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ENGLISH RENAISSANCE: TRANSFORMATION OF PHILOSOPHY UNDERSTANDING AS A FACTOR OF INFORMATION CULTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EPOCH

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ РЕНЕССАНС: ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ ФИЛОСОФИИ, КАК ФАКТОР РАЗВИТИЯ ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ ЭПОХИ

Abstract

The paper is devoted to a very interesting period in the history of the formation of the English national language, which took place in the 16th century known as the late Renaissance. The authors present their point of view on such an aspect of the worldview of the epoch as the transformation of the philosophy of understanding as a factor in the development of information culture of the era when the worldview criteria of the language interpreter became especially important factor of scientific thinking. This idea fully explains the direction of

the formation of scientific, including philosophical terminology of the research period.

Keywords: Renaissance, transformation, understanding philosophy, information culture, concept, categories, worldview

Introduction

As is known, any philosophical system is built on the basis of the relationship of concepts and categories; the latter, in the final analysis, represent one or another word of a given language elevated to the rank of philosophical concepts and categories due to the practical needs of science. This requires us at first to analyze the state of the English language of the late XV-early XVI centuries. During this period, the English language supplanted Latin from wide public life [2; 5;], although the active influence of Latin continued to be felt in England until the XVII century [1, pp. 14-15]. It is noteworthy in this regard, the remark of Lord Chesterfield in his letter addressed to his son (1739) that a truly educated person should know Greek and that "to know Latin is not a great honor, because everyone knows Latin and does not know it - shame and shame"[3, p.9]. Thomas More wrote *Utopia* (1576) in Latin; many of Francis Bacon's works were also translated by him from English into Latin with the purpose of perpetuation. One reason for this is that XVI century English was still not a recognized language of science and literature. This conclusion is confirmed by the representatives of the era themselves: Francis Bacon, for example. He writes: "My works, which I wrote earlier and which are now so well translated into Latin, thank God, are immortalized ... These modern languages will surely go bankrupt someday ..." [4, p. 254].

Materials and methodology

To study the process of transformation of philosophy understanding as factor of information culture of the period of the English Renaissance (XVI c.)

we use mainly the methods of diachronic, historical-comparative, theoretical-logical and systemic analysis as well as contextual research. The review of the research materials as well as the dictionary work was one of the methodological tools we applied to process the practical material.

Discussion and results

As for England itself, here already from the end of the 15th century, and especially in the 16th century, the demolition of the old worldview of the era of feudalism began and this formation was replaced by a new socio-economic formation characterized by the rapid development of science and technology, the unprecedented flowering of literature and art, the invention of printing (William Caxton - XV century) - the largest event in the field of cultural development not only in England, but throughout Europe. The first book in English, *The Recuyell of the Histories of Troy*, was written by William Caxton in 1475. From a feudal country, England is becoming a classic power of the initial accumulation of capital. The social shifts of this period created the prerequisites for a great social and cultural upsurge, on the basis of which the national culture arose. With the establishment of a single national market, the economic (and cultural) center becomes London, on the basis of the dialect of which, as the basis of the emerging national English language, a single language norm is formed, although there were still areas of life in which English did not function - this is church life and science [10,p.7; 11, p. 31; 2, p.42.]. The completion of this process, of course, was facilitated by a comprehensive study of the classical heritage, leading, first of all, to enriching the vocabulary of the English language. Scientific works are already being created in English, translation literature is developing significantly, the scientific and philosophical movement is expanding, the crown of which is the materialistic philosophical system of Francis Bacon, the ancestor of all experimental science and who completes the

philosophy of the Renaissance and opens a new stage in the development of European scientific philosophical thought of the New Time.

The establishment of English as a language of scientific literature went in a more complicated way. There were no significant changes in the language of science of this period, since “Latin in the linguistic life of England XVI-XVII centuries, and even the XVIII century was the center around which the search for the norm of the English literary language was conducted” [2, p.42.] However, in 1531 Thomas Eliot wrote the book “The Governour” in English. It was the first attempt to create a scholarly work in his native English language, T. Eliot made it quite meaningful to prove that serious works can also be written in English, although the English language of that time did not yet have its own special industry terminology. Ralph Lever (XVI century) tried to adapt the national language for the expression of scientific concepts, tracing the Latin terms with English, although the English of that era was already heavily clogged with Latin borrowings. language in foreign words (John Chick, Thomas Wilson) However, despite all the enthusiasm, attempts to create a terminology of philosophy based on primordially English morphemes turned out to be futile since grammatical schemes proposed by the British grammarians-rationalists represented not simply the logical and rational rethinking Latin grammar mechanically transferred to the English study soil of the epoch [13, pp.77-78; 12,p.122].

