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TRANSLATION INTO RUSSIAN OF PROPER NAMES IN  
“HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS”

by J.K. ROWLING: CHANGE OF MEANING

*Bachelor's thesis*

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## PREFACE

At all times people liked to read. There is something magical about books, as they attract people's attention with their various stories, interesting plots, characters, words, names. All around the world books go through the process of translation, so the readers of different nationalities can enjoy the same stories. Characters, places, plot details are the things which the reader remembers after reading a book. The theme of the thesis is very topical nowadays as proper names contribute to a better understanding of books' content. Any change of meaning in the process of translation can affect the reader's perception of the characters, places and then the perception of the whole story as the original meaning may be totally different from the translated variant.

The thesis focuses on the analysis of proper names in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" by J.K. Rowling; the book contains symbolic proper names which have their own meaning connected to the storyline. The aim of the thesis is to analyze translation of proper names of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" into the Russian language in both official and unofficial versions and to study any possible loss of meaning in the process of translation.

The structure of the paper is the following: the Introduction, Chapter I, Chapter II and the Conclusion. The Introduction contains the history of translation of the book «Harry Potter and the Chamber of secrets».

Chapter I – "Approaches to Translation of Proper Names in Harry Potter" provides the list of the techniques used in the process of translation.

Chapter II – "Proper names in the Translation Process" contains a more detailed analysis of translation of the character's names. It includes the analysis of a realia-based translation, loss of meaning in the process of translation and the substitution of proper names in the translating process. All the original meanings of proper names are compared with their translated variants and analyzed. It also contains the comparison of original English version and Russian versions and also the later comparison of Russian versions with the aim to investigate which translation is more expressive in terms of language and closer to the original.

The Conclusion summarizes the paper and main points of the analysis and comments on the hypothesis.

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## INTRODUCTION

The book “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” (1998) has its own history which is made of publication of the original English version and different epochs of translation into the Russian language, the most prominent of which are the official “Rosman” (2002) translation and the unofficial translation by Maria Spivak (1998). Each element of the history also includes the following important aspects: name of the author/translator, year of the publication, number and year of republications, audience response and critical reviews. This historical information may be useful to potential readers and people who are already familiar with the book, and this history might contribute to the better understanding of the background of the translating process.

### History of Harry Potter in English

“Harry Potter and the Chamber of secrets” was written by Joanne Rowling who was born in 1965 in Bristol. This book is the dedication to her good friend Sean Harris, whom she called “get-away driver and foul-weather friend”. (Muggle.net, Book Dedications: 4) On July 2, 1998 Rowling's second book in the series, “*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*”, was published in Britain with a first print run of more than 10,000 copies by Bloomsbury publishing company. (Canadian Press 2007). After the publication the book immediately headed the list of the bestsellers and gained a huge amount of fans. Despite all the success, Rowling had some troubles during the process of writing the story. After she had delivered the work to her editor for the first time, Rowling asked if she could take it back as she was not satisfied with the way it had turned out. For more six weeks the author spent her time perfecting it. Mainly she was extremely worried that the story wouldn't leave up to the readers' expectations, because in her opinion the second book is the hardest one to write, but in the end it didn't happen. Even more, a year later in 1999 the American publishing company Scholastic released “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”. Rowling was surprised by the success of her book in the United States as she found it hard to believe that American audience would find British book about boarding school interesting. But it was the story with elements of magic, friendship, love and adventures that captured readers' attention, not the location where action takes place. (Sexton 2008). The book also won several awards, which include Nestlé Smarties Book Prize 1998 Gold Medal 9-11 years, Scottish Arts Council Children's Book Award 1999 FCBG Children's Book Award 1998 Overall winner and Longer Novel Category, British Book Awards 1998 Children's Book of the Year, North East

Book Award 1999, North East Scotland Book Award 1998, The Booksellers Association / The Bookseller Author of the Year 1998, Whitaker's Platinum Book Award 2001.

### **History of Russian Translation**

With all the success in England, Harry Potter books began to be translated into different languages including Russian. “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” was translated into Russian by Foreign Language University professor Marina Litvinova. The book was published in December of 2002 by publishing company “Rosman”. But the Russian version of the book didn’t repeat the success of the original one. The translation received a lot of criticism because of the poor level of translation and context mistakes.

In 2002 the book even got anti-award “Abzac” for bad translation and insufficient editing. The translator was blamed that in the process of translation she lost a lot of sarcastic and humorous elements that were present in English version. Among the reader audience there also was a lot of discontent, as the translation was of a lower level than the original text in terms of perception.

Translation of “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” was also widely spread through the Internet even before the release of official translated version by “Rosman”. The author of the most famous translation is Maria Spivak, who began translating Harry Potter’s story for her family members after she got the first book from America in 2000. She uploaded all the translated materials on her personal site “NII Harry Potter”, which later was shut down because of the copyright issues. She even started using pen name instead of her real one, so she won’t be tracked down by official representatives of “Rosman”. In 2001 Spivak was nominated for award in category “The best translation from English language”.

There were a lot of controversial elements as compared to the official translation by “Rosman” her translation seems to be very different. She is famous for unusual and funny translation of proper names, which make the whole text change its colouring and be perceived by readers in totally different way. In 2002 Magazine “Vlastj” stated that Spivak’s translation contains such features and components which “Rosman’s” translation doesn’t have. Spivak herself thinks that official translators ruined the book because of inappropriate attitude towards translating process. (Babahina 2007)

The history of the translating process usually contains a lot of useful information about a particular book such as “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”. It also covers a lot of problems and controversial issues which may help the readers and other translators to better understand the book’s content. It gives readers variety and freedom of choice as through

comparing information about different versions they can select such translation which is more appealing for them. Reading the book people hardly think about all the hard work that translators do, what response and criticism they receive, therefore doing a little research will help the readers to better understand the background of the translation process and be more informed about the book they are reading.

