COMPACTNESS IN ENGLISH AS VIEWED BY A TRANSLATOR

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In linguistic literature references are often made to such properties of the language as "economy", "compression", "condensation" or "compactness" which are sometimes understood as synonyms. A closer look at what lies behind these terms reveals a picture which is far from being simple.

Economy, the most general term in this list, denotes a universal tendency present in all languages. It is regarded as one of the factors in language development, especially in the history of phonological systems where it is also termed the law of least effort [Мартине, 1960, p. 126]. Synchronically economy can be viewed as reduction of redundancy in language with the effect of making only those distinctions which are necessary for efficient communication [Hartman, Stock, 1976, p. 74]. We can distinguish between paradigmatic and syntagmatic economy. Paradigmatic economy is the reduction of constituent elements within the language system, syntagmatic economy is the reduction of constituent elements (words, morphemes, phonemes) in a speech chain [Мартине, 1963, p. 532–534].

Economy in speech may be studied from two different points of view: from the point of view of stylistics and from the point of view of translation. The same information can be expressed by language means in a more concise or in a more expanded way. Economy of a linguistic structure, therefore, becomes obvious when we compare at least two structures. Those are either two variant structures of one and the same language or two variant structures in two different languages. In both cases, the information underlying the two variant structures remains invariant.

Stylistics is interested in variant structures of the same language as they emerge in different functional styles or variants of that language. In general, "economy or brevity of expression" is a much prized feature of any style.

Translation is interested in variant structures of two different languages: one structure may turn out to be more economical than the other. It is common knowledge that translations very often are somewhat longer than their originals. This tendency to greater length is due essentially to the fact that a translator is obliged to make explicit in the target language text what could very well remain implicit in the

source language text [Nida, Taber, 1969, p. 163–165]. Two possibilities are open to a translator who seeks to avoid excessive lengthening of the target text. The first one is "compression"; it is usually understood as a number of certain techniques in translation (elimination of semantically redundant elements, contraction of word groups into words etc.) which help to abbreviate the target text [Швейцер, 1973, p. 199–206; Бархударов, 1975, p. 230; Денисенко, 1975, p. 138–141]. In synchronic translation compression can be used to abbreviate the source text [Миньяр-Белоручев, 1980, p. 188–192].

The second possibility open to a translator when faced with the danger of excessive lengthening of the target text is an effective use of all the economic potentials of the target language. In different languages economy may manifest itself in a different way: e. g., one language may express its economic potential through various syntactical structures, the other may rely more heavily on the morphological devices. To avoid confusion with the term "compression", which is sometimes understood as a characteristic feature of one language and missing in another [Левицкая, Фитерман, 1979, p. 51–64], we shall use the term "compactness" to describe the manifestation of the universal tendency of economy in speech. Compactness, in fact, can be viewed as a system of condensers which are evident on all language levels.

The present paper is an attempt to examine compactness in English. This can be best done by placing the English examples against their Lithuanian equivalents in translation. Though the major part of our material has been drawn from translations from English into Lithuanian, our aim is to show the most characteristic condensers of the English language for a translator who will have to translate from Lithuanian into English.

Compactness will be understood as the minimal use of constituent elements (words) in a phrase, clause or a sentence for the expression of a given information.

One of the spheres where compactness of English manifests itself most conspicuously is syntax. The compact structure of the English sentence has been pointed out more than once by many linguists [Curme, 1931, p. 176; Jespersen, 1935, p. 181–182; Mathesius, 1975, p. 146–153; Vachek, 1976, p. 337–352]. Among the syntactical condensers the non-finites occupy a special place. Predicative constructions or complexes with the non-finites are frequently termed condensed clauses [Bryant, 1945, p. 105–108], abridged clauses [Curme, 1931, p. 176] or condensers [Vachek, 1975, p. 106]. The constructions with the non-finites in English usually help to avoid a subordinate clause, thus making the structure of the sentence tighter and more economical. The compact nature of these constructions becomes obvious when they are placed against their Lithuanian equivalents.

The English Nominative with the Infinitive (Participle) is equivalent to a Lithuanian subject clause in impersonal sentences. Cf.:

The pilot could be heard singing faintly. (J. Ch., p. 140)

Buvo girdėti, kaip tyliai dainuoja pilotas. (Am. N., p. 366)

Walter Scott may be said to have invented the historical novel. (S. H. E. L., p. 240)

Galima sakyti, kad Valteris Skotas yra istorinio romano pradininkas.

