



## THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION IN TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

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**Abstract.** *This thesis examines the role and importance of translation in teaching a foreign language. Translation is viewed not only as a linguistic activity but also as an effective pedagogical tool that supports language learning and cultural understanding. The study highlights how translation helps learners comprehend vocabulary, grammar, and meaning by connecting the target language with their native language. It emphasizes that translation facilitates deeper understanding, reduces misunderstandings, and enhances learners' analytical and critical thinking skills through language comparison. The views of prominent scholars such as G'aybulla Salomov, Peter Newmark, Jeremy Harmer, and Eugene Nida are analyzed to demonstrate the theoretical and practical value of translation in foreign language education. The thesis also discusses the role of translation in supporting learners at beginner and intermediate levels and its contribution to developing accuracy, confidence, and cultural awareness. The findings suggest that when used purposefully alongside communicative methods, translation remains a valuable and necessary component of effective foreign language teaching.*

**Key words:** *Translation, foreign language teaching, language learning, pedagogical tool, cultural awareness, vocabulary and grammar, communicative approach, language skills development, linguistic process, functions, target language.*

**Intoduction.** Teaching is a purposeful and organized process that helps learners gain knowledge, develop skills, and build positive attitudes. It involves



planned instruction, interaction, and guidance from the teacher. For teaching to be effective, the teacher should create a supportive learning environment, choose appropriate methods and materials, and adaptable lessons to learners' needs and abilities. Therefore, teaching is not just about giving information, but about creating the right conditions for meaningful and long- learning. As noted by Uzbek translation scholar G'aybulla Salomov "When two individuals exchange, for instance, a single gold brooch, each person ends up possessing one brooch — not two. However, when two individuals exchange new ideas, each of them acquires two ideas rather than one.

Similarly, translation gives rise to a new literary work in another language, without causing any loss to either side. On the contrary, through translation, the finest works produced within national literatures are multiplied dozens and even hundreds of times.

What other form of art possesses such a capacity? In conclusion, literary translation plays an important role in our literary development and in the cultural life of the independence period, offering rich possibilities that have not yet been fully realized.<sup>1</sup> This idea shows that translation is not just the transfer of words from one language to another, but the sharing of ideas and culture. G'aybulla Salomov explains that unlike material objects, ideas increase when they are exchanged. Through translation, a literary work does not lose its value; instead, a new work is created in another language. As a result, both cultures benefit from translation. Therefore, literary translation plays an important role in enriching national literature and spreading valuable works to a wider audience.

Translation is a complex linguistic process that involves transferring meaning from one language to another while keeping the original message, style, and intention. Peter Newmark highlights "Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message in one language by the same message in another language"<sup>2</sup>. Such an approach supports learners in grasping grammatical and lexical features of the foreign language through comparison with their native language. It

<sup>1</sup>Salomov G'. Tarjima nazariyasi va amaliyoti. – T., 2005, p.3-4

<sup>2</sup>Newmark P. A Textbook of Translation. – L., 1988, p.7



plays an important role in language learning by helping students understand vocabulary, grammar, and cultural differences between languages. In the classroom, translation can be used as a helpful tool to improve understanding and develop learners' awareness of language. However, effective translation requires not only knowledge of language but also an understanding of culture and context to make the meaning clear and accurate.

Translation functions as a useful and practical tool in foreign language teaching and plays an important role in helping students understand new material. It helps teachers explain difficult grammar rules, new vocabulary, and culture-related expressions by connecting them to students' native language. Through translation activities, learners compare the source language with the target language, which helps them better understand how languages work. In addition, translation acts as a form of support, especially when students read, write, or speak in a foreign language. By linking what learners already know with new language knowledge, translation makes learning easier, improves thinking skills, and helps students gradually become more independent in using the foreign language. Overall, the main role of translation is to guide learners through the learning process and help them understand and use the language correctly. According to Jeremy Harmer "Translation can be a useful pedagogical tool, especially at lower levels, when it is used carefully and purposefully"<sup>3</sup>. This view supports the idea that translation should not be excluded from communicative language teaching but integrated thoughtfully.

The importance of translation in foreign language teaching lies in its strong effect on learners' language skills, confidence, and overall development. Translation helps learners understand meaning more clearly, reduces misunderstandings, and allows them to learn new vocabulary and grammar more effectively. It also develops learners' critical and analytical thinking by encouraging them to compare different languages and cultures. Especially at beginner and intermediate levels, translation helps learners understand difficult texts and express their ideas more accurately in

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<sup>3</sup>Harmer J. How to Teach English. – L., 2007, p.45



the target language. In addition to language skills, translation increases cultural awareness by helping learners recognize and respect differences in expression, context, and idioms. Although communicative approaches focus on direct use of the foreign language, the careful use of translation creates balanced learning and leads to better accuracy, stronger memory, and improved results in language learning. Eugene Nida emphasizes that “Translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message”<sup>4</sup>. This idea highlights the importance of meaning-focused translation in the classroom.

In conclusion, translation plays an important role in teaching and learning a foreign language. Teaching is not only about giving information to students, but about helping them understand and use the language in a meaningful way. Translation helps learners connect their native language with the foreign language, which makes learning clearer and less difficult.

Translation is especially helpful when teachers need to explain difficult grammar rules, new vocabulary, or culture-related expressions. By comparing the native language with the target language, students can better understand how language works. Translation activities also help learners think more deeply about language and develop their analytical skills. In addition, translation supports learners at different stages of learning, particularly beginners and intermediate students. It helps them understand texts more easily, express their ideas more accurately, and feel more confident when using the foreign language. Translation also reduces misunderstandings and supports gradual improvement in reading, writing, and speaking skills.

**Overall**, translation contributes to learners’ language development, accuracy, and cultural understanding. When used carefully together with communicative methods, translation helps students remember new information better and become more independent language users. Therefore, translation remains a useful and necessary part of effective foreign language teaching. Translation

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<sup>4</sup>Nida E. *Toward a science of Translating*. – L., 1964, p.23



functions as a useful and practical tool in foreign language teaching and plays an important role in helping students understand new material. It helps teachers explain difficult grammar rules, new vocabulary, and culture-related expressions by connecting them to students' native language.

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