

SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF PROPER NOUN TRANSLATION IN DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE

Jalilova Dilbar Mansur qizi

Student at Uzbekistan State World Languages University

dilbarmansurovna2006@gmail.com

+998974823111

Abstract. Proper nouns play a significant role in diplomatic discourse because they identify countries, institutions, political leaders, international organizations, and culturally specific entities. The translation of proper nouns in diplomatic texts requires not only linguistic accuracy but also sensitivity to political, cultural, and pragmatic factors. This study examines the semantic and pragmatic features of proper noun translation in diplomatic discourse. It explores various translation strategies, including transliteration, transcription, calque, and adaptation, and analyzes how these methods affect meaning and communicative intent. The research highlights the importance of preserving referential accuracy while ensuring the target audience correctly interprets diplomatic messages. The findings demonstrate that successful translation of proper nouns contributes to effective international communication, intercultural understanding, and the maintenance of diplomatic relations.

Keywords: proper nouns, diplomatic discourse, translation, semantics, pragmatics, transliteration, intercultural communication, diplomatic communication, translation strategies, political language.

Translation plays a crucial role in international relations, where diplomatic communication depends on precision, clarity, and cultural sensitivity. Among the various linguistic elements encountered in diplomatic texts, proper nouns present unique challenges for translators. Proper nouns include personal names, geographical names, names of institutions, international organizations, political parties, treaties, and other culturally or politically significant entities. Although proper nouns are often considered non-translatable, their translation frequently requires careful consideration of semantic and pragmatic factors.

The semantic aspect of proper noun translation concerns the preservation of reference and meaning. In diplomatic discourse, proper nouns often carry historical, political, and cultural associations that extend beyond simple identification. Therefore, translators must ensure that these associations are accurately conveyed in the target language. At the same time, the pragmatic dimension involves understanding the communicative purpose of diplomatic texts, the relationship between participants, and the potential impact of linguistic choices on international relations. Diplomatic

discourse is characterized by formality, politeness, and strategic language use. Even minor inaccuracies in the translation of proper nouns may lead to misunderstandings, ambiguity, or unintended political implications. For this reason, translators employ various strategies such as transliteration, transcription, calque, adaptation, and explanatory translation to maintain both semantic accuracy and pragmatic effectiveness.

The present study investigates the semantic and pragmatic features of proper noun translation in diplomatic discourse. It aims to identify the main challenges associated with translating proper nouns and to analyze the strategies used to preserve meaning and communicative intent in diplomatic communication. By examining examples from diplomatic texts, the study contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between language, translation, and international diplomacy.

Literature review. The translation of proper nouns has long been a subject of interest in Translation Studies. Scholars have debated whether proper nouns should be translated at all and, if so, which strategies should be employed to preserve their semantic and pragmatic functions. In diplomatic discourse, the issue becomes particularly significant because proper nouns often refer to politically sensitive entities, state institutions, international organizations, and public figures. One of the earliest contributions to the study of proper noun translation was made by Newmark (1988), who argued that proper names are generally transferred rather than translated. However, he noted that some names require adaptation when they contain descriptive meanings or established equivalents in the target language. For example, United Nations is translated into Uzbek as Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti rather than being simply transliterated. This translation preserves both the reference and the institutional meaning of the name.

Baker (1992) emphasized that proper nouns may carry cultural and contextual meanings that influence translation choices. According to her, translators must consider the target audience's familiarity with a particular name. For instance, the diplomatic title The White House often refers not only to the physical building but also to the administration of the President of the United States. In many contexts, translating it literally as Oq Uy may be sufficient, but translators must also recognize its metonymic political meaning.

Nord (1997) highlighted the importance of functional equivalence in translation. She argued that translators should focus on the communicative purpose of a text rather than merely reproducing linguistic forms. This approach is especially relevant in diplomatic discourse, where proper nouns often function as symbols of political authority or national identity. For example, the term European Union is commonly translated as Yevropa Ittifoqi, a form that is widely recognized and fulfills the same communicative function in the target language.

