

## ANALYSIS OF COMMON STRATEGIES IN THE TRANSLATION OF HISTORICAL TEXTS

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### Abstract

The translation of historical texts presents unique challenges due to the complexity of language, culture, and historical context. This article examines the most commonly used strategies in translating historical works, focusing on linguistic, cultural, and stylistic aspects. The study is based on a comparative analysis of selected historical texts and their translations into English, highlighting the ways translators address cultural realia, archaic terminology, and stylistic features. The findings indicate that strategies such as transliteration, adaptation, paraphrasing, and explanatory commentary are frequently employed to maintain the meaning, authenticity, and readability of the original text. The study concludes that successful translation of historical texts requires a balanced application of these strategies, combining linguistic accuracy with cultural and historical intelligibility.

**Keywords:** historical text translation; translation strategies; culture-specific terms; linguistic adaptation; equivalence; transliteration; paraphrasing

### Introduction

Historical texts are deeply embedded in the social, cultural, and political contexts of their time, making them particularly challenging for translators. Unlike contemporary literature, historical works often contain archaic language, culture-specific terms, and references to historical events or practices that may be unfamiliar to the target audience. The translator's task is therefore not only linguistic but also cultural and interpretive, requiring careful selection of strategies that convey both meaning and context.

This article focuses on the most commonly used translation strategies in historical texts. By examining examples from selected works and analyzing the approaches adopted by translators, the study aims to provide a systematic overview of effective strategies for rendering historically and culturally bound content into a different linguistic and cultural context.

### Literature Review

Translation strategies are central to translation studies and have been widely discussed in the context of literary and historical texts. Eugene Nida (1964) introduced the concept of functional equivalence, emphasizing that the meaning, rather than literal form, should guide translation decisions. Peter Newmark (1988) categorized

translation strategies into semantic, communicative, and cultural approaches, highlighting the importance of balancing accuracy with target language readability. Lawrence Venuti (1995) introduced the concepts of domestication and foreignization, emphasizing the translator's choice to either adapt texts for target readers or retain source culture features.

Recent research emphasizes pragmatic adaptation and culture-specific strategies in historical text translation. Zhang, Abdul Halim, & Ang (2025) analyzed strategies for culture-bound elements, highlighting the frequent use of transliteration, adaptation, and explanatory notes to address semantic gaps. Regional studies also underline the significance of local cultural knowledge in ensuring accurate and meaningful translation of historical texts (Israilova, 2025; Qayimova & Bakiyev, 2025).

### Methodology

This study employs a qualitative, descriptive, and comparative method to analyze translation strategies in historical texts. Selected historical works and their English translations were examined to identify the approaches translators used to handle linguistic, cultural, and stylistic challenges.

The analysis involved:

Identifying problematic linguistic and cultural elements in the source texts.

Examining the strategies used in the target texts.

Classifying the strategies according to their function (e.g., transliteration, adaptation, paraphrasing, explanatory commentary).

The goal is to provide a systematic overview of commonly used strategies and assess their effectiveness in preserving meaning and cultural authenticity.

### Analysis and Discussion

The analysis reveals four primary strategies commonly employed in translating historical texts:

#### *Transliteration*

Transliteration is frequently used for culture-specific terms, proper names, and historical titles that have no direct equivalents in the target language. While it preserves the original form and authenticity, it often requires additional context or footnotes for clarity.

Example: Uzbek titles such as *bek*, *khanum*, or *saroy* are often transliterated directly, sometimes accompanied by explanations.

#### *Adaptation*

Adaptation involves replacing a source term with a culturally or contextually equivalent term in the target language. This strategy enhances readability and understanding but may reduce the cultural specificity of the original text.

Example: Traditional ceremonies may be described using equivalent English terms or generalized descriptions rather than literal translation.

### *Paraphrasing and Explanation*

When a direct translation is impossible, paraphrasing or adding explanatory commentary is employed. This ensures the reader comprehends the historical or cultural significance of a term, event, or practice.

Example: Archaic expressions, idioms, or historical references are often paraphrased, with footnotes providing additional context.

### *Domestication and Foreignization*

Domestication involves adapting the text to fit the target culture, while foreignization retains the source culture elements. Translators often balance these strategies to preserve authenticity while ensuring comprehension.

Example: A historical Uzbek festival may either be explained in detail (foreignization) or described using a comparable English concept (domestication).

### **Observations**

Transliteration is common for proper nouns and political titles.

Adaptation and paraphrasing dominate when cultural understanding is essential.

Footnotes and commentary enhance target audience comprehension but must be used judiciously to maintain text flow.

Successful translation is a careful balance of these strategies, tailored to the nature of the text and audience.

### **Conclusion**

The translation of historical texts requires careful strategy selection to navigate linguistic, cultural, and stylistic challenges. Transliteration, adaptation, paraphrasing, and commentary are the most commonly employed approaches, each with distinct advantages and limitations. Translators must balance accuracy, readability, and cultural authenticity, often combining multiple strategies within a single work.

This study contributes to translation studies by systematizing the common strategies used in historical text translation and highlighting their effectiveness. Further research is recommended to explore strategy selection in different languages and historical contexts, with attention to target audience reception.

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