The hypothesis of the present research is that in the process of translation proper names change or completely lose their meaning, which might affect the perception of them by readers. To prove the hypothesis the translation of proper names in the fantasy book “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” (1998) is analysed.

## CHAPTER I

### APPROACHES TO TRANSLATION OF PROPER NAMES

#### 1.1 Translation Strategies

One of the most difficult tasks that every translator experiences, is the translation of proper names. Especially in children's literature because proper names are usually closely connected to the character and reflect some character traits and features. "Proper names are not like other words translation of which can be easily found in dictionaries. Generally, they "occupy an exceptional position with regard to the language system because of their minimal integration to it" (Jaleniauskienė & Čičelytė 2009)

In the process of translation of proper names authors use different translating methods and strategies. It totally depends on the translator which techniques he/she chooses, what preferences he/she has in terms of translation in order to make final text more appealing to the audience. According to Theo Herman (1988) there are four basic strategies which are widely used in the process of translation of proper names. From the theoretical point of view the first way of transferring proper names from one language to another is to simply copy them. This means that in the translated variant they are presented the same way as they were in the original text. The second option is to transcribe proper names, in other words they are transliterated or adapted on the spelling, phonological and other language levels. If the proper name is formally unrelated, it can be substituted for any given name in the original text. If the name has its own meaning in the lexicon of the language it can simply be translated.

These four strategies may also be combined together as for example proper name can be transcribed or copied and then translated in the reference or footnote to explain its meaning to the reader. There are also several other possibilities of transference of proper names such as non-translations which is exemption of the proper name in the original text from the translated variant. One of the common ways is to substitute a proper name with other noun which may explain character trait or other attribute of the personage. Such ways like insertion of the proper name in the translated text, however there is none in the original variant, or the replacement of the common noun by proper noun are also possible, but they considered to be less common among translators and are used in certain specific contexts. (Aguilera 2008: 3)

Another translation theorist Eirlys E. Davies (Davies 2003) states that there are seven strategies such as: preservation, addition, omission, globalization, localization, transformation and creation.

Preservation is similar to Herman's first strategy and implies that translator just transmits the proper word directly from the original text to the translated one without any explanation or just literary translates it. Other strategy, which is called addition, occurs when translator doesn't change original proper name and keeps it in the target text but includes additional information about it right in the text, footnote or reference, introduction or glossary. To use this strategy translator need to be conversant about things that readers want to see and what additional information to include.

The next strategy which is called omission is totally opposite of the previous one. In this case translator omits the proper word so there is no reference and mention of it in the translated text. This strategy may be reasonable when translator doesn't want to leave in the text some things which are irrelevant to the story or are confusing and inappropriate to the reader.

The fourth strategy is globalization. "The process of replacing culture-specific references with the ones which are more neutral or general" (Davies 2003: 83). Frequently the source text might contain some complex words or specific terminology, therefore when translator substitutes them for a simpler or more neutral word, globalization occurs. The opposite strategy is called localization, when the translator tries to adjust the proper name to the specific audience, taking into the account cultural and moral particular qualities of the group of readers.

The next strategy that Davies presents is transformation which means modification and misinterpretation of the original proper words. "Such alterations [are...] made on the basis of a translator's or editor's judgment of their intended audience's tastes, aptitudes and capacities" (Davies 2003: 86). Creation is the last strategy that Davies describes. It means that translator invents such a word that is not present in the source text and includes it in the translated variant or slightly or totally changes original item (Jaleniauskiene & Čičelytė 2009).

## **1.2 Translation Strategies in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"**

Popularity of Harry Potter books all around the world is a well-known fact, moreover they have been translated into more than 60 languages. But there are some difficulties that may occur in the process of translation and one of them is the huge number of proper names. In the second book of the series the number of characters exceeds one hundred.

"Commenting on proper names used in these books, one has to point out that these are especially exclusive: French, Latin, Scottish, ordinary British, rare British, mythological,



astronomical, imaginary ones, simply copied from maps, humorous, etc. This is the feature that makes the books very original, emotive and intriguing.” (Ibid.)

For the British audience proper names might be simple and understandable, but it is totally opposite for Russian readers, because they need extra explanations understanding hidden meaning and symbolism behind some names.

Translation of proper names from English to Russian will be analysed using Davies strategies as they seem to be more detailed, structured and suitable than Herman’s ones.

### **1.3 Official Translation**

There are a number of different strategies used in the official translation of “Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets”. The most common are the following:

#### *Preservation*

There are number of characters’ names which remain the same and didn’t go through any changes in the process of translation. For example the head of the Gryffindor House Minerva McGonagall in the Russian variant is named the same way but only using Cyrillic symbols – “Минерва МакГонагалл”. The same strategy is used with such characters’ names as Albus Dumbledore, Ron Weasley, Draco Malfoy, Oliver Wood, Hagrid.

But there are also such names which were literary translated entirely or partly, for example Moaning Myrtle in the Russian translation is “Плакса Миртл”, Hagrid’s dog’s name Fang is translated as “Клык”, the ghost of the Gryffindor House Nearly Headless Nick in Russian version is “Почти Безголовый Ник”, Lavender Brown became “Лаванда Браун”.

#### *Addition*

In the beginning of the book, where author explains what previously had happened to Harry, name of the magical school is used. Translator kept it the same as in the original version – Hogwarts, but further in the text she explains the meaning of the word: on the magical language Hogwarts means “Wild boar”. Addition strategy is also used with the word “muggles”, which was also copied from the source text. In the same sentence translator explains that muggles are ordinary people who can’t create magic.