From a pragmatic perspective, Hatim and Mason (1997) stressed that translation is influenced by context, ideology, and communicative intentions. Diplomatic texts frequently contain references to international agreements, political institutions, and government bodies. The translation of names such as North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requires both accuracy and audience awareness. In Uzbek diplomatic texts, the acronym NATO is often retained because it is internationally recognized, while explanatory translations may be provided when necessary. Recent studies have focused on the role of proper nouns in intercultural communication. Fernandes (2006) identified several strategies for translating names, including preservation, adaptation, substitution, and addition. Although his research primarily addressed literary translation, these strategies are also applicable to diplomatic discourse. For example, geographical names such as Beijing, Moscow, and Tashkent are usually standardized according to internationally accepted forms to avoid ambiguity in diplomatic communication.

Scholars also note that proper nouns can carry ideological and political significance. The naming of territories, states, and institutions may reflect diplomatic positions and national interests. For instance, the translation of geographical names in disputed regions requires particular caution because different naming choices may imply political recognition or support. Therefore, translators working with diplomatic texts must be aware of both linguistic and geopolitical considerations. Overall, the literature demonstrates that proper noun translation is not merely a technical process of transferring names between languages. It involves semantic accuracy, pragmatic appropriateness, cultural awareness, and sensitivity to political contexts. Previous research provides a valuable theoretical foundation for analyzing how proper nouns function and are translated in diplomatic discourse.

Methodology. This study employs a qualitative research approach to investigate the semantic and pragmatic features of proper noun translation in diplomatic discourse. The qualitative method is considered appropriate because it enables an in-depth analysis of linguistic phenomena within their communicative and cultural contexts. The research data consist of diplomatic texts collected from official statements, speeches, press releases, international agreements, and documents issued by governments and international organizations. Particular attention is given to texts available in both English and Uzbek, allowing for a comparative analysis of proper noun translation. Examples of proper nouns examined in the study include names of countries, political leaders, international organizations, government institutions, treaties, and geographical entities. Data were collected through document analysis. Relevant diplomatic texts were selected based on the frequency and significance of proper nouns appearing in them. The collected examples were categorized according to the type of proper noun, such as personal names, place names, institutional names,

and names of international organizations. The analysis was conducted in three stages. First, the semantic characteristics of proper nouns were examined to determine how their referential and contextual meanings were preserved in translation. Second, the pragmatic functions of proper nouns were analyzed, focusing on their role in expressing political identity, diplomatic relations, and communicative intentions. Third, the translation strategies applied to proper nouns were identified and classified according to established translation theories. These strategies include transliteration, transcription, calque, adaptation, and the use of established equivalents. To ensure reliability, examples were compared across multiple diplomatic sources and evaluated in light of theoretical frameworks proposed by Newmark (1988), Baker (1992), Nord (1997), and Hatim and Mason (1997). The findings were then interpreted to identify common patterns, challenges, and effective practices in the translation of proper nouns within diplomatic discourse. The methodology provides a systematic framework for exploring how semantic meaning and pragmatic functions are maintained when proper nouns are translated in diplomatic communication.

