orthodox terminology
- Archaic and poetic stylistic nuance: *благодат, благолепие, богослужение, созерцание,*
- This nuance is rarely transferred in the translation
- English and French equivalents :
- *Благодат* - *grâce* –grace
- *Благолепие* – *beauté* –(well –ordered) beauty
- *Богослужение* – *office divin-religious service* (боголсужба)
- *Созерцание* – *contemplation*
- In French only one term *moleben* –in English generic term -prayer

Compound terms

- Very frequent
- Usually, one or both elements of the compound term are Old Church Slavonic terms
- Very specific stylistic nuance/not used in the every day language/poetic and archaic
- *Богопознание, целомудренность, благоразумность*
- God's attributes: *промислител , седржител*

Translation solutions for the compound terms

- Contemporary terms that are not poetic or archaic:

целомудреност, благоразумност - sobriété, chasteté, moderation – chastity, moderation

Промислител -sage

- Paraphrase

Богопознание - connaissance de Dieu-knowledge of God

- Greek terms bringing the archaic tone to the translation

Седржумел - pantokrator (tout puissant) - pantokrator (almighty, all-powerfull)

Lexical gabs

- Concepts characteristic for the orthodox tradition not existing in non-orthodox countries
- -translation with generic term *нана* – *voile* – *veil* , *кувом* - *boîte* –*box*, *chest*
- Borrowed term *iourodivy* in *French* (*not adapted to the language grammar*) –*foolishness for Christ* (*paraphrase*)
- *бројаница* -*Tchotki* –*prayer rope*

Conclusion

- Because of the concepts they are referring to the terms have characteristic form:
 - use of a capital letter
 - complex and compound terms
 - etymology rendering the terms unspecific for the lexical or the grammar system of the language

Conclusion

- Translation problems
 - Church Slavonic etymology implying poetic and archaic nuance difficult to transfer
 - Compound terms - paraphrases
 - Lexical gaps – generic terms / paraphrases

Thank you for your attention!