METHODS AND WAYS OF TRANSLATING VARIOUS PROPER NAMES

A practical realization of this system can be illustrated on many Ukrainian names with the following substitution of Ukrainian letters (and sounds) for the completely, approximately or similarly corresponding English letters or letter combinations:

\(/\text{u}/\) as \(\text{y}: \) Кирило – Kyrylo, Марина – Maryna, Микита – Mykyta, Бобрик – Bobryk, Бровари – Brovary, Винник – Vynnyk, Микитенко – Mykytenko, Суми – Sumy.

\(/\text{i}/\) as \(\text{i}, \text{ii}\) or \(\text{yi}: \) Заїка – Zaїka/Zaika, Мисаїл – Mysaїl/Mysaïl, Українка – Ukrainka, Зінаїда – Zinaïda/Zinaïda.

When the Ukrainian letter \(\text{i}\) initiates the proper name/surname, the sound expressed by it has to be conveyed through the \(\text{yi}\) letter combination: Івга – Yivha, Іздець – Yizdets, Їжакевич – Yizhakevych.
The voiced /iː/ sound is also to be conveyed through the letter y: Йосин – Yosip, Йовенко – Yovenko, Бойченко – Boychenko.

As to the sounds expressed by the Ukrainian letters я, io, і they are to be conveyed through the English letter combinations ya, yu, ye respectively or through ia, iu, ie Cf.: я: Яким – Yakym, Ярема – Yarema, but: Забійка – Zabiya/Zabiika, Мусійка – Musiyaka/Musiika.

The sound expressed through the Ukrainian letter я in the final position of a word or traditional proper name can sometimes be conveyed in English by the ia rarely ya letter combinations. It is mostly observed in traditional proper names like Марія, Софія – Maria, Sofia, Юрія – Yuria, Югославія – Yugoslavia, Малазія – Malasia, but: Кенія – Kenya. Some common in English and Ukrainian proper names and also foreign place names may have ia for the ia letter combinations as well: Maria – Mar’ya/Meraiya, Malaya – Malaiya.

It is common knowledge that present-day English despite the existence of some less hard consonants like the /l/ after the /i/, /iː/, and /ai/ sounds (cf. little, leave, like, controlling, etc.) is practically devoid of palatalization: Альвіна – Alvina, Бенедь – Bened, Василь – Vasyl’, Кусько – Kus’ko, Луцьк – Lutsk, Редько – Red’ko. In linguistic papers these and the like proper names, however, may have a sign for palatalization (’).

As to the Ukrainian consonant phonemes, which have no direct equivalents in the English language, they can mostly be conveyed through analogous English sounds, sometimes formed by different letter combinations.

Thus, the Ukrainian /i/ sound is to be conveyed through the similar though not identical voiceless English /h/ phoneme: Гаврило – Havrylo, Григір – Hryhir, Гайдай – Haydai, Григораш – Hryhorash, Громак – Hromak, Гмиря – Hmyrya.


As to the similar in the Ukrainian and English languages /ч/ sound it may be conveyed in two ways. Traditionally the letter combinations ch or tch always were and are still used for the purpose: Качанів – Kachaniv, Клюко – Klochko/Klotchko, Костюченко – Kostyuchenko/Kostiuitchenko,
Кочур – Kochur/Kotchur, Чернушенко – Chernushenko/Tchernushenko, Чорний – Chornyi/Tchornyi. Though the tch letter combination is less and less often used at present in front and mid position, but often in final position: Корч – Kortch.

Similarly with the Ukrainian /ущ/ sound which has no equivalent in English. Traditionally it was conveyed in English through the letter combination shch (sh+ch) or sch. Nowadays the sign sc is sometimes used for the purpose too. Hence, the Ukrainian proper nouns and especially geographical names and names of public bodies containing у can be conveyed as follows: Щаденко – Shchadenko/Scadenko, Щербак – Schcherbak/Scherbak/Scerbak, Щедрый – Shchedryi/Scedriy, Безпошадный – Bezposhadnyi/Bezposcadnyi, Верещагин – Vereschagin/Verescagin, Хрущ – Khrushch/Khrusc.


