

INTERPRETATION OF CULTURAL REALITIES IN LITERARY TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Abdullayeva Lolaxon Sobirjonovna

lola.92.bek@gmail.com

Asia International University, Master degree

Abstract: Literary translation is not merely a linguistic process but also a cultural act that involves the interpretation and transfer of culturally marked elements from one language into another. Cultural realities such as national traditions, customs, historical references, and culture-specific concepts often pose significant challenges for translators. This article examines the ways cultural realities are interpreted and rendered in literary translation between English and Uzbek. The study analyzes common translation strategies, including domestication, foreignization, descriptive translation, and cultural substitution. Particular attention is paid to the balance between preserving national identity and ensuring comprehensibility for the target audience. The findings demonstrate that successful literary translation requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness and interpretative skills.

Keywords: literary translation, cultural realities, interpretation, English, Uzbek, domestication, foreignization

Introduction

In the era of globalization, literary translation plays a crucial role in intercultural communication, allowing readers to access the cultural heritage of other nations. However, translation of literary texts often encounters difficulties due to the presence of culture-specific elements, commonly referred to as cultural realities. These elements reflect the national worldview, traditions, history, and everyday life of a particular people.

In English and Uzbek literary traditions, cultural realities are deeply embedded in language and imagery. When translating such elements, the translator faces the challenge of preserving the original cultural meaning while making the text understandable and aesthetically acceptable for the target readership. Therefore, the interpretation of cultural realities becomes one of the central problems of literary translation.

Cultural realities include words and expressions that denote objects, phenomena, or concepts unique to a specific culture and lacking direct equivalents in another language. In Uzbek literature, such realities may include traditional social institutions, kinship terms, national dishes, customs, and religious concepts. In English literature,

cultural realities often reflect historical events, social hierarchies, or everyday practices characteristic of English-speaking societies.

The absence of direct equivalents makes literal translation ineffective. As a result, translators must interpret the cultural meaning of such units and choose appropriate strategies to convey them in the target language.

The translator acts as a mediator between two cultures. Interpretation of cultural realities requires not only linguistic knowledge but also familiarity with the social, historical, and cultural background of both languages. Inadequate interpretation may lead to loss of meaning, distortion of national identity, or misrepresentation of cultural values.

In English–Uzbek literary translation, successful interpretation often involves a combination of strategies rather than reliance on a single method. This flexible approach allows translators to preserve cultural specificity while maintaining textual coherence and artistic expressiveness.

Conclusion

The interpretation of cultural realities in literary translation between English and Uzbek is a complex and multifaceted process. Cultural elements cannot be transferred mechanically; they require thoughtful interpretation and culturally informed decision-making. Effective translation of cultural realities ensures the preservation of national identity and promotes deeper intercultural understanding.

The study confirms that literary translation is both an artistic and cultural endeavor, where the translator's role extends beyond language transfer to cultural interpretation. Further research may focus on comparative analysis of specific literary works to identify evolving trends in the translation of cultural realities.

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