The English Accusative with the Infinitive (Participle) is equivalent to a Lithuanian object clause. Cf.:

Through one of the broken panes I heard the rain impinge upon the earth. (J. J., p. 58)

Pro išdaužtą lango stiklą girdėjau, kaip lietus plaka žemę. (A. N., p. 248)

She saw her mother purse her lips and fold her hands together. (M. I. A., p. 208)

Ji matė, kaip motina sučiaupia lūpas ir susideda rankas. (A. N., p. 528)

The English "for + Infinitive" as well as other infinitival, gerundial and participial constructions are usually equivalent to Lithuanian predicative or attributive clauses. Cf.:

The project seemed sufficiently vague for me to feel it wiser not to interfere. (G. Y., p. 13)

Tas projektas, mano supratimu, buvo toks miglotas, jog man atrodė geriau visai nesikišti. (S. P. T., p. 12)

He was not a man to experiment with acquaintances. (M. I. A., p. 182)

Jis buvo ne iš tų, kurie žaidžia pažintimis. (A. N., p. 306)

He said his government intended to seek ways for improving cooperation with the Soviet Union. (M. S.)

Jis pasakė, kad jo šalies vyriausybė ketina ieškoti būdų, kaip pagerinti bendradarbiavimą su Tarybų Sąjunga.

The Soviet news agency TASS said the aim of the Soyuz-81 manoeuvres, involving forces from the Soviet Union, Poland, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, had been achieved. (M. S.)

TASS pranešė, kad manevrai Sojuz-81, kuriuose dalyvavo Tarybų Sąjungos, Lenkijos, Vokietijos Demokratinės Respublikos ir Čekoslovakijos kariuomenės dalys, savo tikslą pasiekė.

The above condensers are especially favoured by the style of scientific prose and newspapers. The Accusative with the Infinitive can also be found in the style of imaginative literature.

Another important condenser in English is a prepositional phrase. Its equivalents in Lithuanian are either attributive clauses, extended postpositional attributes or, occasionally, constructions with the non-finites. Cf.:

We know of no system of writing with a history of more than six or seven thousand years. (J. L., p. 39)

Mes nežinome nė vienos rašto sistemos, kuri turėtų senesnę nei 6000 ar 7000 metų istoriją.

Glasgow has one of the finest municipal art collections in Great Britain, with a particularly rich representation of French Impressionist works. (Sc., p. 90)

Glazge yra vienas geriausių Didžiojoje Britanijoje valstybinių meno muziejų, turintis ypač turtingą prancūzų impresionistų paveikslų kolekciją.

Another syntactical structure where compactness of English manifests itself is the attributive word combination. This type of combination, in general, is one of the most condensed structures in any language [Miles, 1969, p. 190–207].

English attributive combinations of the type N+N and Adj. / Part. + N are, in fact, compressed attributive groups with some of their semantic components having no expression on the surface structure [Бархударов, 1975, p. 221–226]. The suppressed components of these groups emerge in translation: Lithuanian generally requires an explicit expression of all the semantic components of such groups. Cf.:

He threw the picture of Berwick-on-Tweed into his November fire. (M. I. A., p. 182)

Jis nusviedė Berviko vaizdelį į besikūrenantį (buvo lapkritis) židinį. (A. N., p. 306)

They had walked that day from Brent, intending to make Chagford but Ashurst's football knee had given out. (M. E. S. S., p. 136)

Jie ėjo tą dieną pėsčiomis iš Brento, ketindami pasiekti Šegfordą, bet Ešerstui ėmė skaudėti futbolo rungtynėse užgautą kelią. (A. N., p. 121)

A ceasefire agreement was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973. (M. S.)

1973 m. sausio 27 d. Paryžiuje buvo pasirašytas susitarimas dėl ugnies nutrauki-

car workers — automobilių pramonės darbininkai

freight costs — krovinių pervežimo kainos

international attention — pasaulio visuomenės dėmesys

The absolute construction in English is another condenser on the syntactical level. Its equivalents in Lithuanian are either subordinate or coordinate clauses. Cf.:

She was waiting for us, her figure defined by the light from the half-opened door. (J. J., p. 58)

Ji laukdavo mūsų, ir šviesa, sklindanti pro praviras duris, apibrėždavo jos siluetą. (A. N., p. 247)

It was a hot evening in June, and the windows stood wide open, with the shutters half closed for coolness. (T. G., p. 7)

Buvo karštas birželio vakaras, langai plačiai atidaryti, o langinės privertos, kad būtų vėsiau. (G., p. 8)

The above instances show that on the syntactical level compactness in English manifests itself above all in the ability of the language to eliminate certain types of subordinate clauses, in the majority of cases attributive clauses, occasionally, object clauses.

