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LINGUOCULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STRATEGIC  
MODELS OF IDIOM TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Students: Abdumajidova Zebuniso

Ahmadjonova Muxlisa

Supervisor: G'aniyeva Toxiraxon

**Abstract.** This research is dedicated to a complex analysis of the linguistic and linguocultural aspects of translating idiomatic units in English and Uzbek. The study examines the semantic integrity, national-cultural components, and pragmatic functions of phraseological units on a comparative basis. During the research, problems of equivalence, contextual adaptation, and intercultural communication factors arising in the translation of idioms were systematically analyzed. Based on practical analysis, the phraseological analogy strategy was justified as the most effective approach, and an integrative model for idiomatic translation was proposed.

**Keywords:** linguoculture, idiomatic equivalence, phraseological analogy, translation strategies, pragmatic adequacy, cultural referent, transformation.

Аннотация. Данное исследование посвящено комплексному анализу лингвистических и лингвокультурологических аспектов перевода идиоматических единиц в английском и узбекском языках. В работе на сравнительной основе рассматриваются семантическая целостность, национально-культурные компоненты и прагматические функции фразеологических единиц. В ходе исследования были системно проанализированы проблемы эквивалентности, контекстуальной адаптации и факторов межкультурной коммуникации, возникающие при переводе идиом. На основе практического анализа была обоснована стратегия фразеологической аналогии как наиболее эффективный подход, а также предложена интегративная модель перевода идиом.

Ключевые слова: лингвокультура, идиоматическая эквивалентность, фразеологическая аналогия, стратегии перевода, прагматическая адекватность, культурный референт, трансформация.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek tillarida idiomatik birliklarni tarjima qilishning lingvistik va lingvokulturologik jihatlarini kompleks tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqotda frazeologik birliklarning semantik yaxlitligi, milliy-madaniy komponentlari hamda pragmatik funksiyalari qiyosiy asosda o'rganiladi. Izlanish davomida idiomalarni tarjima qilishda yuzaga keladigan ekvivalentlik, kontekstual moslashtirish va madaniyatlararo muloqot omillari tizimli ravishda tahlil qilindi. Amaliy tahlil asosida frazeologik analogiya strategiyasi eng samarali yondashuv sifatida asoslab berildi hamda idiomatik tarjima uchun integrativ model taklif etildi.

Kalit soʻzlar: lingvokultura, idiomatik ekvivalentlik, frazeologik analogiya, tarjima strategiyalari, pragmatik adekvatlik, madaniy referent, transformatsiya.

**Introduction.** In modern translation studies, there is a growing tendency to interpret language units not merely as grammatical or lexical phenomena, but as cultural phenomena. From this perspective, idioms constitute the most complex and semantically dense layer of language.

Idioms embody the historical experience, worldview, mentality, and aesthetic values of a people; thus, the process of translating them is far more complex than simple linguistic substitution. In languages belonging to different typological and cultural systems, such as English and Uzbek, translating idioms requires ensuring not only semantic consistency but also cultural adequacy.

The purpose of this research is to identify the linguocultural inconsistencies that arise in the translation of idiomatic units and to develop an effective strategic model to overcome them.

Methodology and literature review

The following methods were used in the study:

Comparative-typological analysis

Componential (semantic) analysis

Discursive and descriptive methods

For the analysis, more than 20 idiomatic units from English were selected, and their translation variants in Uzbek were studied comparatively. Materials were drawn from literary texts, phraseological dictionaries, and translation samples.

Theoretical foundations include:

M. Baker — Functional equivalence

P. Newmark — Semantic and communicative translation

E. Nida — Dynamic equivalence theory

Vinay and Darbelnet — Model of translation transformations

Works by Uzbek scholars such as Gʻ. Salomov and Q. Musayev also formed the theoretical basis of the research.

Linguopragmatic nature of idioms

The main characteristics of idioms are:

Semantic Integrity — the overall meaning does not derive from the sum of its individual components.

Structural Stability — if the composition changes, the meaning is lost or distorted.

Expressiveness — high emotional and stylistic coloring.

Pragmatic Load — the meaning intensifies according to the speech situation.

For example, the phrase “break the ice” not only means starting a conversation but also functions to overcome social barriers.

Linguocultural differences

The following linguocultural differences play a crucial role in the translation of idioms:

Differences in lifestyle: Nautical imagery prevails in English, while agricultural imagery is dominant in Uzbek.

Religious and philosophical foundations: Biblical motifs in English versus Eastern values in Uzbek.

Mental differences: Divergent ways of perceiving reality.

Example: “To be in the same boat” → “Bir ariqdan suv ichmoq” (To drink water from the same canal).

Integrative model of translation strategies

As a result of the study, the following strategic hierarchy was developed:

Full equivalence

Partial equivalence

Phraseological analogy (Most effective)

Descriptive translation

Calque (Loan translation)

Compensation

Practical analysis

Analysis shows that various strategies are used in the process of translating idioms between English and Uzbek. For instance, the phrase “Spill the beans” can be translated descriptively into Uzbek as “sirlarni ochmoq” (to reveal secrets), but a more linguoculturally natural and aesthetic variant is “og‘zidan gullamoq” (to flower from the mouth) — achieved through phraseological analogy. This approach preserves the idiom’s expressiveness and conveys the meaning through a national image.

Similarly, “Once in a blue moon” is a time-related idiom; in Uzbek, phraseological analogues such as “yilda bir kelar mehmondek” (like a guest who comes once a year) are chosen. This maintains semantic proximity while fitting the cultural context.

The idiom “To hit the nail on the head” refers to expressing an idea precisely. In Uzbek, this can be translated as “gaping po‘stini qoqmoq”. This variant falls under the phraseological analogy method and reflects the stylistic and semantic features of the idiom.

“Break the ice” refers to easing a social situation. Since there is no direct phraseological analogue in Uzbek, a descriptive translation — “suhbatni boshlamoq” (to start the conversation) — is used. While pragmatically adequate, this slightly reduces stylistic expressiveness.

“Kicking the bucket” refers to passing away. Translating it as “dunyodan o‘tmoq” (to pass from the world) through phraseological analogy maintains stylistic adequacy and increases the naturalness of the text.

“When pigs fly” denotes impossibility. In Uzbek, the phraseological analogy “tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda” (when the camel’s tail touches the ground) is used. In this way, semantic consistency and cultural adequacy are ensured simultaneously.

These examples demonstrate that the phraseological analogy strategy is the most effective method, as it conveys the artistic and semantic effect of the original text to the reader while adapting cultural codes. Descriptive translation is used only when no analogue is found, ensuring clarity but slightly diminishing artistic power.

#### Conclusion

The research results indicate the following:

Idiom translation is based on the integration of linguistic and cultural factors.

The most effective strategy is phraseological analogy.

Contextual analysis is the primary factor determining translation quality.

A translator must possess intercultural competence.

Practical significance: This model can serve as a methodological guide for translators, students, and researchers.

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