Analysis and discussion. The translation of proper nouns in diplomatic discourse requires careful consideration of both semantic and pragmatic factors. Proper nouns function not only as identifiers but also as carriers of political, historical, and institutional significance. Consequently, translators must preserve their referential meaning while ensuring that the intended communicative effect is maintained in the target language. A prominent example is the translation of World Trade Organization into Uzbek as Jahon Savdo Tashkiloti. This translation employs the calque method, whereby the lexical elements of the source-language expression are translated directly into the target language. Semantically, the translated form accurately conveys the meaning of the original institution's name. Pragmatically, it provides a clear and accessible designation that is widely recognized in official and diplomatic communication. Another example is Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is translated as Yevropada Xavfsizlik va Hamkorlik Tashkiloti (YXHT). In this case, the translator combines calque with the use of an established abbreviation. This strategy preserves the institutional identity of the organization while ensuring consistency with international diplomatic practice. The translation effectively fulfills its communicative purpose and maintains the official status of the organization in the target language. The translation of personal names generally relies on transliteration. For example, the name Volodymyr Zelenskyy is commonly rendered in Uzbek as Volodimir Zelenskiy. The purpose of transliteration is to preserve the phonetic characteristics and identity of the individual. Since personal names primarily serve a referential function, maintaining recognizability is of greater importance than translating lexical meaning. This approach allows target-language readers to identify the individual accurately while adapting the name to local linguistic conventions. A

further example is the translation of Kremlin as Kreml. In diplomatic discourse, this proper noun frequently functions as a metonymic reference to the Russian government rather than merely denoting a historical complex of buildings. Through transliteration, the translator preserves the original reference, while the pragmatic meaning is inferred from the context. As a result, the political and symbolic implications associated with the term remain accessible to the target audience.

The analysis indicates that different categories of proper nouns require different translation strategies. Institutional names are most effectively translated through calque because this method preserves semantic content and promotes clarity. In contrast, personal names and politically significant place-related entities are more appropriately rendered through transliteration, which maintains their identity and international recognizability. Overall, the findings suggest that successful translation of proper nouns in diplomatic discourse depends on balancing semantic accuracy with pragmatic effectiveness. Calque is particularly suitable for the names of international organizations and institutions, whereas transliteration remains the preferred strategy for personal names and politically significant entities. The appropriate use of these methods contributes to effective diplomatic communication and facilitates mutual understanding between cultures and nations.

Conclusion

The present study examined the semantic and pragmatic features of proper noun translation in diplomatic discourse. The analysis demonstrated that proper nouns play a significant role in diplomatic communication, as they identify international organizations, political institutions, and public figures while also conveying important cultural and institutional meanings. The findings revealed that the translation of proper nouns requires more than a simple transfer of names from one language to another. Translators must consider both semantic accuracy and pragmatic effectiveness to ensure that the intended message is accurately conveyed to the target audience. The study showed that different categories of proper nouns require different translation strategies. Calque is commonly employed for the names of international organizations and institutions, whereas transliteration is generally preferred for personal names in order to preserve identity and international recognizability. The analysis of examples such as World Trade Organization, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Volodymyr Zelenskyy demonstrated that the successful translation of proper nouns contributes to clarity, accuracy, and effective intercultural communication. The findings further indicate that appropriate translation strategies help maintain the official status and communicative function of proper nouns within diplomatic discourse. In conclusion, proper noun translation constitutes an essential component of diplomatic communication. The effective use of calque and transliteration enables translators to preserve both the semantic content and pragmatic

functions of proper nouns, thereby facilitating successful communication between different linguistic and cultural communities.

References:

1. Baker, M. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. - London: Routledge, 1992. - P. 1-343.
2. Hatim, B., Mason, I. The Translator as Communicator. - London: Routledge, 1997. - P. 1-244.
3. Newmark, P. A Textbook of Translation. - New York: Prentice Hall, 1988. - P. 1-311.
4. Nord, C. Translating as a Purposeful Activity: Functionalist Approaches Explained. - Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997. - P. 1-154.
5. Munday, J. Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications. -London: Routledge, 2016. - P. 1-396.
6. Komilov, N. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari. - Toshkent: Akademnashr, 2015. - B. 1-256.
7. Salomov, G'. Tarjima nazariyasiga kirish. - Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1978. - B. 1-220.
8. Musayev, Q. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari. - Toshkent: Fan, - 2005. - B. 1-192.
9. Abduazizov, A. Tilshunoslik nazariyasiga kirish. - Toshkent: Sharq, 2010. - B. 1-286.