Another area where language economy manifests itself is morphology, especially word-building. With a limited number of root-morphemes, any language can build a great number of new words with the help of various word-building devices. A large number of English prefixal and suffixal derivates have no lexical equivalents in Lithuanian. Translation of such derivates usually results in a considerable expansion of the Lithuanian sentence. Among the most compact prefixal derivates are those with the prefixes *dis-*, *em-*, *en-*, *mis-*, *out-*, *re-*, *un-* etc. Cf.:

Births in 1977 outnumbered deaths. (M. S.)

1977 metais gimimų skaičius žymiai pranoko mirimų skaičių.

I have been re-reading your novels, living in them, I might say. (M. I. A., p. 184)

Iš naujo skaitinėju tamstos romanus – taip sakant, juose gyvenu. (A. N., p. 308)

I was very unapproachable at that time... (G. Y., p. 10)

Tomis dienomis su manimi ir taip buvo sunku susišnekėti. (S. P. T., p. 9)

Especially great compactness in English can be achieved by means of various suffixal derivates. Cf.:

Some 4,000 lakes in Sweden are fishless. (N. G.)

Maždaug 4000 Švedijos ežerų visai nesiveisia žuvys.

Motorists are driving too quickly and bunching so closely together that sudden unexpected stops are causing avoidable accidents. (M. S.)

Automobilistai važiuoja tokiu dideliu greičiu ir taip arti vienas kito, kad, staigiai stabdant, įvyksta avarijos, kurių būtų galima išvengti.

Among the derivates which exhibit greater compactness in comparison with Lithuanian are those with the suffixes *-er*, *-able*, *-ize*, *-less* etc. Interesting instances of compactness can be demonstrated with English adverb derivates with the suffix *-ly*.

The job, admittedly, had been procured for me by an old friend and admirer. (G. Y., p. 10)

Tą darbą, atvirai kalbant, man buvo suradęs senas mano draugas ir garbintojas. (S. P. T., p. 10)

All systems of writing are demonstrably based upon units of spoken language. (J. L., p. 39)

Yra įrodyta, kad visos rašto sistemos sudarytos šnekamosios kalbos vienetų pagrindu.

The above compact adverbial derivates are, in fact, viewpoint adjuncts which all can be expanded into a corresponding participial clause [Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik, 1972, p. 429–430].

Another derivational pattern which helps to achieve considerable compactness of expression in English is conversion. The resultant derivates, especially denominal verbs, help to express the idea very concisely. Their Lithuanian equivalents are, as a rule, two- or three-member word groups. Cf.:

Liza Minnelli starred in the film "Cabaret". (M. S.)

Liza Mineli suvaidino pagrindinį vaidmenį filme „Kabaretas".

Many species of gulls and other sea birds nest around the coast. (Br., p. 6)

Pakrantėje lizdus suka daug kirų ir kitų jūros paukščių.

You ought to know, you fathered me... (M. I. A., p. 191)

O turėtum žinoti – tamsta gi mano gimdytojas... (A. N., p. 314)

to campaign – dalyvauti kampanijoje

to clerk – dirbti klerku

to halve – sumažinti per pusę

to lecture – skaityti paskaitas

to mushroom – pridygti tarsi grybų

to stone – apmėtyti akmenimis

Compactness of English is also evident on the lexical level. Here, however, it does not yield itself to systemic analysis so readily. To get a better understanding of lexical compactness of English, one would have to delve into the problems of nomination or onomatology. Here we shall limit ourselves to a few examples which show greater compactness on the surface level in comparison with their Lithuanian equivalents. Cf.:

He said a curfew would be imposed on Teheran. (M. S.)

Jis pasakė, jog Teherane bus įvesta komendanto valanda.

Commonwealth leaders began their Melbourne summit yesterday... (M. S.)

Vakar Melburne į aukščiausiojo lygio pasitarimą susirinko Britanijos tautų sandraugos šalių vyriausybių vadovai.

Other examples of this type are:

census – *visuotinis gyventojų surašymas*

deadline – *galutinis įvykdymo terminas*

industry – *pramonės šaka*

slick – *naftos dėmė jūroje*

sylo – *raketos paleidimo šachta*

poll – *gyventojų nuomonės apklausa* etc.