Nicknames of people are almost always translated irrespective of the language they come from: King Charles the Great – король Карл Великий; King Edward the Confessor – король Едуард Сповідник; King Richard the Lionheart/Lionhearted – король Річард Левине Серце; Prince William of Orange – принц Вільгельм Оранський; князь Мстислав/Святослав Хоробрий – Prince Mstyslav/Svyatoslav the Brave; князь Ярослав Мудрий – Prince Yaroslav the Wise; цар Василь Темний – Tsar Basil the Blind; цар Іван Грозний – Tsar Ivan the Terrible. Contrary to this rule is the wrong translation in our mass media of Prince Charles of Wales as принц Чарльз, instead of принц Карл (according to the historically established tradition) for translating the names of kings and princes.

In recent decades there has been a general tendency in translation practice to transcribe or transliterate foreign proper names and not to translate them. So Michael Faraday is no more Михайло Фарадей but Майкл Фарадей, Leicester and Worcester are no more Лейсестер and Ворчестер but Лестер and Вустер, etc.

Foreign geographical names as well as many proper names of people are often reproduced in English not in the spelling form of the source language but in the traditionally established spelling form of the target language: Антверпен (Dutch Antwerpen) – Antwerp; Варшава (Pol. Warszawa) – Warsaw; Венеция (Ital. Venezia) – Venice; Вогняна Земля
Some geographical names have in English their historically established forms/variants too: Кольський півострів – Kola Peninsula, Ладозьке озеро – Ladoga, Онезьке озеро – Onega, Мала Азія – Asia Minor, Середня Азія – Central Asia, Неаполь – (It. Napoli) Naples, Hebrides – Гібриди/Гібридські острови (also Western Isles), etc.

EXERCISES

Ex. 1. Translate the following English proper names and surnames into Ukrainian. Substantiate your way of translation. For example: John – Джон (common name), Іван/Іоан (Biblical name, name of the Pope).


b) Abigail, Agnes, Beryl, Camilla, Caroline, Charity, Daisy, Eudora, Eva (Eve), Georgia, Grace, Hannah, Helen(a), Honey, Hope, Irene, Ivy, Julia, Katherina(e), Lucia, Marianne, Martha, Myra, Nadine, Patience, Regina, Sawnie, Wilhelmina, Winifred, Zoe.


Ex. 2. Translate the following Ukrainian proper names and surnames into English. Define the way they are rendered (transcribed, transliterated, partly transliterated, etc.)

a) Архип, Богдан, Валерій, Василь, Віталій, В’ячеслав, Георгій, Дем’ян, Йосип, Мар’ян, Михайло, Олексій, Пантелеймон, Пилип, Хома, Юрій, Юхим, Яким.

b) Анастасія, Борислава, Василина, Галина, Євпраксія, Жанна, Іванна, Катерина, Катруся, Лариса, Людмила, Марійка, Марися, Орися, Павлина, Соломія, Софійка, Таїсія, Уляна, Фрося, Юлія, Явдоха, Ярослава.
Ex. 3. Suggest possible methods of translation into Ukrainian the following English generalizing/characterizing names.

Mrs. Bundle, the Giggler, Mr. Happiness, Curly Bull, Run Bill Pilgrim, Whistling Dick, Lord Rubudub, Lady Singsung, Pennifeather, Mr. Knowall, Beowulf the Bradawl, Mr. Sparrow, farmer Meadowlark, philosophical Philip, Tom Lackford Promoter, Mr. Beanhead, Mr. Newrich, Lord Oxhead, Rollo the Rumbottle, Mrs. Trotter, Mrs. Struggles, Mr. Mallard, Mr. Copperfield, Mr. Gradgrind, Mr. Crabtree, Mr. Backbite, Mrs. Sneerwell.

Ex. 4. Translate and identify the methods of translation of the following holy names, festivities, and remembrance days of the Orthodox Church into Ukrainian.


Ex. 5. Translate the sentences with the geographical names into Ukraine and define the method each of them is rendered.

1. The Rocky Mountains (the Rockies) are considered young mountains: of the same age as the Alps in Europe, the Himalayas in Asia, and the Andes in South America. 2. There are 48 areas in the Rocky Mountains set aside by state and federal governments for national parks. Among the worldwide known are Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, and, of course, Grand Canyon National Park. 3. The Cascade Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains catch the largest