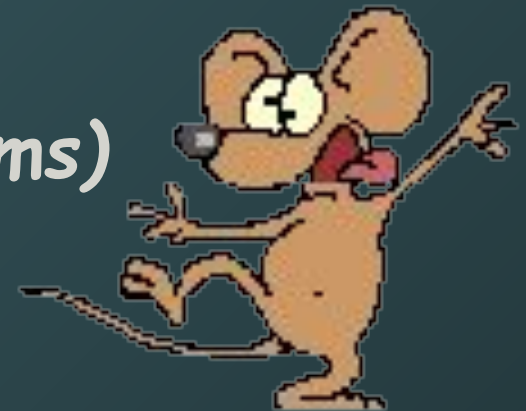


# *Translating Finite Verb Forms*

## *Part I*

*(Tense and Aspect Forms)*

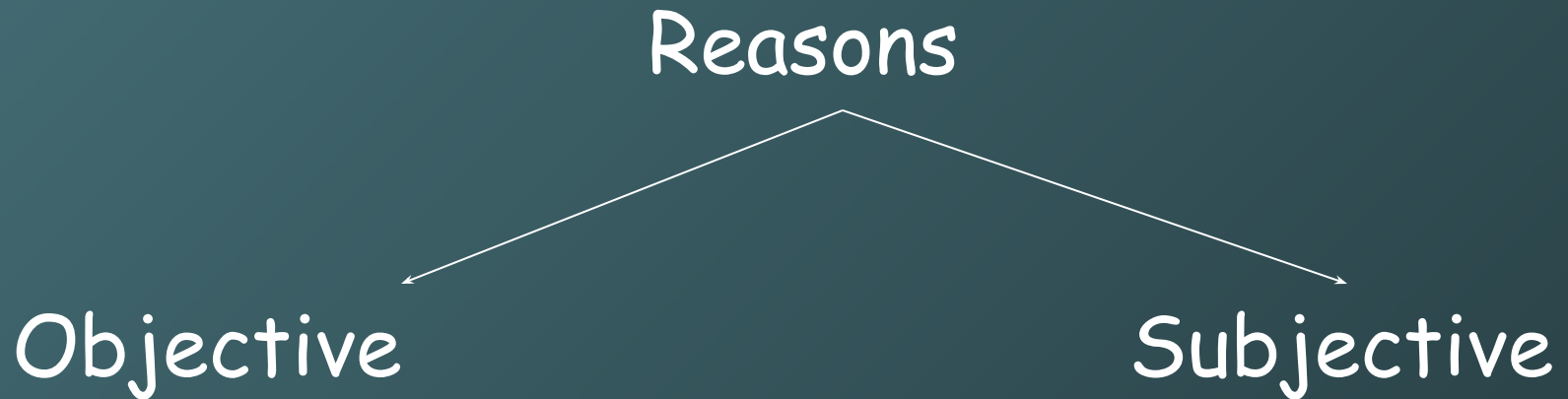


## Plan:

1. Formal differences between source text and target text
2. Translating tense and aspect forms
  - 2.1 Simple Tenses
  - 2.2 Continuous Tenses
  - 2.3 Perfect Tenses
  - 2.4 Perfect Continuous Tenses
  - 2.5 Main traps.



Source language text  $\neq$  target language text



# Objective reasons

- Language system (systemic) -
  - a) lack of some grammar category  
**Way out:** compensate or restructure the sentence
  - b) Grammar category exists in both I-s but differs in some details
- Norm (d-cc in word combination norms)
- Usage (different frequency)

# Subjective reasons include:

-Communicative structure

A woman entered the room. - В комнату вошла женщина.

-Pragmatic adaptations

WSU is located in Pullman, WA. - Вашингтонский университет расположен в городе Пулман, штат Вашингтон

- Translator's idiolect

He fell a week before Armistice was declared.

# 2. *Translating Tense and Aspect Forms*



# 2.1 Simple Tenses

a) regular, permanent actions=Russian imperfective aspect

*Water boils at 100° Centigrade.*

b) action as a single fact=Russian perfective form

*When I heard the news, I walked faster and faster.*

Single action can be expressed by:

- A verb-noun predicate

*She gave a cry.*

-A phrasal verb

*She cried something out.*

-Parallel (homogeneous) predicates

*He cried something unintelligible and rushed past.*

## 2.2 Continuous Tenses

)temporary continuous action = Russian imperfective form

*He first became interested in drama when he was working abroad.*

)Permanent actions expressed in emotional speech=Russian imperfective form

*You are always coming late!*

)Future action (esp. a “matter-of-fact” future) = Russian perfective form

*Spring is coming! Birds will be flying soon.*



## 2.3 Perfect Forms

a) completed action = Russian perfective verbs

I haven't finished yet.

By the time we got there the rain had stopped.

b) Multiple action that took place in the past and can happen in the future = Russian imperfective form

I've met Ann's husband.

I have eaten at that restaurant many times.

**Use the technique of compensation and extension!**

Russian literature has possessed the feeling of the sole. -

Русская литература всегда характеризовалась чувством одиночества.

## 2.4 Perfect Continuous Tenses

action begun before another action  
and continued into it = Russian  
imperfective forms

*He has been studying Japanese for  
three years.*

## 2.5 Main traps

1) Tense asymmetry

a) Russian future = English present in adverbial clauses

Если он придет, я дам вам знать. - If he comes, I'll let you know.

b) English present for the near future = in Russian the present alternates with the future

We are going downtown in some minutes. - Мы пойдём/идём в город через несколько минут.

c) English Present Perf/ PPC = Russian past tense

Who has eaten my soup? - Кто съел мой суп?

## 2) Connotation!

In emotional speech The English Cont. and Simple tenses seem to exchange their aspect characteristics:

**Cont = exaggerated permanent action**

She is always complaining! - Вечно она жалуется!

**Simple = action taking place at the moment of speech with emphasis on the circumstances**

Why don't you write? - Ну, почему ты не пишешь?

Way out - LEXICAL COMPENSATION

### 3) Sequence of Tenses

When translating from Russian into English  
don't do it "tense-for-tense"!!!

Mind the SEQUENCE OF TENSES

I knew he was in the village. - Я знал, что он  
в деревне. (not он был в деревне)

Я знал, что он был в деревне. - I knew he  
had been in the village.

# Practice

A. 1) Who has been eating my soup?

2) I have lived here for two years.

3) He had been a captain.

4) The train arrives in 5 minutes.

5) I sobbed a little still, but that was because I had been crying , not because I was crying then.

B. 1) «Почему ты не знаешь правила?» - «Я учил.» - «Учил, да не выучил.»

2) Он постоянно одалживает деньги!

3) Он сказал, что скоро начнет изучать французский язык.