In this paper there is an overview of ordering in English multi-noun phrases (MNP) or poly-adjectival nominal phrases (PNP) and the model of semantic ordering is revealed [Det] + MODIFIERS (+ size [Adj] + shape [Adj] + age [Adj] – colour [Adj] + nationality [Adj] + HEADWORD [Noun]. The transformation patterns of rendering English MNPs into Ukrainian ones are recognized and we developed a relevant analysis of MNPs. This project concerns the ordering among modifiers in poly-adjectival nominal phrases (PNP) coined by Bache (1978) to refer to any noun phrase which contains more than one modifier (see also Georgi, 2010). We considered the concept of ordering the constituents in the multi-NP (MNP) in the process of translating from English into Ukrainian. Sproat and Shih (1988) provide one of the most comprehensive cross-linguistic analyses of adjective ordering restrictions, and suggest that the semantic-based ordering theories proposed for English are largely universal across languages. This rearrangement of ordering is triggered by the Ukrainian synthetic grammar structure which permits free word order in the phrase and a sentence, and a change of the communicative focus by the translator. A modifier is defined as words or phrases which premodify the head word of the phrase and can postmodify it as well. From 150 pages of the novel “Angels ad Demons” by Dan Brown and its Ukrainian translation by Angels Kam’i nech only 35 multi-noun phrases have been retrieved as an object of our study which we have classified into 4 groups according to the type of transformation (equivalent, permutation, addition, and omission). There is one of the main arguments for the rearrangement motivation of noun headwords and modifiers is the opposition of the author’s and translator’s intentional meaning. In addition we put forward a hypothesis – the both transformations are motivated by the semantic properties of modifiers. The Semantic Model of ordering adjectives in the English multi-noun phrase must be verified in various discourse registers to define common and distinctive features of this phenomenon.

Key words: multi-noun phrase, modifier, ordering, translation, semantic model.
Ukrainian in which adjectives are typically prenominal but with some adjectives which often appear postnominally. Bache claims that 'judging from common usage, there seems to be a limit of about six or seven adjectives, though most PNP s contain only two or three adjectives [1, p. 11–14]. Quirk et al (1985) stress that 'although there is, theoretically, no grammatical upper limit to the number of premodifiers, it is unusual to find more than three or four'. Litosseliti believes that issues of design, collection and analysis of data can involve various methods [7, p. 1]. This paper involves the selection and the analysis of a variety of different forms of PNP in the SL and TL. Much of the work done on the adjective class concerns the variability of the lexical category in terms of morphology and syntax. Perhaps, the most commonly investigated area is that of the order of adjective and noun (see13, p. 13). The order among modifiers in PNP s is of particular interest to linguists – pre-posed adjectives and post-posed adjectives in MNP [Quirk, 1985:1286, 1293; see also 1f.]. Bache (1978) analyzes such phrases as having a reversible or non-reversible order, with the former subcategorised into distinctive and non-distinctive orders. Non-reversible orders appear in noun phrases in which only one ordering of them differs is grammatically possible [9, p.46]. Reversible sequences can have adjectives appearing in various orders, without affecting the grammaticality of the phrase.

The purpose and the objectives of the article. We propose a contrastive analysis of the ordering of modifiers of the English MNP in the novel ‘Angels and Demons by Dn Brown and its Ukrainian translation by Анжела Кам’явець rendering according to which we will differentiate between regularities and irregularities of ordering modifiers within the phrase. The scope of the present investigation is the translation of English noun phrases: prepositional and postpositional into Ukrainian. And we want to understand whether the Ukrainian translator follows the MT MNP syntactic structure or change the ordering. It will help us to reveal the typology of ordering as a model for the translators from English into Ukrainian.

