

# ***RENDERING OF THE CONTEXTUAL MEANINGS OF THE DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES***

---

The article, both the definite and indefinite, is a functional word serving to identify or determine the noun (cf. *to work* – ***the*** *work*), the superlative degree of its quality (***the*** *tallest tree*) or the order of nouns in a word-group (***the*** *first step*) or in a row of similar nouns. In some prepositional phrases and word-combinations the definite and indefinite articles, however, may change their lexico-grammatical nature (become a particle), as in the expression ***the*** *more, the better* (***чим*** *більше, тим* *краще*), or acquire some peculiar grammatical, functional and lexical meaning (***the*** *Browns/Petrenkos* – ***подружжя*** *Браунів/Петренків*); the article may be lexicalized as in *the Alps/the Carpathians* – *Альпи/Карпати*, *at the baker's/butcher's* – *у пекаря/м'ясника* (*в хлібному/м'ясному магазині*).

Such and the like lexicalized articles, naturally, in no way weaken or lose their determining, i.e., grammatical function.

On several other occasions the definite/indefinite article may acquire some lexical meaning in contextual environment (only for a time) and thus serve as a peculiar means of 'expressive connotation': *Carot never sold a picture.* – *Каро не продав жодної картини/ні однієї картини.*

The occurrence of lexically meaningful articles is not occasional or accidental, for it is predetermined by context. In order to faithfully convey each kind of the meaningful articles, it is advised first of all to subject the whole passage, which is to be translated, to a thorough content analysis in order to select possible lexical substitutes for the articles in the target language.

When conveying the lexical meanings of the definite and indefinite articles into Ukrainian, attention should be paid to their functional meanings in the sentence/word-combinations. Thus, the meanings of the definite article are usually expressed through different Ukrainian attributive pronouns, adjectives, participles, adverbs or cardinal/ordinal numerals. The meaning of the numeral one, on the other hand, is always expressed only through the indefinite article, which is historically derived from this part of speech. Cf.: *Most of fellows in the Quarters share a studio.* – *Багато хлопців з латинського кварталу орендують удвох одну студію.*