#### *Localization*

Great examples of the localization strategy are such names as Harry Potter and Hermione Granger. Due to the grammatical and phonological reasons these names went through some changes. Harry Potter became “Тарри Поттер”, because in the process of translation English “h” changed to Russian “r”. The same is with Hermione Granger, as in Russian name of the character is “Термиона Грэйнджер”.

### *Transformation*

Probably the most frequent strategy used by the translator after preservation is transformation, which occurs in cases when translator modifies and changes proper names in thinking that they better appeal to the readers.

For example names of the two Houses Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw translated as “Пуффендуй” and “Когтевран”, name of Harry’s owl in English text is Hedwig, but in Russian is “Букля”. The other examples are: Potion Master Severus Snape, who is in Russian “Северус Снегг”, Neville Longbottom – “Невилл Долгопупс”, Gilderoy Lockhart is “Златопуст Локонс”, Professor Sprout is translated as “Профессор Стебль”, Weasley’s family old owl Errol is “Стрелка” in Russian translation.

The one thing that unites all these proper names is that they are symbolic, they tell readers about characters and contribute to a better understanding of them by readers. Translator wanted to show this symbolism and hidden meaning so she modified names according to her vision, she brought characters to life, because their names speak for themselves and are more understandable to the younger readers.

### **1.4 Unofficial Translation**

The most used strategy in the unofficial translation of Maria Spivak is transformation, therefore her variant of the unofficial translation is the most famous and unusual one among the Internet readers, because of her special approach to the translating process.

For example Ron Weasley is translated as “Рон Уэсли”, name of the new professor of Defence Against Dark Arts as was mentioned earlier is Gilderoy Lockhart, but Spivak translated his name as “Сверкароль Чаруальд”, which is totally different from official translation. Name of the Professor Dumbledore is “Думбльдор”, which is similar to the Russian incorrect spelling of the original name. Another great example is the name of the already familiar Potion Master Severus Snape, which in the official translation wasn’t changed a lot, but in Spivak’s version sounds as “Злодеус Злей” and doesn’t have anything in common with the original name and officially translated one. Moaning Myrtle is “Малахольная Миртл”, Dark Lord is translated as “Чёрный Лорд” and Hagrid’s name sounds as “Огрид”.

Another strategy is preservation, which is expressed in the following examples of proper words: the title of the book Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets was literary translated into Russian – “Гарри Поттер и Комната Секретов”, which differs from the official Russian title of the book “Гарри Поттер и Тайная Комната”. Minerva McGonagall

as in the official translation translated the same, it is also relates to characters as Draco Malfoy, Dobby, Lucius Malfoy.

The third strategy that was used in translation is localization. The examples are the same as in the official translation: Harry Potter and Hermione Granger, which were translated as “Гарри Поттер” and “Гермиона Грэнжер”.

As seen from the examples, each translator has her own vision of the book and has different approaches to translation in terms of strategies. "The translation of proper names has often been considered as a simple automatic process of transference from one language into another, due to the view that proper names are mere labels used to identify a person or a thing. Contrary to popular views, the translation of proper names is a non-trivial issue, closely related to the problem of the meaning of the proper name." (Vermees 2003).

Translation of proper names can really be a challenge, because proper words might contain some important information, and translators' main task is to notice this information and use it correctly. The big help for the translator is the usage of different strategies, which he/she chooses according to personal preference.

## CHAPTER II

### PROPER NAMES IN THE TRANSLATION PROCESS

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss different attitudes to translation of proper names and to analyse change of meaning in the process of translation using concrete examples from the book “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” and its official and unofficial Russian translations.

#### 2.1 Attitudes to Translation

Each translator has his/her own attitude to translation and according to that the final result of translation may be different from what author wanted to tell the readers in the source text. It may affect the whole perception of the story. Especially it concerns proper names and characters’ names in particular. What if the character’s name would be totally different from what the reader saw for the first time? The character would be seen differently, because the name determines everything, such as traits of character, aura and even some future actions, profession and even looks.

According to Master’s thesis „Harry Potter and the challenges of translation: Treatment of personal names in the Finnish and German translations of the three first Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling“ (2010) by Katri Mäkinen, each translator at first is reader of Source text and he/she sees the text in particular way, has his/her own vision. Translator’s social and cultural background, previous work experience, expectations about future translation and even mood are important factors which play significant role in the process of translation. According to Hatim and Mason (1990: 10),

G. Steiner (1975) points out (...) [that] each act of reading a text is in itself an act of translation, i.e. an interpretation. We seek to recover what is ‘meant’ in a text from the whole range of possible meanings, in other words, from the meaning potential (...).

Therefore the starting point for the translator is to read and interpret the source text. “What is actually translated is not the sender’s [ST author] intention but the translator’s interpretation of the sender’s intention” (Nord 1997: 85).

In her thesis Mäkinen also states that another important point is translator’s invisibility or visibility in the Target text. Should the translator remain invisible or the traces of his/her presence should be recognized by the readers, because no matter how much effort translator puts into being invisible, the traces of his/her mental and cultural outlook will be reflected.

Loyalty also plays important role in the process of translation. Should the translator be loyal and what it means? It means faithfulness, which implies that translator should have standard criterion, a foundation, on which the quality of translation depends.

The “good” translator is loyal translator. In more recent times, the translator has been seen as liberator, freeing the text from the chains of the original language, giving it a new identity in the target language. On the other hand, some regard translators as traitors, betraying the original intentions of the writer, if they take too many liberties in translating the text, instead of giving a “loyal” (in many cases, literal) translation. The attitudes to the subject of loyalty diverge, as some consider that loyalty of the translator should be directed to the Source text author, others, on the other hand, think that it is more sufficient to pay attention to the relationship between translator and the audience of readers.

## **2.2 Translation of Proper Names**

To analyse translation of proper names in book “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”, content of chapters 3, 4 and 5 will be used. The analysis will be based on translation of realia-related things, such as random things used in everyday life, names of different objects used at home, school etc., characters’ names and also names of different magical objects, spells and names of Houses.

