

NEW APPROACHES TO TEACHING TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH TO
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Annotation: *This article explores innovative approaches to teaching translation from English to Russian, with a focus on meaning-based instruction, cultural competence, corpus linguistics, and the integration of technology in language education. It highlights current trends such as task-based learning, collaborative projects, and the use of computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, offering practical strategies for improving translation skills and preparing students for real-world communication challenges.*

Key words: *translation pedagogy, English–Russian translation, corpus linguistics, intercultural competence, CAT tools, task-based learning, translator training, modern language teaching, professional skills development*

The traditional approach to teaching translation has often relied on grammar drills, vocabulary memorization, and literal sentence-by-sentence translation. While these methods help learners develop a foundational understanding of language, they often fall short when it comes to producing accurate, nuanced, and culturally appropriate translations. As the field of translation evolves, educators are adopting new methodologies that reflect the real-life challenges of the profession and the needs of today's learners.

Modern translation teaching is now more learner-centered, contextual, and technology-driven. The focus has shifted from merely translating words to conveying meaning, adapting tone, and recognizing cultural subtleties. These new approaches prepare students not just to translate, but to communicate effectively between languages and cultures.

Here are some of the key innovations in teaching translation from English to Russian:

1. Communicative and Meaning-Based Translation

One of the most significant changes is a shift toward meaning-focused instruction. Rather than encouraging students to translate word-for-word, instructors now guide learners to analyze the intent, register, and style of the original text. This is especially important when translating idioms, metaphors, humor, or emotionally charged language.

For example, the English phrase “It’s raining cats and dogs” cannot be translated literally into Russian (“идет дождь из кошек и собак”) without sounding absurd. Instead, students are taught to find equivalent expressions that preserve the intended effect, such as “льет как из ведра” (it’s pouring like from a bucket).

2. Contextual and Genre-Specific Practice

Today's classrooms emphasize genre awareness and contextual practice. Students learn that the way they translate an English news article differs from how they would approach a novel, business email, or marketing campaign. Each genre has its own rules of tone, style, and structure.

Teachers often create real-world tasks: translating English subtitles for a short video clip, localizing an app interface, or rewriting a product description for a Russian audience. This prepares students for the variety of texts they will encounter in professional settings.

3. Technology Integration and CAT Tools

The inclusion of Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) tools is now a standard component of modern translation education. Programs such as SDL Trados, MemoQ, and OmegaT allow students to work with translation memories, glossaries, and term bases. These tools help improve consistency and reduce repetitive work.

Instructors also encourage learners to engage in machine translation post-editing (MTPE), where students critically analyze and correct outputs from platforms like Google Translate or DeepL. This builds valuable editing skills and awareness of where machine translation succeeds or fails—especially with grammatical gender, case endings, and aspectual nuances in Russian.

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