

PROBLEMS THAT ARISE IN TRANSLATING TEXTS FROM ENGLISH INTO OTHER LANGUAGES

F.T.Boysriyeva - Senior Teacher. UzSWLU

Abstract. This article examines the major linguistic, cultural, and structural difficulties that occur when translating texts from English into other languages. The study focuses on semantic ambiguity, polysemy, idiomatic expressions, cultural references, syntactic differences, and lexical gaps. It also highlights the challenges caused by genre-specific features, technological limitations, and translator competence. The paper emphasizes the importance of contextual analysis, cultural awareness, and modern translation technologies in improving translation quality. Practical methodological recommendations are offered for translators and language instructors.

Keywords: *translation studies, semantic ambiguity, lexical gaps, idioms, cultural references, syntax, equivalence, pragmatics, translation difficulties.*

Translation from English into other languages is a complex, multilayered process that involves not only linguistic conversion but also cultural interpretation. English, as a global language, contains diverse registers, idiomatic expressions, and culturally bound elements that do not always have direct equivalents in other languages. Therefore, translators face numerous challenges that require deep linguistic competence, analytical skills, and cultural sensitivity.

Semantic and Lexical Challenges. Polysemy and Semantic Ambiguity.

English is rich in polysemous words-lexical items that contain multiple meanings depending on the context. For example, the word “charge” can mean *accuse*, *ask for payment*, *rush forward*, or *responsibility*. Such ambiguity can create confusion for translators, especially when the surrounding context is insufficient or stylistically complex.

Homonymy and False Friends. Words that look similar but differ in meaning across languages often mislead translators. In addition, English homonyms such as “**bank**” (financial institution vs. riverbank) require precise contextual interpretation to avoid mistranslation.

Lexical Gaps. Many languages lack exact equivalents for English terms, especially in technological, scientific, or culturally specific domains:

- *privacy*
- *accountability*
- *cottage*

These concepts may require descriptive translation or borrowing, which complicates the translator's task.

Idiomatic Expressions. English idioms rarely translate literally, as their meanings are figurative:

“break the ice”

“spill the beans”

Literal translation distorts meaning, so translators must search for functional or cultural equivalents.

Collocations. Many English collocations do not align with collocational norms in other languages:

“strong coffee”

“heavy rain”

Matching natural-sounding combinations requires familiarity with both languages' lexical habits.

Cultural and Pragmatic Difficulties. Culture-Specific Items (Realias)

English texts often mention concepts familiar to English-speaking cultures but unfamiliar to others:

- holidays (Thanksgiving, Halloween)
- institutions (Ivy League, Supreme Court)
- social practices (gap year, brunch)

Translators must decide whether to explain, adapt, or substitute such items.

Pragmatic Meaning and Implicit Content. English speakers may rely heavily on implied meaning, politeness strategies, or understatement. Conveying these nuances in languages with different pragmatic rules requires creative linguistic decision-making.

Structural and Syntactic Problems. Word Order Differences.

English has a strict Subject–Verb–Object structure, whereas many other languages allow flexible word order. As a result, maintaining emphasis, cohesion, and stylistic intention is often difficult.

Verb Tense and Aspect. The English tense-aspect system (e.g., Present Perfect, Progressive forms) often lacks direct equivalents in other languages. Translators must reinterpret temporal and aspectual meanings to ensure naturalness and accuracy.

Articles and Determiners. Many languages do not use articles, making the translation of “the”, “a”, or “an” especially challenging because articles carry semantic and pragmatic weight in English.

Genre-Specific Translation Challenges. Literary Texts.

Metaphors, stylistic devices, and author-specific lexical choices require artistic interpretation, not literal translation.

Technical and Legal Texts. Highly specialized terminology and strict precision demands make these translations sensitive to even minor errors.

Technological and Methodological Issues. Limitations of Machine Translation. Although AI-driven translation tools have improved dramatically, they still struggle with:

- idioms
- cultural references
- ambiguous contexts
- complex syntactic structures

Because of several reasons and problems by AI translator, human post-editing remains essential. Although, using humanizer after using AI is also good way for correcting some grammar mistakes.

Importance of Corpus-Based Translation.

Using linguistic corpora helps translators analyze authentic language usage, improving accuracy in terminology and phraseology.

Conclusion. Translating texts from English into other languages is a demanding process influenced by semantic ambiguity, lexical gaps, idiomatic complexity, cultural differences, and structural divergences. These challenges require translators to possess strong linguistic knowledge, cultural awareness, and analytical abilities. While modern technologies offer valuable support, human interpretation remains vital for achieving accurate, natural, and culturally appropriate translations. Continuous professional development, exposure to authentic language materials, and corpus-based research can significantly enhance translation quality.

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