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Magical Elements and Supernatural Beings in English and Uzbek Fairy Tales: Translation Challenges

Usmanova Malika
Student of Namangan state university
Akbarova Ravzaxon
Dotsent of Namangan State University

Annotation. This article compares the magical elements and supernatural beings in English and Uzbek fairy tales and discusses the translation problems that arise. Both traditions include talking animals, magic objects, and various mythical creatures. English tales commonly feature fairies, witches, giants, and goblins, while Uzbek tales include pari, dev, and ajdaho. The study also highlights key translation challenges. Many magical creatures and cultural terms lack exact equivalents in the other language, so translators must choose methods that preserve the meaning and magical atmosphere. Approaches like descriptive translation, keeping the original word, or using a close cultural substitute are recommended. Overall, the article shows that understanding both cultures is crucial for translating magical elements accurately.

Key words: Magical elements, supernatural beings, translation challenges, cultural differences, folklore, pari, dev, ajdaho.

Fairy tales are an important part of every culture because they teach children about moral values, such as kindness, bravery, and honesty. They also show people's beliefs about good and evil. English and Uzbek fairy tales are full of magical creatures, enchanted objects, and supernatural events. These elements make the stories exciting and help readers imagine magical worlds. In this article, I compare the magical elements and supernatural beings in English and Uzbek fairy tales. I also discuss the challenges translators face when trying to keep the original meaning and magical atmosphere in another language (Chulanova & Bondareva, 2024).

English fairy tales often include magical creatures such as **fairies, witches, giants, goblins,** and **enchanted animals**. Fairies usually help the hero, give magical gifts, or protect humans. For example, the fairy godmother in *Cinderella* helps the heroine go to the ball (Wikipedia, "Fairy"). Witches often create challenges for the hero and symbolize evil. Giants and goblins usually represent danger or obstacles the hero must overcome (Hein, 2018). English stories also use magical objects, like **magic rings, enchanted animals**, or **flying carpets**, which help heroes solve problems and teach lessons about bravery and intelligence. These creatures and objects make English tales colorful and adventurous (Jones, 2002).

Uzbek fairy tales have unique magical creatures such as **pari**, **dev**, **ajdaho**, **ilon malikasi**, and **bahodir** (heroes with special powers). A *pari* is a magical girl who is kind and helpful, similar to a fairy but with a connection to Uzbek mythology (Wikipedia, Pari). A *dev* is a giant-like creature that often blocks

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the hero's path, while *ajdaho* is a multi-headed dragon symbolizing danger or evil (Ibrahimova, 2024). Uzbek tales also focus on brave heroes who fight these magical creatures and save people. Despite cultural differences, both English and Uzbek magical beings often serve similar roles: they help the hero, test their courage, or symbolize moral values. These similarities show that fairy tales share universal ideas about good and evil (Kholmirzaeva & Hakimova, n.d.). Translating fairy tales is difficult because some magical creatures and cultural terms do not have direct equivalents in another language. For example, the English "fairy" (is a small, magical creature often found in folklore, myths, and fairy tales. Fairies are usually described as human-like beings with supernatural powers. They sometimes have wings, can fly, and use magic to help or trick people. In stories, fairies often live in forests, gardens, or magical worlds) is not exactly the same as the Uzbek *pari*. Similarly, *dev* cannot be perfectly translated as "giant"(A **giant** is a mythical or imaginary creature that looks like a human but is **much bigger and taller** than an ordinary person. Giants are often extremely strong and appear in fairy tales, legends, and fantasy stories. Sometimes they are friendly, and sometimes they are shown as dangerous or scary) and *ajdaho* is more complex than "dragon" (Jo'rayeva et al., 2023).

To solve these problems, translators use several methods:

1. **Descriptive Translation**: Describe the creature in detail to preserve meaning.
   Example: *Ajdaho*: "a large, multi-headed dragon that causes fear."
2. **Borrowing (keeping the original word)** – Retain words like *pari, dev, ajdaho* to teach readers about the original culture.
3. **Cultural Substitution**: Use a similar creature in the target culture, e.g., *dev:* "ogre."
4. **Footnotes or Explanations** :
5. Add notes to explain magical or cultural concepts (Chorieva, 2023).

These methods help preserve the magical atmosphere while making the story understandable to readers from different cultures.

For example, in English Jack and the Beanstalk, Jack climbs a giant's beanstalk, faces challenges, and wins. The giant is a magical creature that tests the hero. In Uzbek tales, a hero might face a dev or ajdaho, which also tests courage and intelligence. Both stories teach bravery and resourcefulness. Magical objects in English tales, like a magic ring or a flying carpet, are similar to magical items in Uzbek tales, such as a magic sword or a protective talisman. These objects help heroes succeed and symbolize wisdom, courage, or luck.

In conclusion, both English and Uzbek fairy tales contain magical elements and supernatural creatures that make stories exciting and meaningful. Although the creatures and magical objects differ, they serve similar roles: helping heroes, testing moral character, and symbolizing good

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and evil. Translating these tales is challenging because some magical terms cannot be translated directly. Translators use methods like descriptive translation, borrowing, cultural substitution, or footnotes to keep the story magical and culturally accurate. Understanding both languages and cultures is essential to preserve the charm and lessons of fairy tales.

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