

TRANSLATION OF HISTORICAL TEXTS FROM ENGLISH: LINGUISTIC, CULTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL DIMENSIONS

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Field of Study: Theory and Practice of
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Annotation

This study explores the complex nature of translating historical texts from English by analyzing their linguistic, cultural, and functional dimensions. Historical texts are characterized by diachronic language features, including archaic vocabulary, obsolete grammatical structures, and culturally bound expressions, which significantly differentiate them from contemporary discourse. The research focuses on key theoretical concepts such as equivalence, adequacy, and translation transformations, with particular emphasis on archaisms, historical realia, and semantic shifts. It also investigates the role of stylistic reconstruction and discourse analysis in preserving the communicative and aesthetic value of the source text. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of integrating modern approaches, including corpus linguistics and digital tools, in improving translation

accuracy. The findings demonstrate that historical text translation requires a multidisciplinary approach combining linguistic competence, cultural awareness, and analytical skills.

Keywords: historical text, archaism, equivalence, adequacy, realia, translation transformation, stylistic reconstruction, discourse analysis, cultural transfer, corpus linguistics

Introduction

The translation of historical texts constitutes a specialized area within translation studies, requiring a deep understanding of both linguistic evolution and cultural context. Historical texts are inherently diachronic, reflecting earlier stages of language development and preserving linguistic elements that may no longer be present in modern usage. Unlike contemporary texts, historical documents often contain archaic lexical units, syntactic irregularities, and stylistic conventions specific to their time. These features pose significant challenges for translators, as direct equivalence between source and target languages is rarely achievable. Therefore, translating historical texts involves not only linguistic transfer but also interpretative reconstruction. It requires the translator to function as both a linguist and a cultural mediator, capable of decoding historical meaning and re-encoding it for a modern audience while maintaining authenticity.

Main Body

Historical texts exhibit a high degree of linguistic complexity due to the presence of archaic vocabulary, semantic shifts, and syntactic structures that differ from modern language norms. Archaic forms such as *thou*, *thee*, and *thy* represent not only linguistic variation but also sociolinguistic distinctions, including formality and social hierarchy. Another major challenge is the translation of historical realia, which are culture-specific elements embedded in the text. These include titles, institutions, monetary systems, and social practices that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. In such cases, translators employ strategies such as descriptive translation, transliteration,

or contextual adaptation. The concept of equivalence plays a central role in translation theory. However, in the context of historical texts, absolute equivalence is unattainable due to temporal and cultural differences. Functional equivalence is therefore considered the most appropriate model, as it prioritizes the communicative effect and pragmatic function of the text. Translation transformations are essential tools in adapting historical texts. Lexical transformations such as generalization and modulation help bridge semantic gaps, while grammatical transformations allow for restructuring complex syntactic patterns. Semantic transformations enable the reinterpretation of metaphorical and context-dependent meanings. Stylistic reconstruction represents a critical aspect of historical translation. The translator must preserve the stylistic features of the original text, including its tone, register, and rhetorical devices. Failure to maintain stylistic integrity may result in the loss of the text's historical authenticity and aesthetic value. In addition, discourse analysis provides insight into the ideological and communicative dimensions of historical texts. Understanding the socio-political and cultural context in which the text was produced allows for a more accurate and meaningful translation. Modern translation practices benefit significantly from technological advancements. Corpus linguistics, parallel text analysis, and digital archives provide valuable resources for identifying historical usage patterns and ensuring consistency in translation. These tools enhance both the efficiency and reliability of the translation process.

Conclusion

The translation of historical texts from English is a complex and multidimensional process that extends beyond linguistic substitution. It involves the interaction of language, culture, and history, requiring a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. Given the impossibility of achieving absolute equivalence, translators must rely on functional and adaptive strategies to ensure adequacy and communicative effectiveness. The integration of stylistic reconstruction, discourse analysis, and modern technological tools further enhances translation quality. Ultimately, historical text translation serves as a bridge

between past and present, enabling the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage across languages and generations.j

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