УДК 81.22

ON THE ISSUE OF DUBBING QUALITY USING THE EXAMPLE OF THE FILM "NOTTING HILL"

Manokhina E.V.¹, 3-rd year student of group HTb-221 Scientific supervisor: Gorbacheva-Strelnikova MM¹, senior lecturer of the department of foreign languages ¹T.F. Gorbachev Kuzbass State Technical University, Kemerovo

Every person on earth has ever watched foreign films, none of us are limited to watching only films from our own country. People get their initial acquaintance with the cultural features of other countries from articles, books and foreign films. An important criterion for watching a foreign film is its dubbing.

Dubbing is a type of translation of audiovisual materials (films, cartoons) based on the complete replacement of the actors' native foreign speech with another target language.

It is the perception of a film that depends on the quality of dubbing. High-quality dubbing not only makes a film accessible to a wide audience, but also emphasizes its artistic merits.

The purpose of our work is to explore how high-quality dubbing can improve the understanding and perception of the original film using the example of the film "Notting Hill".

In order to determine the main criteria for assessing the quality of dubbing of foreign films, it is necessary to conduct a brief overview of the plot and characters, highlight the main themes and conflicts of the film.

"Notting Hill" is a 1999 romantic comedy film about the intertwining of two completely different but lonely people. The main character Anna Scott is played by Julia Roberts - she appears before us as a famous actress. The second equally important character William Tucker, played by Hugh Grant, is an ordinary owner of a guidebook store. It is in this modest place, among the bookshelves, that they meet one day, and this meeting literally turns their world upside down. The only question they have to answer is whether two people can truly love each other if the whole world is watching their "unusual story". This picture is also permeated with a large number of jokes that are hard to miss. They make the plot a little more lively and brighter.

The main criterion for assessing the quality of dubbing is the transmission of emotions, cultural nuances, jokes and wordplay.

In the original film, actors convey their emotions through intonations and accents, which creates a certain atmosphere. If the dubbing does the same thing "clumsily", which happens quite often, then the viewer may not feel the full depth of the scenes.

But in the film "Notting Hill" the stand-in actors do a great job, they not only convey emotions, but also make some moments more expressive in intonation. The

fragment (00:11:29) is a confirmation of this. In the English version of the film the dialogue sounds like this:

- Get your hands off!
- − I am really sorry! I live just over the street! I have water and soup. You can get cleaned up.

In dubbing it sounds like:

- Уберите руки!
- Мне очень жаль! Я живу через дорогу! Дома есть вода и мыло, всё отмоется.

It describes the scene where William Tucker spills a glass of hot coffee on the main character. In the original, the scene is very emotional, it vividly describes the spontaneous conflict and stupidity of the film's heroes meeting again in such absurd circumstances. In the Russian version, this moment is more restrained, not so sharp, it is translated well, but a little differently. There is a feeling that Anna Scott's stunt double did not try to display her rudeness, but pointed out the restraint and good manners of the heroine, which are inherent in many stately girls, such as our actress. Even during a conflict, many women are able to remain calm. The scene is played out differently, but this does not make it worse.

- The peculiarities of life of people living in different countries can be studied using cultural aspects as an example. In the film "Notting Hill" we can see moments that may not be immediately clear to a Russian person, although the dubbing is quite simple (00:34:15):
- My friend Max is cooking and he is generally acknowledged to be the worst cook in the world! But, um, you know, you could hide the food in your handbag or something.

In dubbing it sounds like:

– Мой друг Макс отлично готовит. Его считают худшим поваром на свете! Но мы всегда можешь спрятать его стряпню в сумочку.

The British sometimes hide food in their handbags during feasts as a humorous gesture, especially at parties where the number of treats may be limited. This behavior may also be related to the tradition of "secret" storage of snacks or the desire to share food with others. In some cases, this action may be related to the fact that people, not wanting to try the food, take it with them so as not to offend the chef. In Russia, you will not often see this.

In another episode, we can pay attention to the following dialogue (01:02:25):

- Some woodcock?
- No, thank you. I am a fruitarian.

In dubbing it sounds like:

- Вальдшнепа?
- Нет, спасибо, я фрукторианка.

Fruitarianism is a diet based on fruit consumption. The concept originated in the 19th century in Western Europe and the United States, where it was very popular [1]. In Russia, fruitarianism began to gain popularity only at the end of the 20th century, but was not widely adopted. It is precisely such episodes in films that introduce Russian-speaking people to European culture.

The most difficult thing about dubbing foreign films is translating jokes. And even if the dubbing itself is good, Russian-speaking people may have difficulty understanding British humor. The British often use irony and sarcasm [2]. Some forms of humor can be crude or obscene. In addition, the British tend to laugh at themselves and their shortcomings.

Let's consider it using the example of the episode (01:13:43):

- You have big feet! You know what they say about men with big feet
- No! What is that?
- Uh... Big feet... large shoes

In the dubbing we will hear the following:

- У тебя крупные ноги...
- Да... И всегда такими были.
- А что говорят, когда ноги большие?
- Я не знаю, а что?
- Большие ноги большая обувь.

After this dialogue, the characters start laughing. The humor of this episode is quite banal, the dubbing conveys its meaning in full. There is a stereotype that the British can be dismissive of people with large feet, this can become the subject of jokes [3]. In the culture of Great Britain, as in any other, there are often prejudices and stereotypes, but this does not mean that these people adhere to these views. The episode in the dubbing emphasizes the features of British humor and points them out to the Russian-speaking audience.

Another interesting criterion for dubbing is the competent transmission of word changes or wordplay.

In the episode (00:46:53) we come across an interesting word "whoopsidaisies" - this is a play on words of colloquial slang. Woops is the closest analogue of "oops" and the word "daisies" - ромашки. In the context of the film and the episode, this word is translated into Russian as "поскользнушки " - this is a very interesting interpretation that conveys its meaning as accurately as possible, based on the context of the episode.

All the above considerations prove the fact that high-quality dubbing is not only able to emphasize the magic of any foreign film and make it accessible to a wide audience, but also to point out its artistic merits and other nuances. Using the example of "Notting Hill", we understand that good dubbing helps to preserve the spirit of the original work and makes it accessible to the viewer.

References:

1. Fruitarianism. Internet Encyclopedia. – URL: https://ru.m.ruwiki.ru/wiki/Фрукторианство (access date: 09.03.2025)

- 2. British Humor in Detail. URL: https://lingua-airlines.ru/articles/podrobno-o-britanskom-yumore/?ysclid=m8fhosrxd7608795268 (access date 14.03.2025)
- 3. Do English speaking people jeer at big feet? URL: https://translated.turbopages.org/proxy_u/en-ru.ru.9e19c5a0-67da58b2-5c0b05ba-74722d776562/https/english.stackexchange.com/questions/28536/do-english-speaking-people-jeer-at-big-feet (access date 16.03.2025)