Another most consistent proponent of grammar is the author of the famous “Universal Rational Grammar” (1660) - John Wilkins in his book “Essay on Material Writing and Philosophical Language” (1668) considers language, English in particular, through the eyes of a rationalist and, ultimately, suggests create “a single philosophical language” and a single alphabet for all peoples. He says: “If people everywhere agreed on the same way and manner of expression, just as they agree on the same concepts, then we could free ourselves from the curse of mixing languages with all the unpleasant consequences associated with

this "[Tucker S.I. 1981. p. 47]. It should be noted, however, that in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the questions of epistemology and rationalism became especially acute, which was due, first of all, to those economic, political, and social changes that reflected the content and essence of the transition from feudalism to capitalism.

Formation of scientific and philosophical vocabulary in XVI-XVII centuries in England, on the one hand, it took place under the influence of the national specifics of socio-economic and cultural development, and on the other, it reflected the main trends of general linguistic evolution. Despite the presence of two contradictory and opposite directions - purism, on the one hand, and the widespread use of Latinisms to create missing terms, on the other, both the first and second directions are indicated by the conscious nature of the struggle for a particular language policy. The impact of these two factors was constant, but not uniform. It is noted that the influence of England as an advanced country begins to grow, lagging, however, from the corresponding influence of English bourgeois political ideas, English philosophy and literature, English morals, although already in the 16th century. The issue of the real possibility of using the English language in all types of literature, both fiction and scientific, is sharply discussed [9,pp. 38-53].

The new interest in language issues was relevant not only for England it was a sign of the time when the struggle for the native language became one of the most effective ways of manifesting national identity. Many researchers note that the main factor of scientific thinking in this era is the ideological criteria of the interpreter, depending on which the research methodology is built. This fully explains the scientific orientation of the formation of scientific terminology. Therefore, in the terminology of philosophical content there may be lexical units, which, at first glance, refer to the terminology of the natural and didactic-psychological sciences. However, the phenomena associated with them are

included in the sphere of the philosophical worldview of the author; therefore, the meanings of these units also have a philosophical character.

In the XIV century, there was an attitude towards the English language, as an imperfect and, therefore, short-lived one, which should soon disappear, giving way to Latin or Greek. The situation was quite understandable: the English language had not yet gained its position in the public life of England. Latin, on the other hand, continued to exert a strong influence on the formation of public views, on the native language of the British, and therefore English was considered "rude", "unprocessed", "imperfect" and "lacking in grace" according to the testimony of the English themselves. Such statements are found in the historian William Almesbury, John Skelton, a famous English poet of the XVI century, and others [6, p. 87]. As early as the beginning of the 16th century, some of the most prominent English scholars and writers considered it their duty to apologize for writing in their "barbaric" English, and not Latin: Roger Asham (1545 "Shooter"), William Aldington (1566 "Golden Donkey" - translation from Latin), Richard Eden (1562), George Pace (translator of prose, 1586), etc.

In the XII-XIII centuries the Norman dialect of the French language was the official language of England; it was written in fiction and compiled state acts. There was another circumstance of the negative attitude of the British towards their native language - these were the views on the language that prevailed in Europe and England in the XVI-XVIII centuries, in particular two theories, according to which:

a) Language is a reflection of ideal reality, a divine institution created according to a strict and logical plan; b) Language is built on the basis of "universal reason."

These two theories, however, created a kind of theoretical basis for numerous patriotic desires to improve the English language, to process it, and make it as "perfect", "elegant" and "beautiful" as Latin, Greek or French. First of all, this desire manifested itself, which is quite natural, in relation to the

vocabulary of the English language of that period. Here, both purists and language reformers were united in their aspiration and, in particular, to foreign words, where, as researchers note, three directions of the struggle for improving and purity of the language in the life of England in the XIV-XVII centuries were outlined (the first is the attitude to foreign words; the second is the attitude to dialect and regional words and the third is the attitude to common vocabulary) - with two approaches, polar in essence.

Proponents of one attitude thought as follows: to improve English, it must be enriched, its vocabulary expanded, the language should be given complete freedom to enrich vocabulary units from other languages, especially Latin, Greek and French. Proponents of a different point of view, on the contrary, saw a way to improve vocabulary in containing the influx of foreign vocabulary, because, as they believed, this vocabulary clogs the language, prevents it from using its own internal resources. The first include William Caxton (English first printer), Thomas Eliot (writer, translator, lexicographer, doctor and diplomat), William Camden (writer, historian, antiquarian), John Dryden (famous poet, playwright and critic), George Patten (major translator of that time), Thomas Blandville (author of the book "The Art of Logic"), Thomas Digges (mathematician) and others. To the second - Thomas Wilson (scientist, rhetoric, translator and statesman), John Chick (professor at Cambridge University, specialist in areas of Greek), Ralph Lever (author of the famous work "Art Thy Mind, 1573), George Puttenham (writer and critic, author of The Art of English Poetry, 1589), Samuel Daniel (poet and playwright, author of Defending Rhyme, 1603), Ben Johnson (famous playwright, poet and grammarian, author of "The Tree or Thoughts of People and Works, 1641), etc.