Names play important role in people’s life and giving a name in the fiction is similar to name person in real life. Finding a name is a significant process, because names actually have a meaning and contribute to the better understanding of the character.

In the following analysis the origins of the proper names in original English version were taken from internet source Muggle.net.

### **2.2.1 Official Translation vs Original**

Probably in all fiction main protagonists of the story take the central position, therefore their names are especially memorable and play important role throughout the whole action. There are three main heroes in the “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets”. They are loyal friends, who always stay beside each other: Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley, called Ron by his friends.

### **Protagonists**

In the official Russian translation, the names of three protagonists remain almost the same, except for Hermione Granger – in Russian translation her name sounds different from original pronunciation (hər'maɪ.əni). Harry Potter was translated as Гарри Поттер, Ronald Weasley as Рональд Уизли and Hermione Granger as Гермиона Грейнджэр. There is clear difference in pronunciation of English and Russian variants, if the name was unchanged by the translator, in Russian it would sound as Хамани. The character's name was taken from William Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* and has Greek roots. It means "well-born," "earthy," or "stone." Refers to peony-type flowers. The feminine version of Hermes. In Greek mythology, was often known as the patron saint of high magic. Rowling wanted the name to be unusual and extraordinary, because Hermione is a very strong female character, who possesses inner strength, courage and wit. As was said by the author, Granger's personality is an exaggeration of how Rowling was when she was younger. Her rare name is like a statement of a unique personality and encyclopaedic knowledge, which suits her very much in both English and Russian. There isn't any loss of the meaning of the name in the process of translation, the only one difference is pronunciation. The translator's aim in the translation of the name was to make it sound better in Russian language.

### **Privet Drive**

The action of chapters 3, 4 and 5 takes place in different locations, which include Harry's home, Weasley's house, magical world and school, therefore proper names which were used by author belong to different categories.

In English version name of the street, where Harry lives with his relatives is Privet Drive, which sounds as Тисовая улица in Russian translation. In English version the proper name is associated with privet, which is actually a bush, which can reach the height of 1-2 meters. In England privet is a very common type of bush especially in suburbs, because it can form beautiful green fence.

So in original version Rowling named the street Privet Drive because it is a very boring, lifeless place, where all the houses look the same and are surrounded by privet green fences. Privet, which you can see almost everywhere in Britain is a symbol Harry's relatives' life – colourless, quiet and planned. Privet is actually associated with them, because after seeing the name of the street, the immediate thoughts are about Dursley family.

But Russian translator decided to change the name of the place in the process of translation. The final result is “Тисовая улица”, which if translated into English is “Yew Street”. So, in original version it is a drive, but in Russian is a street, there is already some

minor loss of meaning, but it is acceptable, because it is really hard to find a right word for “drive” and it will sound not as good as just “улица”.

Another distinction is that yew is not a bush, it is actually a tree, which can grow up to 10-20 meters high. Yes, green fences can be formed from yew too, but actually this tree is quite poisonous, so it is unsuitable for suburbs and people’s houses and it is also really hard to keep yew as a fence. Especially in Britain, because this tree is not common in England, it grows in Central and South Europe (Агора, Чжоули 2012).

The point of translator was to make the name of the street sound better, because not all people know what privet is, which is “бирючина” in Russian. The only problem is perception. While reading translated text, the readers imagine beautiful street surrounded by tall yews. Well, at least it was like that for me as a reader. But it is completely opposite from what Rowling wanted to show. Her symbolism doesn’t work in Russian version, as there is a complete loss of meaning. But the effect is reached, it sounds very pleasantly for the ears.

## **Muggles**

In the magical world all people like Harry’s relatives Dursleys, who cannot possess magical skills, are called muggles. In English, the origin of this word is a slang word “mug”. It means somebody who is easily fooled. So one of the reasons why wizards called “normal” people muggles, may be that it was easy to fool them with the help of magic, veiling the existence of the whole world, because normal people did not even imagine that magic can be real.

In the Russian translation there are two variants of translation available for readers: “маглы” and “простецы”. It is a little bit confusing why translator decided to use two proper names. On page 36 the name is “маглы”, but on pages 44-45 it changes to “простецы”. The name of the division where Ron’s father works is “Противозаконное использование изобретений маглов”, but the name of the comic series in Ronald’s house is “Патрик Пиггс. Помешанный простец”. The proper name keeps changing all the time. For Russian readers name “muggles” is not quite understandable, because it comes from English slang. Ordinary people do not know English slang, therefore the translation as “простец” is much clearer for them. It means the person who lacks any sort of magical ability and was not born in the magical world, a “normal” person.

But in the text there is no clear pattern where the translator uses which proper name. Actually the word “магл” sounds better than “простец” and its equivalent is “простачка” on page 44. It would have been better if she just had chosen one proper name and used it in the whole text.

## **Gilderoy Lockhart**

Gilderoy Lockhart is a new professor of Defence against the Dark Arts and is known for his handsome looks, bright smile, exceptional cowardice and sneaky personality. Background of his name can tell everything about this character. Name Gilderoy may have come from the word "gilded," which is defined as having a "pleasing, showy appearance, which covers something of little worth." The name "Roy" is Old French for "regal one" or "king."

The origin of the surname Lockhart is indeed a very interesting one. J.K. Rowling stated in a radio interview with BBC 4 that she found the name Lockhart on a war memorial. Lockhart is a world renowned cognitive psychologist whose particular interest is in the study of *memory* and levels of processing. He did a lot of research in this area in the late 1970s. Town in Australia near Wagga Wagga. The name is a possible play on words as he seems to have so many women's "heart locked" on him. (Mugglenet, name origins)

This very suitable for the character because despite his handsomness he doesn't have anything. No magical talent, no teaching talent. One thing he does perfectly is steals ideas and inventions of others. And it seems to be all covered up by his beautiful smile, that melts the hearts of all women.