The outline of the main research material. The NP arrangement and rearrangement have been researched intensively in linguistics, psycho-linguistics, philosophy, and computational linguistics for a long time. The semantic interpretation [13, p. 77–78; see also18] of rearrangement proves to be very difficult for a number of reasons: (1) sometimes the meaning changes with the head (make/produce, theme), (2) with the modifier (make/produce, possession). (3) There can be a number of possible semantic relations between the given pair of word constituents, for example, a location and a part-whole relation; (4) interpretation of rearrangement may be highly context-dependent in the TL [cf 4]. The following NP level constructions are considered in this paper:

(1) compound nominals consisting of two consecutive nouns; (2) adjective noun constructions where the adjectival modifier is derived from a noun -- a make/produce relation; (3) genitives -- a part-whole relation;

(4) adjective phrases (cf. Quirk, 1985) in which the modifier noun is expressed by a prepositional phrase which functions as an adjective -- a LOCATION relation, cf. the classifications provided by Quirk et al (1985) and Semmelmeyer (1992). Dixon proposes seven semantic subclasses of dimension;physical property; colour; human propensity; value; speed speed [3, p. 15–6; cf 10:111-2; 11, p. 2–3).

We understand that the detective genre prescribes the author to use ‘simplified’ syntax of phrase, therefore, for example, very few three – constituent-noun phrases are registered in our corpus to say nothing of four or five- component-noun n phrases. The tendencies to keep to the Ukrainian syntactical rules and s/he rearranges some prepositive adjectives to the postpositive, but there is a domain feature of reordering.

From 150 pages only English 35 multi-noun phrases have been retrieved as an object of our study which we have classified into 4 groups among which Group B is the most frequent:

A. No changes in the Ukrainian ordering (=6)

1. Det + Modifier (second degree)+ Modifier +N -- Modifier + Modifier + N: an astonishingly deep voice → заворожений низький голос. Here the translator retains the NP structure and finds proper TL equivalents for the SL modifiers.


B. Change in the Ukrainian ordering (=21)

1. Prep(on)+ Ipos + Modifier (Genetive) -- Prep + Modifier + N: on his brass Maharishi’s chest → на мідну скриню східного гуру.

English adjectives appear almost exclusively before the noun (with the exception of a few French calques and marked with stylistic usages). The structure of the English phrase is transformed into the PrepNP ‘на мідну скриню’ and a postpositional modifier східного гуру the adjectiveвхідногобродств the meaning Maharishi’s from ‘Indian’ to ‘oriental.’ Besides, the chest is made of wood decorated and strengthened with brass, but not made of brass міді. The modifier Maharishi’s a ‘Hindu teacher of mystical knowledge, they may be synonymous but the component of a great Hindu sage or spiritual leader(Webster)’ is lost. The loss of the possessive pronoun his and the possessive case of Maharishi’s’dypy the ownership of the chest is not clear. To my mind, the postpositional modifier could be translated a’жий належав колись.

2. Ipos + Modifier (N) +N -- does not correspond to the Ukrainian structure, which changes the focus from attire to the character this usual classroom attire → як зазвичай одягався в університеті. The Ukrainian structure does not correspond to the English one, which changesthe focus from attire to the character, see attire ‘clothes, esp. of a particular type,’ i.e. the translator changed the pathos speech Noun: → Verb.
3. Det + Modifier + Modifier +N + Prep (of) + Modifier—Modifier + Modifier + N + Prep (y) + N + Modifier (N): the strong, carefree smile of a collegiate athlete→ щиро бегутрібну посмішку у спортсмена аматора. The structure is retained though the relationship in the prepositional phrase differs; the rendering of strong (smile) is not an equivalent for Ukrainian щиро, which is apparently closer to відкрито, широко; спортсмен аматор is generalisation of the specific університетський спортсмен.

4. Prep (by) + Det + Modifier (Of Phrase ← Det + N + Modifier superlative + Conj + Modifier (superlative) + Modifier + N + N — (Prepositional phrase + Modifier + N + N) — (Postpositional phrase): The long-lost symbol of the world’s oldest and most powerful satanic symbol→ давно втрачений символ найстарішого й найсиленшого в світі культу Сатани. There is a rearrangement in the postpositional phrase: Modifier + N (satanic symbol) — N + Modifier (культа Сатани) and the noun symbol “object having cultural significance and the capacity to excite or objectify a response” (Webster) is substituted in Ukrainian by an object having cultural significance and the capacity to excite or objective response, cf Ukrainian «поклоніння кому», чому-небудь, шанування когось, чогось” which is more negative in meaning.