As can be seen from the above examples, the range of professions and areas of employment of the authors is quite large. This indicates that a fairly wide circle of English intelligentsia, learned interpreters, philosophers and enlighteners seriously grasped the language situation of their era. In the middle

of the 16th century, as the well-known American linguist Albert Baugh points out, the opposition to foreign vocabulary reaches its highest point, and by the beginning of the XVII century the fervor of the struggle between the two camps is leveled [5, p. 265] and it is gradually asserted that “the English language has reached perfection and turned out to be capable of naturalizing a lot of foreign words and that, thanks to this, it has become richer, more suitable for expressing various thoughts [7, pp. 111-116; 8;].

Since the XVII century, a particularly intensive search for a language standard and norms has begun. Two main trends determine the development of vocabulary but during the period: 1) the tendency to maximize the enrichment of the vocabulary using a variety of nomination methods, accompanied by the phenomena of redundancy; 2) the tendency to a systematic streamlining of the lexical composition of the English literary language.

The first tendency is closely related to extralinguistic factors - the need for the nomination of a huge number of new concepts, phenomena, objects related to the development of scientific, philosophical, socio-economic, socio-cultural life of society. The second trend has determined the nature and content of the emerging national norms of the English language. Changing the ratio and nature of the interaction between different layers of the language, for example, between the native English and borrowed vocabulary, is the main process of this time. The vocabulary of the period is characterized by obvious insufficiency, on the one hand, and at the same time, a high degree of redundancy, on the other. This inconsistency of lexical processes, reflecting a particular unstable and contradictory language state, indicates the complexity and tension of the search for the most optimal ways to achieve a unified, standard national English norm both in the principles of selecting language material and in the principles of its use.

The formation of the relative unity of the English language ends in the XVIII century and is reinforced by the introduction of typography. However, there is

still no solid rule of literary Standard English. The lexical composition of the English language required expansion in order to become an instrument of expression of scientific conceptual-logical systems. The need for the language of science in new words and concepts was great. Some scholars, for example, Lever, tried to adapt the national language for the expression of scientific concepts, tracing Latin terms by means of the English language. However, despite all the enthusiasm, his attempts to create the terminology of logic and philosophy based on the original English morphemes turned out to be futile. The radical breaking in the process of seeing the world is inextricably linked with the revolution in thinking itself, this is of fundamental importance.

Conclusion

The transition from a geocentric system to a heliocentric system required profound changes in the very foundation of thinking, in its methodological and philosophical foundations. The emergence of a new astronomy, as well as the whole of modern science, would have been impossible without fundamental changes in general theoretical, philosophical and methodological principles. Questions related to the new world outlook, when the hierarchical view of the cosmos of medieval scholasticism is opposed by the view of the world in which the interpenetration of social, natural and divine principles takes place, when a strict system of logical definitions - inductive comprehension of world harmony, rhetoric, poetry, mythology turn out to be the most appropriate way expression of truth. All this takes on particular urgency in the era under study, which is mainly due to those political, economic, social and cultural changes that reflected the content and essence of the transition from feudalism to a new formation.

The formation of scientific and philosophical concepts in England during the study period was characterized by two factors: the first is the impact of the national specifics of socio-economic and cultural development, and the second

is a reflection of the main trends of general language evolution. The language of English fiction of the era was closely related to the spoken language. The economic influence of England as an advanced country begins to grow, lagging, however, from the corresponding influence of British bourgeois political ideas, English philosophy and literature, and English morals. Already in the sixteenth century, the question of the real possibility of using the English language (Early New English period) in all types of literature, both fiction and scientific, was sharply discussed. Advanced minds tried in practice to show that the English language of that period possessed all the possibilities of a developed language.

The main factors of scientific thinking in this era are the ideological criteria of the interpreter, depending on which the research methodology is built. This idea fully explains the direction of the formation of scientific, including philosophical terminology. Therefore, in philosophy, there may be terms that, at first glance, refer to the field of natural and psychological disciplines, or, as if in general, do not contain anything scientific. However, the phenomena associated with them are included in the sphere of philosophical understanding of the author of the epoch; therefore, the meanings of these lexical units also undoubtedly have a philosophical character.

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Research Interests:

-Comparative study of East-West philosophy of language;

-Linguo-culturology: Central Asian Muslim Spirituality and the English Renaissance;

-Historical lexicology of the English language;

-Methods of teaching foreign languages.

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