In many of the above instances we have the result of "lexical shortening" [Ginzburg, Khidekel, Knyazeva, Sankin, 1979, p. 188] which consists in dropping of one of the elements of an attributive word group. E. g.

branch of industry – *industry*

public opinion poll – *poll*

summit meeting — *summit*
slick of oil — *slick*

The resultant lexical units acquire additional semes which add to a more complex semantic structure of the word. This ability of the naming unit in English to incorporate the meanings of a word combination can partially explain such a widespread phenomenon as the grammatical metaphor and metonymy in English. English exhibits great freedom in the metonymical usage of nouns. Cf.:

More than half of Vancouver is of non-British origin. (N. G.)
Daugiau kaip pusė Vankuverio gyventojų — nebritų kilmės.
During his trip Henry saw two Goyas in Madrid. (N. G.)
Keliaudamas per Madridą, Henris matė du Gojos paveikslus.
Gustav Husak, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, addressed the Congress. (M. S.)
Čekoslovakijos prezidentas Gustavas Husakas kreipėsi į suvažiavimo dalyvius.

In English the inanimate noun is frequently used in the role of the subject. This can be explained by the fact that besides the agentive function, the English subject has the temporal, local, instrumental and other functions [Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartvik, 1972, p. 351–354]. In English "*explosions, earthquakes, fires* and *floods*" can "*destroy, drown, damage* and *kill*", "*meetings* and *demonstration*" can "*protest* and *demand, urge* and *denounce*", "*centuries, years* and *months*" can "*see, witness* and *mark*", "*books* and *reports*" can "*tell, accuse* and *explain*". Translation of these examples from English into Lithuanian involves expansion of the text because the grammatical metaphor and metonymy are less widely used in Lithuanian.

The analysis of compactness in English has shown that:

1. On each level, the language has its own characteristic devices for achieving economy.

2. The scarcity of morphological means necessary for the expression of syntactical relations makes English rely more heavily on the compact structure of the word combination and the sentence.

3. On the syntactical level, compactness works in two directions: a) it leads towards a greater condensation of the syntactical structure of the sentence; this is usually achieved through the elimination of subordinate clauses (attributive, predicative and objective), and their replacement by various constructions with the nonfinites and prepositional phrases; b) compactness also manifests itself in the suppression of certain semantic components of attributive groups in the surface structure.

4. On the morphological level, compactness is achieved through prefixation, suffixation and especially through conversion.

5. On the lexical level, compactness can also manifest itself through the compression of several semantic components of a word group into a single word.

KOMPAKTIŠKUMAS ANGLŲ KALBOJE VERTIMO POŽIŪRIU

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Reziumė

Kalbos ekonomija — universalus reiškinys, tačiau skirtingose kalbose jis gali įgauti skirtingą raišką. Ekonomija akivaizdi kalbos evoliucijoje ir vienoje kurioje nors atskiroje kalbos vystymosi fazėje. Ekonomiją pastebime tiek paradigmatikoje, tiek sintagmatikoje.

Straipsnyje nagrinėjamas kompaktiškumas anglų kalboje vertimo požiūriu. Kompaktiškumas — kalbos ekonomijos pasireiškimas šnekoje. Tai ištisa sistema kompaktiškų raiškos priemonių, kurios aptinkamos visuose kalbos lygmenyse: sintaksėje, morfologijoje ir leksikoje. Sintaksiniame lygmenyje kompaktiškumas reiškiasi kondensuotomis sintaksinėmis struktūromis ir kompleksais su neasmenuojamomis veiksmažodžio formomis (bendratimi, dalyviu ir gerundijumi), kurie leidžia sutraukti šalutinius pažyminio, tarinio ir papildinio sakinius. Morfologiniame lygmenyje derivatai, atsiradę dėl konversijos, yra gana kompaktiški. Įvairios kompaktiškumo apraiškos anglų kalboje daugiausia susijusios su analitiniu tos kalbos pobūdžiu.

ABBREVIATIONS

Am. G.	— An Outline of American Geography. — N. Y., 1977.
Am. N.	— Amerikiečių novelės. — V., 1980.
A. N.	— Anglų novelės. — V., 1982.
Br.	— Britain 1979. An Official Handbook. — L., 1979.
G.	— Voinič E. Gylys. — V., 1982.
G. Y.	— Drabble M. The Garrick Year. — L., 1978.
J. Ch.	— Cheever J. Selected Short Stories. — M., 1980.
J. J.	— Joyce J. Dubliners. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. — M., 1982.
J. L.	— Lyons J. Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics. — Cambridge, 1968.
M. E. S. S.	— Modern English Short Stories. — M., 1961.
M. I. A.	— Making It All Right. Modern English Short Stories. — M., 1978.
M. S.	— Morning Star.
N. G.	— National Geographic.
Sc.	— Scotland. — L., 1974.
S. H. E. L.	— Evans I. A Short History of English Literature. — Penguin Books, 1976.
S. P. T.	— Drebl M. Sezonas provincijos teatre. — V., 1977.
T. G.	— Voynich E. L. The Gadfly. — M., 1954.

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