

Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into Russian)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
Distortion: An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text. A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	a) Source language text: this week the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise. Correct version: на этой неделе правительство объявило, что повысит заработную плату всем государственным служащим. Incorrect version: правительство объявило, что повысит заработную плату всем государственным служащим на этой неделе. (Moving the phrase на этой неделе changes the time reference from the announcement to the pay rise, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.) b) Source language text: the witness described the thief as a young man with black hair. Correct version: по описанию свидетеля, вор — темноволосый молодой человек. Incorrect version: по описанию свидетеля, вор — светловолосый молодой человек. (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)
2. Unjustified omission: An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text. An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	Source language text: the largest increases in soil carbon levels are obtained in the first 6-8 years after changes in land management, and after 35 years the rate of change drops to zero. Correct version: наибольший прирост содержания углерода в почве достигается в первые 6-8 лет после изменений в организации землепользования, а по истечении 35 лет темпы прироста падают до нуля. Incorrect version: наибольший прирост содержания углерода в почве достигается в первые 6-8 лет после изменений в организации землепользования (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)
3. Unjustified addition : An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text. An unjustified addition can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.	Source language text: It would guarantee that people leaving the workforce in their mid-60s enjoyed a financially secure retirement Соггесt version: предоставит людям, выходящим на пенсию примерно в 65 лет, возможность вести материально обеспеченную жизнь Іпсоггесt version: предоставит людям, выходящим на пенсию примерно в 65 лет, возможность вести материально обеспеченную жизнь до конца их дней, вне зависимости от того, сколько они проживут. (The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)



4. Inappropriate register: Incorrect variety of language or inappropriate vocabulary for the text type (e.g. inappropriate level of formality or informality).	a) Source language text: In a recent judgement, the Criminal Court handed down a three-month suspended sentence. Correct version: Недавно суд по уголовным делам вынес приговор: три месяца условно. Incorrect version: Недавно суд по уголовным делам выдал приговор: три месяца условно. (In the legal register, the wording usually used is that a court выносит rather than выдает а sentence.) b) Source language text: [in minutes of the board meeting] The Chairman expressed his extreme displeasure. Correct version: [в протоколе собрания правления] Председатель выразил свое крайнее неудовольствие. Incorrect version: Председатель был редкостно раздражен. (The phrase редкостно раздражен conveys the correct meaning but is too informal in this context.)
5. Unidiomatic expression : An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.	a) Source language text: Smog is a <u>big</u> problem in many cities. Correct version: Смог — это <u>большая</u> проблема во многих городах. Incorrect version: Смог — это <u>крупная</u> проблема во многих городах. (In this context, the word большая is more commonly used, but крупная can still be understood.) b) Source language text: left far <u>behind</u> Correct version: оставил далеко <u>позади</u> Incorrect version: оставил далеко <u>сзади</u> (In this context, the word позади is usually collocated with оставил далеко, but the meaning can still be understood.)
6. Error of grammar, syntax: Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	a) Source language text: amongst the symptoms is <u>nausea</u> . Correct version: cpedu симптомов — <u>головокружение</u> Incorrect version: cpedu симптомов — <u>головокружительный</u> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of adjective instead of noun) b) Source language text: last time he <u>brought</u> to me Correct version: в прошлый раз он <u>принёс</u> мне Incorrect version: в прошлый раз он <u>приносит</u> мне (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense)



	c) Source language text: he and I consider
	Correct version: он и я <u>считаем</u>
	Incorrect version: он и я <u>считаю</u>
	(Agreement error between pronouns and verb, i.e. use of singular verb form instead of plural)
	d) Source language text: he lifted up the chair and placed <u>it</u> on the table
	Correct version: он поднял стул и положил <u>его</u> на стол
	Incorrect version: он поднял стул и положил <u>её</u> на стол
	(Incorrect pronoun to refer to cmyn.)
	e) Source language text: you asked an inappropriate question
	Correct version: вы задали некорректный вопрос
	Incorrect version: задали некорректный вопрос вы
	(Incorrect sentence structure)
7. Error of spelling : Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.	Source language text: He enrolled at the Moscow State University.
	Correct version: Он поступил в <u>Московский государственный университет</u> .
	Incorrect version: Он поступил в <u>Московский Государственный Университет</u> .
	(Capitalisation error, i.e. in Московский государственный университет only the first word should have a capital
	letter.)
8. Error of punctuation : Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.	Source language text: The government will change its policy on the taxation of investment trusts.
	Correct version: Правительство изменит политику налогообложения в отношении траст-фондов.
	Incorrect version: Правительство изменит политику налогообложения, в отношении траст-фондов.
	(Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the elements of the clause.)