In Russian Gilderoy's name sounds as „Златопуст Локонс”. It is obvious that translator substituted original name for her own variant. Surprisingly, Russian name also gives a complete picture of a Lockhart's character, but in its own way.

Name “Златопуст” is a combination of two different words: “злато” and ”пустой”. Gilderoy has blond curly hair, therefore the first word characterizes his golden hair. The second word means that character has nothing inside, despite his external showiness. He is hollow, has nothing useful to offer. “Локонс” comes from Russian word “curl or lock”, which also reminds the readers about Gilderoy's hairstyle. It means that outer beauty, gloss and social status are more important than dignity, decency and courage. All those traits that make a good person, but Lockhart is not the one.

In Russian the name may sound a little bit childish and funny, but it is actually a quite good name in terms of understanding. It speaks about the character, so the readers can grasp the information about him just by reading the name. In original version it is hard to do so without looking up origin of the name.

## **Diagon Alley**



Diagon Alley is main wizarding shopping district located in England, London. It has everything any wizard would want to visit: different shops, restaurants and other sights. It is completely hidden from muggles and is a centre of a magical London.

The proper name contains a play of words - "diagonally". It means that straight line is slanted at an angle, so it indicates that actual alley isn't straight, it goes diagonally.

In the Russian translation the name of the alley is "Косой Переулок", which means slanted alley. The name implies that it is not a regular place that anyone can visit. The place is special, it is open only for those who possess secret knowledge. The meaning is inverted, as the actual Diagon alley is a barrier between two complete different worlds: wizarding and normal. So when a person crosses this barrier, everything becomes unusual and strange, as if in false mirror, but in a good way.

## **Severus Snape**

Severus Snape is a Potions Professor at Hogwarts. He is best known for his mysterious, cold, complicated personality, sarcastic nature and unattractive appearance. But despite all that, Snape is probably the most interesting and unpredictable character in the whole series. Until the very end it is extremely hard to tell to which side he belongs, does he fights for good or bad. But in the end, the readers understand that Severus Snape possesses such qualities as loyalty, bravery and exceptional wit and talent. On the outside he may be gloomy and hard to approach, but extremely lonely and misunderstood inside. His name is very suitable for his character and is symbolic in its own way.

Name Severus comes from the word "severe", which means cruel, strict, powerful. These characteristics are very suitable for the Potions Master, who is indeed very dark and forceful person. Another version is that name Severus sounds very similar to the Latin word "servus," meaning "servant." He is very loyal to Albus Dumbledore and always stands on his side. But working as a double agent he is also a servant of Lord Voldemort. For readers it is a mystery and they always seem to wonder to which side Snape truly belongs.

„Sever“ also means „to cut off“. Actually Snape has very hard destiny, and has to sacrifice many things in order to save people, who don't even have any idea what Severus is doing for them.

The name Severus is also mentioned in *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen, a favorite book of J.K. Rowling.

The surname "Snape" sound identical to the name of the town located in England. Rowling in one interview said that she gave Severus this character because of her school

chemistry teacher. He was also very strict and cold person, which is very similar to book character. And also chemistry is like a no magical equivalent to potions.

In the Russian version the name of the professor is “Северус Снегг”. One of the reasons why his surname sounds as “Снегг” is because the original one has many different associations, and the translator wanted to transmit the meaning as precisely as possible. In this case it is “snow”, because Severus is cold as snow. But in the original version there is no link between “Snape” and “snow”. And his name “Северус” is very strong on its own, as it is associated with such words as “север”, “суровый”, so the readers can guess what kind of person he is just from these associations. So in the process of translation into Russian the name loses its original meaning.

## **Ravenclaw**

Ravenclaw is one of four Houses in Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry, which was founded by Rowena Ravenclaw and was named after her. Members of this house are characterised by their wit, learning, wisdom, originality, individuality and creativity. Its house colours are blue and bronze, and its symbol is the eagle.

The name is combined of two words „raven“ and „claw“, in other words it means „the claw of the raven“. Ravens are known all over the world as smart birds, just like the members of the House, who were chosen because of their wit and extraordinary learning skills.

In the Russian official translation the name of the House is „Кортевран“. There is a clear link between the word “claw” in the original name and Russian variant. But it leads to the misunderstanding that it is the claw of the eagle, which is the symbol, but not of the raven. There is a definite loss of the original meaning, because the readers can guess nothing about the raven from the name of the House.

## **Hedwig**

Hedwig is the name of Harry’s Snowy owl, whose job was to deliver letters and other mail. Hedwig became a really good and loyal friend to Harry, and was a very intelligent creature. The owl was named after one of two Saints. One is Saint Hedwig of Andechs (1174–1243), Duchess of Silesia. The other one is Saint Hedwig (Jadwiga) (1373–1399), King of Poland. Hedwig also means "refuge in battle."

In the Russian official translation the name of the owl is “Букля”. It comes from the Russian common noun of the same name and means curl, lock. Another origin is a Latin word “buccula”.

In the original version and Russian translation the meanings of the one name are completely different, as the translator decided to substitute original name for her own liking. Without researching information about original name and its history, the Russian readers won't be able to know that name actually comes from the name of Saint. It is a clear loss of meaning.

### **Mundungus Fletcher**

Mundungus Fletcher is a wizard who lives in the Wizarding underworld, a dealer of stolen merchandise and controlled substances. He is known for being extremely greedy and treacherous person, who doesn't deserve any trust, because at the first opportunity he will betray.

