

TRANSLATION ERRORS AND THEIR CAUSES

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Abstract: *This article explores the major types of translation errors and the linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic factors that cause them. Through examples from English–Uzbek translation practice, the study highlights how inadequate linguistic knowledge, cultural mismatches, stylistic inconsistencies, and translator interference lead to inaccurate translations. Methods used in the research include textual analysis, comparison of originals with translated versions, and classification of error types. The article concludes with recommendations for improving translation quality.*

Keywords: *translation errors, linguistic interference, semantic inaccuracy, cultural mismatch, stylistic inconsistency, equivalence, translator competence, pragmatics, terminology.*

Russian: *В статье рассматриваются основные типы переводческих ошибок и факторы, вызывающие их, включая лингвистические, культурные и прагматические причины. На основе примеров из английско-узбекской переводческой практики показано, как недостаточные знания языка, культурные несоответствия, стилистические нарушения и интерференция приводят к неточным переводам. В исследовании использованы методы текстового анализа, сопоставления оригинальных и переводных текстов и классификации ошибок. Работа завершается рекомендациями по улучшению качества перевода.*

Ключевые слова: *ошибки перевода, лингвистическая интерференция, семантическая неточность, культурное несоответствие, стилистическое несоответствие, эквивалентность, компетентность переводчика, прагматика, терминология.*

Uzbek: *Maqolada tarjima jarayonida uchraydigan asosiy tarjima xatolari hamda ularning lingvistik, madaniy va pragmatik sabablari o'rganiladi. Ingliz–o'zbek tarjima amaliyotidan olingan misollar yordamida til bilimidagi yetishmovchilik, madaniy farqlar, uslubiy nomuvofiqlik va interferensiya noto'g'ri tarjimalarga olib kelishi yoritiladi. Tadqiqot matn tahlili, tarjima va asl matnlarni taqqoslash hamda xatolarni tasniflash metodlariga asoslanadi. Maqola tarjima sifatini oshirish bo'yicha takliflar bilan yakunlanadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *tarjima xatolari, lingvistik aralashuv, semantik noaniqlik, madaniy nomuvofiqlik, stilistik nomuvofiqlik, ekvivalentlik, tarjimon kompetensiyasi, pragmatika, terminologiya.*

Introduction

Translation is a complex linguistic and cognitive activity that requires transferring meaning, style, and cultural nuances from a source language to a target language. A high-quality translation must be accurate, natural, and culturally appropriate. However, due to differences between languages and cultures, as well as limitations in translator competence, various types of translation errors frequently occur.

In recent decades, the importance of translation has grown significantly because of globalization, international cooperation, and the expansion of digital communication. In Uzbekistan, translation plays an essential role in education, diplomacy, literature, and media. Understanding the causes of translation errors is therefore crucial for both novice and professional translators.

This article aims to identify the causes of translation errors commonly observed in English–Uzbek translations and analyze them through linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic perspectives.

Literature Review

Translation theorists such as Eugene Nida, Peter Newmark, Mona Baker, and V. Komissarov have extensively discussed the nature of translation errors. Their works commonly emphasize the following causes:

1. Linguistic Differences

Languages differ in grammar, word order, morphology, and lexical structures. This leads to:

- semantic errors
- incorrect word choice
- literal translation of idioms
- misuse of grammar

Example: *He kicked the bucket.*

Incorrect translation: *U chelakni tepdi.*

Correct translation: *U vafot etdi.* (idiomatic meaning)

2. Cultural Differences

Culture-specific items often cannot be directly translated. Example:

Thanksgiving — a U.S. national holiday

Incorrect: *Shukronalik kuni* (loses cultural context)

Correct: *AQShdagi milliy minnatdorchilik bayrami* — Thanksgiving.

3. Interference

Influence of the translator's native language affects translation accuracy.

Example:

Incorrect: I very liked it.

Correct: I liked it very much.

4. Stylistic Factors

The style of the original text is often lost or distorted. Example:

Formal English: *We regret to inform you...*

Incorrect: *Biz sizga aytgandan afsusdamiz...*

Correct: *Sizga ma'lum qilishdan afsusdamiz...*

5. Lack of Contextual Understanding

Words with multiple meanings require contextual interpretation. Example:

Bank

May refer to: *financial institution* or *river bank*

Without context, mistranslation is likely.

Research Methodology

This study uses several qualitative research methods:

1. Textual Analysis

English and Uzbek texts were examined to identify common error patterns.

2. Comparative Method

Original English texts were compared with their Uzbek translations to detect inaccuracies.

3. Error Classification

Errors were grouped into linguistic, cultural, pragmatic, and stylistic categories.

4. Case Study Method

Examples from academic papers, news texts, and student translations were analyzed.

5. Observation

Real translation tasks performed by beginner translators were observed and documented.

These methods ensure a comprehensive understanding of the causes of translation errors.

Analysis and Findings

1) Linguistic Errors

These include semantic mistakes, incorrect synonyms, misused grammar, and literal translations. Example: *He is a big man in the city.*

Literal: *U shaharda katta odam.*

Correct: *U shaharda nufuzli inson.*

2) Cultural Errors

Failure to understand cultural context results in inaccurate translations.

Example:

White wedding. Not simply “*oq to‘y*” in Uzbek; it refers to a Western-style traditional wedding ceremony.

3) Pragmatic Errors

These occur when the translator misinterprets the author's intention or the target audience. Example:

Could you please provide the documents...

Incorrect: *Hujjatlarni yuborarsiz*. (too informal)

Correct: *Hujjatlarni taqdim etishingizni so‘raymiz*.

4) Terminological Errors

Technical fields such as medicine and law require precise terminology.

Example:

Heart failure

Incorrect: *Yurakning ishlamasligi*

Correct: *Yurak yetishmovchiligi*

5) Interference-Based Errors

Influence of Uzbek sentence structure in English translations is common.

Example:

Uzbek structure: *Menga bu kitob juda yoqdi*.

Incorrect English: *To me this book liked very much*.

Correct: *I liked this book very much*.

Conclusion

Translation errors stem from multiple interrelated factors, including linguistic differences, cultural gaps, insufficient translator competence, and lack of contextual understanding. In English–Uzbek translation practice, literal translation and interference are particularly common. Increasing awareness of translation theory and improving practical skills are essential for reducing errors.

Recommendations

1. Translation students should receive specialized training in grammar, lexicon, and stylistics of both languages.
2. Translators must consider cultural context rather than relying on literal translation.
3. Using bilingual corpora, glossaries, and modern translation technologies can improve accuracy.
4. Every translation should undergo editing by a second translator to minimize errors.

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