

## PRESERVING ARCHAIC STYLE AND TONE IN TRANSLATING HISTORICAL TEXTS

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### **Abstract**

Translating historical texts poses unique challenges, particularly in preserving the archaic style, tone, and rhetorical devices of the source language. This article examines strategies employed by translators to maintain the stylistic and aesthetic qualities of Uzbek historical literature in English translation. Using selected excerpts from Yulduzli tunlar, the study analyzes how archaic vocabulary, metaphors, and narrative tone are rendered in the target language. The findings show that strategies such as semantic approximation, syntactic restructuring, paraphrasing, and stylistic compensation are commonly used to balance readability with fidelity to the original style. The study concludes that successful translation of historical texts requires careful attention to both linguistic and stylistic features, ensuring that the target text reflects the aesthetic and historical essence of the original.

**Keywords:** historical text translation; archaic style; narrative tone; stylistic preservation; semantic approximation; paraphrasing; Uzbek-English translation

### **Introduction**

Historical texts are often distinguished by a highly formal or archaic style, reflecting the linguistic norms and aesthetic values of their period. Translators face the challenge of reproducing this style in a modern target language without compromising comprehension. In Uzbek historical literature, archaic vocabulary, classical rhetoric, and elaborate syntactic structures characterize narrative prose, poetry, and royal chronicles.

Preserving these stylistic features in translation is crucial for maintaining the authenticity, tone, and literary value of historical texts. This study focuses on strategies

used in translating stylistic and archaic elements from Uzbek historical works, particularly Yulduzli tunlar, into English.

### **Literature Review**

Stylistic fidelity has been a central concern in translation studies. Eugene Nida (1964) emphasized functional equivalence, which includes stylistic equivalence as part of meaning. Peter Newmark (1988) distinguished between semantic translation, which focuses on meaning, and communicative translation, which emphasizes the reader's response, highlighting the tension between style and comprehension.

Lawrence Venuti (1995) discussed domestication and foreignization, noting that stylistic elements often fall into foreignization strategies to retain the source text's unique voice. Mona Baker (1992) stressed that translating metaphors, archaic expressions, and syntactic patterns requires creative and context-sensitive strategies.

In the context of Uzbek historical literature, stylistic challenges are compounded by archaic terminology, classical rhetorical devices, and culturally specific narrative conventions (Israilova, 2025; Qayimova & Bakiyev, 2025). Previous studies have primarily focused on linguistic and cultural aspects, leaving stylistic preservation relatively underexplored.

### **Methodology**

This study employs a qualitative and comparative approach. Selected excerpts from "Yulduzli tunlar" containing archaic vocabulary, metaphors, and stylistic devices were analyzed alongside their English translations.

The analysis focused on:

Archaic vocabulary and syntactic structures;

Metaphorical and rhetorical expressions;

Narrative tone and stylistic patterns.

Translation strategies were categorized into semantic approximation, syntactic restructuring, paraphrasing, and stylistic compensation. The study evaluated how these strategies affect fidelity to the original style and reader comprehension.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

### *Semantic Approximation*

Translators often use semantic approximation to convey archaic terms that have no direct modern equivalent. This strategy preserves meaning while adapting the expression to the target language.

Archaic Uzbek words describing royal ceremonies or historical events are replaced with contextually equivalent English terms while retaining formal tone.

### *Syntactic Restructuring*

Historical texts often feature long, complex sentences and inverted syntactic patterns. Translators restructure sentences in English to maintain clarity while attempting to reflect the original rhythm and flow.

Compound sentences describing courtly dialogues may be split or reordered, but translators strive to retain rhetorical emphasis.

### *Paraphrasing*

When metaphors, idioms, or culturally bound expressions are too complex, paraphrasing is used. This ensures comprehension but risks altering stylistic nuance.

A poetic metaphor describing a princess's grace may be rendered as a descriptive phrase capturing the essence rather than a literal translation.

### *Stylistic Compensation*

Some stylistic features lost in translation are compensated elsewhere in the text. For instance, if a metaphor cannot be directly translated, the translator may use elevated diction in another passage to preserve overall tone.

## **Conclusion**

Translating historical texts requires careful attention to stylistic and archaic features to preserve the aesthetic and historical integrity of the original. Strategies such as semantic approximation, syntactic restructuring, paraphrasing, and stylistic compensation are commonly employed, often in combination, to balance fidelity and readability.

This study highlights that stylistic preservation is as important as semantic accuracy in historical text translation. Future research may examine reader reception and explore automated tools for supporting stylistic fidelity in translation.

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