Name Mundungus means a stinking tobacco, „garbage“, „rubbish“. Very similar to the word "mondongo," which in Spanish is the word for a cow's "stomach," a disgusting part of the animal that is often eaten. It perfectly characterizes the inner nature of the character. He is rotten inside. He does things only for his own good and doesn't care about other people's lives.

In Russian his name sound as „Наземникус Флетчер“. It was the translator's personal choice of the name, as she thought that this particular name would be the most fitting and sounds nice. The name tells the readers that this person values only material things, he is materially-minded and immoral. He only cares about things that can be of any value, interested only in terrestrial things, therefore he was named „Наземникус“. But unlike the original name, which has a deeper meaning, it's hard to guess its full meaning, so the readers will know about what kind of person Mundungus is additionally from his actions and further characteristics.

### **Books by Gilderoy Lockhart**

Being the writer Gilderoy Lockhart published several books about magical creatures, which were included in school program in Hogwarts. All the students received the full list of schoolbooks in their letters.

The first one is „Voyages with Vampires“, which includes all the information about the vampires and possible ways to stop them. In Russian name of the book sounds as „Встречи с вампирами.“ It is obvious that in the process of translation the meaning was changed. The literal translation from English language to Russian is “Путешествия с вампирами”, but the translator decided to substitute word “путешествия” to “встречи”, therefore the meaning is totally different.

The second book is called “Wanderings with Werewolves”, which was translated as “Духи на дорогах.” It is not clear why the name of the book was translated like that, because from the original name it is obvious that this particular book is about werewolves, not ghosts, as in Russian variant. There is also nothing about roads; the information is about wanderings in general, in order to get to know these creatures better.

“Holidays with Hags” tell the readers about Gilderoy Lockhart’s meetings with wicked witches. In Russian name of the book is “Каникулы с каргой”. The only distinction from original name is that author uses plural – hags.

The fourth book of the school program is “Break with a Banshee”. It was apparently about Lockhart's deeds of banishing the Bandon Banshee. In Russian translation the book was named „Победа над приведением.” The loss of the meaning consists in that Banshee is not quite a ghost, like it was translated in Russian version. It is a female spirit in Irish mythology, usually seen as an omen of death and a messenger from the Otherworld. Maybe translators intension was to make the name of the book more understandable to any reader, because not all of them know what is Banshee. But there is thin line between the meaning of original name and translated one, therefore it might be considered as loss of the original meaning.

„Travels with Trolls“ was translated as „Тропою троллей”. The difference in meaning can also be identified. The Russian name implies that readers figuratively follow Trolls walking on their trail. But in original there are just travels with Trolls, no trails and pathways of Trolls.

“Gadding with Ghouls” in Russian sounds as “Увеселение с упырями”. The little loss of meaning can also be tracked there. In Russian “to gad” is “шляться”. The word „увеселение“, which translator used has a different meaning – to have some fun, but the original meaning is to go around from one place to another, in the pursuit of pleasure or entertainment.

And the final book from the series of Gilderoy Lockhart is „Year with the Yeti“, which was translated as „Йоркширские Йети“. The original meaning implies that the readers will spend the whole year studying Yeti, but in Russian it is just the name of the creatures. There is no reference to the time frame of one year. Another point is that Yeti come from Yorkshire.

Original name doesn't have any mention of the place where these creatures inhabit, so it is personal choice of the translator to add new detail, but on the other hand it causes the loss of the meaning.

### 2.2.2 Unofficial Translation vs Official Translation

The analysis will be based on the unofficial translation by Maria Spivak and will include the same proper names as in the official translation in order to compare them. This will help to determine which translation is more qualitative and successful in terms of retention and transmission of original meaning into the Russian language.

#### **Protagonists**

In the unofficial translation names of three protagonists are the following: “Гарри Поттер”, “Рон Уэсли” and “Гермиона Грэнжер”. The only difference between official translation is the spelling. As the result, the surname of Ronald sounds as “Уэсли” not “Уизли”. The same is with the surname of Hermione. It depends on a person, but the variants of surnames in the official translation seem more appropriate and pleasant to the ears and also sound better in Russian language. It is quite hard to pronounce “Грэнжер”, because soft sound “й” is needed. The surname of Ronald is pronounced as /w ee z l ee/ in English, therefore the variant “Уизли” is closer to the original than Spivak's one.

#### **Privet Drive**

Unlike the official translator, Maria Spivak translated the name of the street where Harry's relatives live – Privet Drive – as “Бирючиновая аллея”. It is a literal translation and reflects the original meaning better than “Тисовая улица” in official translation, as the name tells the readers what Rowling wanted to show them choosing this particular name: boring, ordinary and nonmagical place. As for the translation of word “drive” there is a loss of meaning as in the official translation, because it is not an alley, like it was translated by Spivak. But in general Spivak's variant of translation is more successful and involves less change and loss of meaning, as the main meaningful point is transmitted correctly.

#### **Muggles**

Ordinary people, who do not possess any magical skills, are “муглы” in unofficial translation. The translation is not phonetically correct, because the sound /u/ in the word “muggles” is pronounced as /a/. According to this the official variant of translation – “маглы” – is more correct and sounds nicer in Russian language. But the advantageous point of unofficial variant is that Spivak uses one proper name throughout the chapters, unlike in the official translation where two variants are used “маглы ” and “простецы”. Even if it was made with intention to make the meaning of the proper name more understandable, it would be better option to use just one proper name in order not to confuse the readers.

