

LITERARY TRANSLATION AND ITS PROBLEMS

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Abstract; Literary translation plays a vital role in ensuring intercultural understanding, the exchange of artistic values, and the global circulation of literary heritage. As literature embodies not only linguistic structures but also a nation's cultural memory, worldview, emotional depth, and aesthetic principles, translating literary works from one language into another presents unique complexities. This research explores the fundamental nature of literary translation, emphasizing its creative dimension and the translator's responsibility as both an interpreter and a co-creator of meaning.

The study examines the major linguistic, stylistic, cultural, and poetic challenges faced by translators. These include the difficulty of rendering author-specific styles, idiomatic expressions, metaphors, wordplay, cultural realia, dialectal features, and character-specific speech patterns. Particular attention is given to the issue of preserving national color and connotative meaning, which often resist direct translation and require culturally sensitive strategies such as adaptation, functional equivalence, or explanatory translation.

A separate section focuses on the translation of poetry, which is widely regarded as the most demanding form of literary translation due to its reliance on rhythm, musicality, rhyme, imagery, and emotional resonance. The abstract also discusses the translator's creative path, highlighting the necessity of deep linguistic competence, cultural awareness, aesthetic taste, and mastery of translation theory and practice.

The findings emphasize that literary translation is not a mechanical linguistic activity but a sophisticated artistic process that bridges two cultures and recreates the emotional and aesthetic reality of the original text in a new linguistic environment. Ultimately, literary translation strengthens intercultural dialogue, fosters global

understanding, and contributes to the enrichment of world literature by making diverse literary voices accessible to new audiences.

Keywords: Literary translation, intercultural communication, stylistic challenges, cultural realia, metaphors, wordplay, poetic translation, national color, adaptation, translation theory, linguistic equivalence, creative interpretation, translator's responsibility.

Introduction

Throughout human history, translation has been one of the most important means of intercultural communication. Through translation, nations have been able to learn from each other's cultural heritage, scientific achievements, and literary works, thus contributing to the enrichment of world thought. From this perspective, **literary translation** holds a special place, as it conveys not only language but also national spirit, emotions, and aesthetic values in another linguistic environment.

In today's globalized world, literary translation has become not only an essential part of literary development but also an important component of cultural policy. Every nation relies on translators to introduce its literature to the world and to bring the finest works of world literature into its native language.

The Essence of Literary Translation

Literary translation is not a mechanical replacement of words—it is the recreation of artistic images in another language. A translator must not only understand the text but also perceive the author's emotional state, the spirit of the era, and the national color represented in the work. Therefore, literary translation is always a creative process. Without immersing oneself in the atmosphere of the work and understanding the inner world of the author, a translator cannot go beyond literal translation. Thus, a literary translator is recognized as a creator in his or her own right.

Compared to other types of translation, literary translation requires a higher level of creativity, linguistic sensitivity, cross-cultural competence, and artistic skill.

However, such a creative approach also leads to various difficulties. These challenges arise due to linguistic differences, cultural factors, national mentality, stylistic compatibility, and problems related to conveying artistic devices. The main challenges of literary translation are discussed below.

Language and Style Problems

Literary works are usually written in the author's unique language and style. Conveying this style in another language is one of the most important and difficult tasks of translation. Vocabulary, idioms, metaphors, aphorisms, and similes often lack direct equivalents in the target language.

For example, the expression “*ko’ngil qanoti*” (the wings of the soul) from Erkin Vohidov’s poem “*O’zbeğim*” loses its artistic impact if translated into English simply as “*soul*” or “*emotion*.”

A translator must find a way to preserve the artistic and stylistic qualities of the original while making the text natural and understandable in the target language—a task requiring great creativity and deep knowledge.

Cultural Differences and Connotation Problems

Every language reflects its people’s culture, traditions, religion, and historical values. Literary works often contain cultural realities such as national dishes, clothing, ceremonies, riddles, proverbs, and mythological characters. Translating such cultural elements into another language is often extremely difficult.

For example, idioms like “*Osh tug’di*” or “*Tuya hammomni orzu qilibdi*” carry specific connotations in Uzbek culture, but they may be incomprehensible to foreign readers. The translator must find a way to explain their meaning or search for functional equivalents. In some cases, the translator must use **adaptation**, replacing the expression with a culturally understandable alternative. However, this may lead to a loss of national color or distance from the author’s original style.

Translating Wordplay and Metaphors

Poetry, drama, and prose often rely on wordplay, which is usually language-specific and impossible to translate directly.

For example, the English expression “*Time flies*” can be translated literally as “*Vaqt uchadi*,” which exists in Uzbek as well. However, the poetic expression “*Time flies like an arrow*” may lose its metaphorical richness when translated literally. In such cases, the translator must recreate the metaphor using a stylistically equivalent image.

Conveying Characters’ Voices and National Spirit

Characters in literary works speak in different dialects, jargons, professional vocabulary, or colloquial language. Translating these nuances is extremely challenging. For example, the simplicity and sincerity of rural speech must be preserved in translation without distorting the character’s identity. The same applies to gender-specific speech, children’s language, humor, and emotional tones.

If the translator fails to preserve the unique voices of the characters, they may all sound the same in the translated text, causing the work to lose its emotional depth.

Challenges in Translating Poetry

Translating poetry is considered the most difficult type of translation. In poetry, not only meaning but also rhythm, melody, rhyme, line structure, and intonation must be preserved. Maintaining all these artistic elements simultaneously requires exceptional skill and poetic sensitivity.

Translator’s Creative Path and Responsibility

The translator recreates the literary work in another language and is therefore considered both an author and a creative artist. However, this creativity must not overshadow the author's ideas, style, or viewpoint. Maintaining this delicate balance is the translator's greatest skill.

For successful literary translation, the translator must:

1. Master both languages and cultures deeply
2. Possess strong artistic taste
3. Develop writing skills
4. Thoroughly understand translation theory and practice

Without these, attempting literary translation often leads to failure.

In conclusion, Literary translation is a bridge between cultures and a form of art that reflects human emotion in another language. A translator strengthens mutual understanding, harmony, and friendship between nations not only by conveying text but also by carrying cultural and spiritual values across linguistic boundaries.

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