

SECTION 3.

The New Face of the Profession

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TRANSLATORS FIGHTING THE FOG OF THE 'RUSSIA VS THE WEST' IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION

Summary

Foreign-Culture-Oriented English (FCOE) is a specialized variety of English with certain specific features of it present in a variety of spheres of Russian culture. Politics presents particular problems to translators, from the elementary — finding suitable names for specific elements of Russia's political life (Duma, Bolshevik, NEP, 'shock therapy'), through to the far greater difficulties presented by the ideological confrontation of 'Russia vs the West'. Ideologists of the opposing sides apply different meaning to such political terms as 'democracy', 'freedom', and 'human rights'. Translators often have to supply these political duplicates by special comment. Quotation marks and phrases like 'so-called' have to be used, and implicit connotations (frequently negative) require explanation.

"Politics is no exact science." (Otto von Bismarck, Speech, 1863; in: *Penguin Dictionary of Quotations*: 58).

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less." "The question is," said Alice, "whether you *can* make words mean so many different things." "The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master — that's all." (Carroll L. *Through the Looking-Glass*)

An Introduction to 'Interlinguoculturology'

Language is a flexible means of communication and by necessity it adapts itself in accordance with the specific communicative contact. Any given language is characterized by dual functional orientation. Histori-