### **Gilderoy Lockhart**

Gilderoy Lockhart is “Сверкароль Чаруальд” in translation by Maria Spivak. In this case both translators made the decision to use their own variants of the name, which they thought would be the most suitable for the character. Name “Сверкароль” evokes associations as “сверкать”, “сверкающий”, “король”, and might be combination of these two words – “сверкающий” and “король” – to show what kind person he is. His name speaks for itself and the readers can understand that Gilderoy has such character traits as vanity and thinks of himself as he is brilliant wizard. “Чаруальд” is associated with word “чарующий”, hence it explains why women all over magical world fall for his charms as bright smile and polished appearance. Its English equivalent might be “Charming”. The difference between name in unofficial and official version is that official translator uses name “Златопуст”, from which the audience can guess that this particular character lacks in some areas such as moral and ethic qualities. His brilliance and intelligence is just showiness, there is nothing inside him that can be of any help for other people. In terms of understanding these negative aspects the name “Златопуст Локонс” is more fitting than “Сверкароль Чаруальд”.

### **Diagon Alley**

There is no difference between the name of the main magical district in London, which is Diagon Alley, and its equivalent by Maria Spivak. The name was not translated and remained the same: “Диагон-аллея”. Even the play of words, which original name includes, can be traced in the translated one, because words like “diagonally” and “диагонально” sound similar in both languages. Actually both names “Диагон-аллея” and “Косой переулок” convey the original meaning of the proper name and both can be considered as successful in terms of perception and understanding.

## **Severus Snape**

Severus Snape, who teaches Potions in the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, is “Злодеус Злей”. The name was substituted by the translator and has a completely negative meaning. The degree of negativity is way bigger than original meaning implies. Severus Snape is strict, sarcastic and can be obnoxious with his biased attitude towards some things and people, but he is not a main villain. But after seeing name “Злодеус Злей”, the thoughts that this character is evil immediately appear. Name “Злодеус” apparently comes from word “злодей” and the surname seems to be a mixture of two words: “злой” and “зелья”. Ironically, the character turns out to be double evil. There is a clear change of meaning, because name Severus doesn’t mean that he is a bad person, and his surname doesn’t have a particular meaning connected with his traits of character at all – it is just name of the place in England, which is familiar to the author. And as the story goes on, this name will be more unfitting, as Snape actually appears to be totally opposite of what many readers thought he is – a good and loyal person. In this case official variant “Северус Снегг” is more appropriate and transmits the original meaning of the proper name better. At least his first name was not changed, therefore it sounds more serious and strong than “Злодеус”.

## **Ravenclaw**

Name of the Ravenclaw House remains the same – “Равенкло”, but with a little difference in pronunciation from the original one. In English word “raven” is pronounced as /'reɪv(ə)n/, but in Russian Spivak’s spelling is more rough than the original. It is hard to pronounce in Russian just like Hermione’s surname „Грэнжер“, which was analysed in the above text. The soft sound “й” is essential in these types of words, because it makes the pronunciation more fitting to the phonetical rules of Russian language and the way words are pronounced. Unlike the official translation “Когтевран”, which can lead to the misunderstanding about ravens and eagles, which was mentioned earlier, the name “Равенкло” in Russian doesn’t reveal any information about origin of the proper name, at least for those people who do not know English language. But in terms of transmission of meaning Spivak’s variant is more successful, because it does not imply any change and loss of meaning, unlike the official variant “Когтевран”.

## **Hedwig**

Name of Harry's owl is "Хедвига", which is a Scandinavian way of writing the name. It was not changed during the process of translation; the only difference is in spelling – "Hedwig" and "Хедвига". After comparing name of the owl in two Russian versions, it is obvious, that "Хедвига" is more successful in terms of closeness to the original meaning, than official variant "Букля", which is a substitution made by the translator.

### **Mundungus Fletcher**

As for the Mundungus Fletcher, a dealer in the wizarding underworld, his name was translated as "Мундугнус Флетчер". It may appear that the name was just transliterated, but after careful comparison it is obvious, that the spelling of the name was changed in the process of translation. The ending part of the original name is "-ngus", in Spivak's version – "-гнус". The reason is that the translator wanted the name to have a meaning in Russian language, as it is associated with word "гнусный", which reflects the trait of character. Original name doesn't tell anything to Russian readers, who are not familiar with the origins of the proper name. Translator's aim was to make a link with the original negative meaning and meaning in Russian, which she did by changing the spelling. The official translator did similar thing, but by the means of substitution – "Наземникус". Both names are quite successful in transfer of the original meaning, but Spivak's variant has a deeper negative meaning, which is closer to the original one, although it may be a little bit hard to pronounce for the first time.

### **Books by Gilderoy Lockhart**

Names of the books by Gilderoy Lockhart in the unofficial translation by Maria Spivak are the following:

The first book "Break with a Banshee" was translated as "Беседы с Баньши". From the original meaning it is obvious that no one carried the conversation with dangerous spirit, but the translator uses the word "Беседы", which is a change of meaning. Official variant "Победа над привидением" seems to be closer to the original meaning, because this book is about how Lockhart vanquished an evil spirit. But in terms of understanding what creature it is, the Spivak's variant is more successful, because this book is specifically about a Banshee, not just ghost, like it was written in the official translation of the name.

"Gadding with Ghouls" is "Ужин с упырями" in Spivak's translation. Instead of finding new adventures with ghouls she prefers to have supper with them. It is an interesting



and fun interpretation, but unfortunately there was a change of original meaning during translation. Official variant “Увеселение с упырями” seems to be more fitting and successful in terms of proximity to the original meaning.

As for the third book “Holidays with Hags”, Spivak literary translated the name – “Каникулы с колдуньями”. Word “hag” can be translated from English like “колдунья” or “карга”, how it was done in official translation. Both names retain the original meaning, but Spivak’s version is more specific. On the other hand, official version of the name is more fun. It depends on the readers which variant they will like better.

“Travels with Trolls” in Spivak’s interpretation is “Турне с троллями”. It is quite close to the original meaning, because round trip or tour is a type of travel. But, of course, the change of meaning can be identified. But out of two translations – “Турне с троллями” and “Тропою троллей” – official variant is more successful, because trolls usually live in forests and travel by feet. Including word “тропа” in her translation, author of translation implied that the readers will follow trolls on trails of their travels.

Name of the book “Voyages with Vampires” was translated as “Вояж с вампиром”. The translated name differs from the original one by the fact that Spivak uses singular, not plural. After comparison of two names “Вояж с вампиром” and “Встречи с вампирами”, the first unofficial variant is a literal translation of the original proper name, except of the change in number. There is a little change of meaning, but it reflects the original meaning better, than official name, which includes substitution and complete change of meaning.

“Wanderings with Werewolves” is “Общение с оборотнями”. There is a clear change of meaning, because original name means that the readers are supposed to wander with werewolves, not to communicate with them. But in comparison with official translation – “Духи на дорогах” – which has a complete loss of meaning, the unofficial variant transmits the original meaning more successfully, even with a little inaccuracy.

And the final book by Gilderoy Lockhart “Year with the Yeti” was translated as “”Единение с Йети”. Like in the official translation there is nothing about time frame of one year, but Spivak added one additional detail – word “единение”, which implicates that the readers will get to know all essential information about these creatures by means of unity with them. Both official and unofficial variant have a change of meaning, but out of two translations: “Единение с Йети” and “Йоркширские Йети” the unofficial variant seems to be closer to the original. Official translation contains word “Йоркширские”, which is a species of Yety, but the book is about these creatures in general, which is clear from the book title in the unofficial translation.

## CONCLUSION

Proper names play an important role in literature, because they contribute to the better understanding of characters, places and another things. Especially if they are the symbolic ones and have a certain meaning assigned to them. Therefore in the process of translation this meaning might be lost or changed. Partially it depends on translating strategies which the author of translation uses.

In the process of translation into the Russian language of the book „Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets“ the following translating strategies according to E. Davies were used: preservation, localization, addition and transformation; but the most used one was transformation in both official translation by Marina Litvinova and unofficial translation by Maria Spivak, as is seen from the examples of the subsequent analysis of proper names.

Translators' attitudes to translation also play an important role, because it affects the final result of the translation and include the following aspects: visibility or invisibility of translator in the Target text, loyalty, interpretation, which depends on cultural and social peculiarities, education, previous experience and even the mood of the translator.

Book „Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets“ by J. K Rowling contains a lot of symbolic proper names, which were analysed in order to identify any loss or change or meaning in the process of translation into Russian in official and unofficial translations. Then two Russian versions were compared in order to identify which translation is more successful in terms of transmission of the original meaning and expressivity.

After analysing and comparing the same proper names from two different translations – the official by „Rosman“ and the unofficial by Maria Spivak – it is clear that all the proper names went through the process of change. The most insignificant is a change in spelling like „Hedwig“ – „Хедвига“, pronunciation like “Hermione” – “Гермиона”, where the translator uses the strategy of localization. Some of proper names changed their original meaning: “Severus Snape” – “Северус Снегг” in the official translation, and “Ravenclaw” – “Когтевран”, “Gadding with Ghouls” – “Увеселение с упырями” and “Ужин с упырями”. Some of the proper names completely lost the original meaning: “Hedwig” – “Букля”, “Severus Snape” – “Злодеус Злей” in unofficial translation, “Wanderings with Werewolves” – “Духи на дорогах” in the official translation. The results of the analysis prove the hypothesis of the thesis that in the process of translation proper names change or completely lose their meaning, which might affect the perception of them by readers.

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## SUMMARY IN ESTONIAN

Inimesed on koguaeg armastanud lugeda, kuna raamatud haaravad inimesi huvitavatega süžee joontega, tegelastega, ideedega. Kõikjal maailmas raamatud läbivad tõlke protsessi, selleks et lugejat erinevatest maailma nurkadest saaksid nautida ühesuguseid lugusid. Tegelased, erinevad kohad, süžee detailid – need on punktid, mida lugeja jätab meelde peale raamatu lugemist. Antud bakalaureuse töö teema on väga aktuaalne praegusel ajal, sest pärisnimed aitavad kaasa mõista paremini raamatu sisu. Igasugune ühe või teise sõna muutmine tõlge protsessi ajal võib mõjuda lugu mõistmises, kuna originaalne pärisnime kõla võib oluliselt erineda nendest, mis on raamatutes ette toodud.

Antud bakalaureuse töö on suunatud pärisnimede analüüsile raamatus J. K. Rowling „Harry Potter ja saladuste kamber“; raamatus on sümboolsed pärisnimed, mis omavad enda tähendust, mis on seotud süžeeaga. Töö eesmärk on analüüsida pärisnimede tõlked vene keelde mitteoriginaalses ja originaalses tõlkes ja uurida võimaliku tähenduse kadu tõlge protsessis.

Töö struktuur: Eessõna, Peatükk 1, Peatükk 2 ja Järeldus. Eessõna koosneb informatsioonist „Harry Potter ja saladuste kamber“ raamatu tõlkest vene keelde.

Peatükk 1 - „Pärisnimede tõlge meetodid“ pakub tehnikate loetelu, mis on kasutatud tõlge protsessis: säilitamine, lisamine, globaliseerimise minetus, lokaliseerimine, transformeerimine ja loomine.

Peatükk 2 – „Pärisnimede tõlge protsess“ koosneb täpsemast pärisnimede tõlge detailiseeritust analüüsist. Ta sisaldab endas tegelaste nimede, kohade nimed, asjade analüüsi. Kõik originaalsed tähendused olid võrreldud tõlgitud variantidega ja olid samamoodi analüüsitud eemärgiga uurida, mis tõlgetest - ametlik või mitte ametlik - on elav ja lähedam originaalsele tähendusele.

Järeldus resümeerib tööd ja peamised analüüsi momendid, samuti sisaldab kommentaare hüpoteenusile.

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