5. Det + Modifier + N + Modifier (Of Phrase ← Det + N + Modifier superlative + Conj + Modifier (superlative) + Modifier + N + N — (Prepositional phrase + Modifier + N + N) — (Postpositional phrase): The first modifier is moved to the postposition of the headword as for semantics the translator found proper Ukrainian correspondences.

6. Det + Modifier + Modifier + Modifier + N + N = Prep + Modifier + Modifier + N + N: A smooth cement tunnel,← широчення тунелю з голими бетонними стінами. Brown and Yule note that authors can choose to foreground or ‘thematised’ the most important element of an utterance by placing it furthest left in the phrase [2, 135]. The translator permuted one constituent the prepositional modifier to the postposition and expanded the both: (1) широчений and (2) голими, the adjective smooth ‘a continuous even surface’ is substituted for the adjective гладенький.耐药 management and (2)

7. Modifier (N’s) + Modifier + N — Modifier + N + Modifier + N + Modifier: CERN’s standard keypad security→ стандартний кодовий замок ЦЕРНу. There is a regular differentiation of the English Noun Phrase with the headword in the postposition into the Ukrainian prepositional and postpositional modifiers and the translator as usually moves the focus from the front into the final position.

8. Prep (to) + Det + Modifier (N’s) + Modifier + N + N: to an intricate electronic device → на складний електронний пристрій. The first modifier is moved to the postposition of the headword as for semantics the translator found proper Ukrainian correspondences.


10. Modifier + N + Modifier — Modifier + N + Prep (y) + Modifier + N: Antimatter reverse polarity vacuum→ вакуумний контейнер з протилежною полярністю. There is a regular permutation of the foci causing a syntactic transformation, besides, the translator added the noun container to stress that antimatter is secured in it.


There is moving of a modifier terrorist to the postposition of the head word. The adjective ultimate ‘being the best or most extreme example of its kind (Webster)’ is substituted by – ідеальна (досконала, відмінна, чудова), in thiscase the positive component of ідеальна doesn’t fit the context.

C. Omission of the constituents (=4)
1. Det + Modifier+ N — omitted: a fledgling government→ X. The English phrase is ommited by the translator and the modifier many of whose leaders were Masons the translator did not point out that those statesmen were masons, so the historical information is lost.

2. Det + Modifier + Modifier + Modifier + N — Modifier + N + N: A Harris tweed suit jacket→ віддівовий піджак. The transformation of S structure resulted in the simplification of the phras meaning. Harris tweed s at thick woollen cloth for making coats, jacketswoven by hand on the islands of Harris and Lewis in the Outer Hebrides (Webster). Besides, suit jacket in classic menswear it is part of a suit. The translator narrowed the meaning of a Harris tweed suit jacket by simplifying it into more usual for the Ukrainian reader. We must admit that the cultural component of the phrase is also lost.

D. Addition of modifiers (=3)
1. Det + Modifier + Modifier + Modifier + N — Modifier (superl.) + N + Prep (y) + Modifier + N: a wide cannonlike barrel→ широчена труба з симетрічним прицілом. The translator used the superlative adjective to intensify the huge dimension of the barrel. And there is a prepositional noun phrase is added to specify the type of the barrel.

2. Det + N + Prep (Of) + N + Modifier + Modifier — Modifier + Modifier + N: a tangle of electronics dangling below→ бєхіїч електронних приладів. The tangle ‘a mass of confusedly interlaced or intertwined threads, strands’ is substituted by бєхіїч and a colloquial приладо→ is added which does not fit the professional discourse.

Conclusions and prospects for futher research. The principles governing the order of demonstrative, numeral, adjective, and noun are based on semantic categories, not syntactic ones. The Semantic Model of ordering adjectives in the English multi-noun phrase is Det – size – shape – age – colour – nationality – headword that must be verified in various discourse registers to define common and distinctive features of the phenomenon

References: