

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION OF MARK TWAIN'S STORIES: THE CASE OF UZBEK LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

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Abstract: The translation of literary works has always been a complex and multilayered process, especially when it comes to the masterpieces of iconic authors such as Mark Twain. His stories, imbued with humor, satire, and a distinct narrative voice, pose certain challenges and demand acute sensitivity from translators who attempt to render his works into other languages. Within this context, the translation of Mark Twain's stories into Uzbek represents a rich field for linguistic analysis, touching upon diverse aspects such as syntax, lexicon, style, pragmatics, and cultural adaptation.

Key words: linguistic analysis, translation studies, Mark Twain, Uzbek language, literary translation, syntax, lexicon, cultural adaptation, narrative style, pragmatics.

In examining the various linguistic features of Mark Twain's stories, one immediately notices his idiosyncratic use of language. Twain's English is marked by colloquialisms, regionalisms, idiomatic expressions, and a unique sense of irony that permeates his narratives. As such, one of the foremost tasks of the translator is to determine how to convey this unique linguistic palette in the Uzbek language, which has its own structural and stylistic conventions. The success of such translation efforts depends largely on the translator's linguistic competence in both source and target languages, as well as his or her familiarity with both American and Uzbek cultures. The structural transformation required in translating Twain's complex sentence patterns into Uzbek is a point of major interest. In English, Twain frequently employs long, compound-complex sentences, replete with subordinate clauses, parenthetical insertions, and asides that create a conversational, almost spoken quality. Uzbek, on the other hand, often prefers a more linear and cohesive sentence structure, with particular attention paid to the logical flow of ideas and clarity of expression. Consequently, translators must often break down lengthy English sentences into

several shorter, more digestible units when rendering them into Uzbek, while still maintaining the rhythm and tone that are so characteristic of Twain's style. Lexical choices are another significant consideration in the translation process. Twain's English is richly endowed with regional vocabulary, especially words and phrases drawn from the American South. Rendering such culturally bound lexis into Uzbek requires creative solutions on the part of the translator. While direct equivalents may occasionally exist, more often the translator must search for expressions in Uzbek that are functionally and semantically similar to those found in the source text. This may involve the use of Uzbek proverbs, colloquialisms, or idioms that reflect similar social realities, thereby helping to preserve the intended meaning and effect of the original [1].

Another factor that complicates the translation of Twain's stories is his frequent use of humor and sarcasm. These elements are deeply embedded in his choice of words, sentence structure, and narrative voice. Translators must be attuned not only to the literal meaning of Twain's prose but also to its underlying tone—a tone that can range from playful to deeply satirical. The translator's challenge, then, is to recreate this tonal quality in Uzbek, a language with its own rich heritage of humor and satire. In doing so, the translator contributes to the intercultural dialogue and ensures that Uzbek readers are able to appreciate Twain's wit just as English-speaking readers do. Pragmatics and cultural adaptation play a particularly vital role in literary translation. Twain's stories are rooted in the social, historical, and cultural context of nineteenth-century America. The issues, customs, and references that pervade his works are often alien to the average Uzbek reader, especially in cases where the passage of time has rendered certain aspects obsolete even within English-speaking communities. Translators must therefore carefully consider how much to retain, adapt, or explain, striking a balance between fidelity to the source text and comprehensibility for the target audience. They may use footnotes or glossaries to clarify historical events or cultural references, or they may substitute certain elements with relevant Uzbek analogues to achieve a similar effect [2].

Stylistically, Twain is known for his distinctive narrative voice. His use of first-person narration, direct address, and vernacular speech gives his stories a sense of immediacy and intimacy with the reader. When translating these elements into Uzbek, translators face the challenge of preserving the individuality of the narrator while adhering to the stylistic norms of Uzbek literary prose. This may involve the selective use of colloquial registers or the adaptation of punctuation and intonation patterns to match the cadence and rhythm of spoken Uzbek. Attention must also be paid to the translation of dialects and sociolects present in Twain's stories. His depictions of various social classes, ethnicities, and regional groups are marked by their distinct ways of speaking, which often serve as character identifiers and a source of humor. Translating these dialects into Uzbek presents particular difficulties, as direct equivalents for certain regional or sociolectal markers may not exist. Treated with care, the translation may use distinctive lexical or grammatical choices in Uzbek to approximate the original effect, or it may resort to standardized language while indicating certain features through narrative description. An important aspect of Twain's stories is his use of figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole abound, often in service of humor or social critique. To render these devices effectively into Uzbek, translators must possess both linguistic agility and a deep appreciation for the literary traditions of both English and Uzbek. While some figurative expressions may be translated literally, others may require reimagining in the target language to preserve their force and resonance [3].

The translation process is further complicated by Twain's penchant for inventiveness in both form and content. His stories often contain linguistic play: puns, neologisms, and self-referential passages that delight in the ambiguity and flexibility of language itself. Such aspects demand both ingenuity and sensitivity from the translator, who must strive to capture Twain's playful spirit without lapsing into incomprehensibility or losing the coherence of the narrative. In examining the translations of Mark Twain's stories into Uzbek, it is evident that translators make a range of strategic choices depending on their interpretation of the author's intent, the

expectations of the target audience, and the requirements of the Uzbek literary system. Some translations are more literal, adhering closely to the source in terms of phraseology and structure; others are more liberal, prioritizing fluency and cultural appropriateness in the target language. Each approach has its benefits and drawbacks, and the best translations often strike a balance between fidelity and freedom. The linguistic analysis of these translations reveals the profound influence of sociocultural factors on the translation process. The political climate, educational norms, and prevailing literary tastes within Uzbekistan all shape the nature of translation. For example, during periods of greater cultural openness, translators may be more inclined to experiment with form and content, while in more conservative epochs, a stricter adherence to prescriptive norms may prevail [4].

At the same time, the very act of translating Mark Twain's stories into Uzbek is an instance of cross-cultural communication, one that fosters mutual understanding and appreciation between peoples of different backgrounds. Through translation, Uzbek readers gain access to perspectives, values, and experiences far removed from their own, while English-language literature is enriched through its encounter with new linguistic and cultural paradigms. The process of translation is not merely a linguistic exercise but also an act of interpretation and negotiation. The translator must constantly mediate between the sometimes-conflicting demands of accuracy, readability, and cultural resonance. This mediation is especially acute in the case of Twain's stories, where the interplay of humor, regionalism, and social commentary makes every lexical and syntactic choice fraught with significance. From a syntactic viewpoint, English and Uzbek belong to different language families and exhibit considerable divergence in sentence construction, word order, and morphological patterns. English, as a Germanic language with a relatively fixed subject-verb-object order, contrasts with Uzbek's Turkic structure, characterized by agglutination and subject-object-verb word order. Translators must be particularly attentive to these grammatical constraints when reconfiguring Twain's sentences for the Uzbek reader, often recasting complex clauses into more manageable segments and adjusting verbal forms to suit Uzbek norms.

Furthermore, the narrative techniques employed by Twain, such as unreliable narrators, shifting points of view, and ironic juxtaposition, can be challenging to render effectively in Uzbek. Such techniques may necessitate subtle shifts in narrative strategy to ensure that the thematic and rhetorical force of the original is preserved. In some cases, translators may opt for alternative syntactic or stylistic solutions, crafting passages that evoke similar responses in the target audience. At the pragmatic level, the translator's awareness of the communicative functions of Twain's language is critical. Mark Twain's works frequently address themes of social injustice, human folly, and the absurdity of conventional wisdom, expressed through dialogue, anecdote, and satire. Capturing the illocutionary force of Twain's utterances in Uzbek—whether they are intended as rebuke, persuasion, or entertainment—requires a keen ear for nuance and the ability to navigate both the explicit and implicit layers of meaning [5].

It is also important to recognize the constraints imposed by existing norms and expectations in Uzbek literary publishing. The acceptability of certain forms of irony or irreverence may be more limited in Uzbek translations, especially in official or educational contexts. Translators must therefore find ways to render Twain's irreverent tone in ways that remain accessible and appropriate for Uzbek audiences, without blunting its incisive edge. The role of the translator as both mediator and creator is therefore of paramount importance in literary translation. The translator's choices shape not only the text itself but also the way it is received and interpreted by new generations of readers. In the case of Mark Twain's stories, this responsibility is heightened by the enduring popularity and canonical status of his works. Every translation is, in effect, an invitation to dialogue—not only between languages, but also between worldviews, values, and traditions. Translations of Twain's stories into Uzbek, therefore, constitute more than a mere exercise in linguistic transfer. They are acts of cultural bridge-building that enable Uzbek readers to encounter the humor, wit, and humanity of one of America's greatest writers. Each successful translation thus represents a collaboration across time and space, a testament to the enduring power of literature to unite, inform, and inspire [6].

Conclusion:

The linguistic analysis of the translation of Mark Twain's stories into Uzbek demonstrates the complexity and richness of literary translation. It is a process that involves much more than the simple substitution of words or phrases; it requires creative ingenuity, deep cultural awareness, and a keen sense of both languages' expressive capacities. Through careful attention to syntax, lexis, style, pragmatics, and cultural adaptation, translators seek to preserve the spirit and flavor of Twain's prose for Uzbek readers. In doing so, they not only bridge linguistic divides but also foster greater intercultural understanding. Every translation is both a product and a producer of cultural exchange, and the ongoing work of rendering Mark Twain's stories accessible to Uzbek speakers is a vital contribution to the global literary mosaic.

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