

THE CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH LITERATURE INTO UZBEK

Mamarasulova Mokhsitora Askarovna

*Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages
2nd year Master's student (2401-group, Linguistics)
mokhsitoram@gmail.com*

Abstract: Translating English literature into Uzbek is a complex and creative process that requires both linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding. The translator must bridge two distinct languages and literary traditions. This article examines the main difficulties faced by Uzbek scholars while translating English literature. It highlights the cultural, linguistic, and stylistic challenges that impact the process of translation.

Keywords: literary translation, linguistic differences, cultural equivalence, translation challenges.

Introduction

Translating English literature into Uzbek is not merely a linguistic exercise - it is a cultural bridge between two different worlds. A translator must transfer not only words, but also feelings, imagery, humour, and cultural meanings. Every language reflects the soul of a nation—its way of thinking, feeling, and seeing the world. English and Uzbek, though both rich and expressive, differ greatly in their grammatical structures, literary traditions, and cultural backgrounds. Here the main challenge is to keep the original beauty and message of the text while making it natural and understandable in Uzbek. So, this noble task comes with many complexities—linguistic, cultural, stylistic, and emotional—which make translation one of the most delicate and rewarding forms of literary work.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative and descriptive research approach to investigate the major challenges encountered in translating English literature into Uzbek. The methodology is based on comparative linguistic analysis, contextual analysis, and literature review. Selected examples of literary texts, idiomatic expressions, phraseological units, and culture-specific elements were analyzed to identify linguistic, cultural, and stylistic difficulties arising during translation. The study compares English source texts with their Uzbek equivalents to evaluate how meaning, artistic style, and cultural nuances are preserved or adapted. Furthermore, the research is grounded in the translation theories of scholars such as Nida, Catford, Newmark, Bassnett, and Venuti, whose works provide the theoretical framework for interpreting the findings and assessing effective translation strategies in literary translation.

Results And Discussion

One of the biggest challenges in translating English literature into Uzbek is the differences in language structure. To start, word order is completely different in both

languages. English typically uses subject–verb–object (SVO) order, while Uzbek uses subject–object–verb (SOV) order. This affects the tone and rhythm of the speech. For example, they went to school together. If we translate this sentence into Uzbek directly, we will have this sentence - biz bordik maktabga birgalikda. But this structure seems weird for Uzbek people. The correct version will be - biz birgalikda maktabga bordik. Thus, translators should be careful while translating from different languages. Another issue is tense patterns: English is very precise in expressing tenses and situations. In Uzbek, tense is often expressed through context or with auxiliary words. Therefore, translators need to be creative in order to convey the meaning without losing it. For instance, I go to school. I will go to school. But the Uzbek version of them is identical. Namely, men maktabga boraman. The only way to distinguish the difference is to pay attention to the context. Phraseologisms and expressions also play vital role while interpreting. English is rich in idioms such as “break the ice” or “hit the books.” Translating them word for word would be meaningless, so the translator must find culturally appropriate expressions such as “to start a conversation” or “to get serious about the lesson.”

Another difficulty we consider serious is cultural and contextual challenge. Every work of art reflects the cultural environment of its time. Therefore, cultural differences can be a major obstacle when translating English literature. In English literature, there are concepts such as Victorian customs, the class system of British society, or national holidays. Since they are not familiar to the Uzbek reader, the translator chooses the path of interpretation or cultural adaptation. For example, Shakespeare's works mention Elizabethan social life, royal court, duke, maid, fool, - to name but a few. There is no complete equivalent of these concepts in Uzbek culture, so the translator uses interpretive translation or cultural adaptation methods. The most important task for the translator is to create a text that is understandable and natural to the Uzbek reader, while maintaining fidelity to the original text.

There are numerous ways to solve the problems related to translation of English literature properly. As for linguistic issues, contextual translation, synonyms, freedom of expression and syntactic adaptation can be good resolutions here. To be more precise, in contextual translation a literal translation may be incomprehensible to the reader, so the translator expresses the sentence in a natural Uzbek form, preserving the content and spirit of the text. When it comes to synonyms and freedom of expression, replacing phraseologisms and idioms with equivalent expressions in the Uzbek language (“break the ice” → “start a conversation”) can tackle the issue considerably. To illustrate, if the literal work says when pigs fly, you can use Uzbek equivalence of tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda. The last one is syntactic adaptation - adapting the sentence order to the natural SOV form of the Uzbek language, but maintaining the artistic tone.

Conclusion

Translating English literature into Uzbek is far more than a technical task—it is an act of cultural connection and artistic creativity. The translator serves as both a linguist and a cultural mediator, bridging two distinct ways of life, thought, and expression. While linguistic

differences, cultural contexts, and stylistic nuances make the process highly complex, they also enrich it with intellectual and emotional depth. A successful translation is one that preserves the original author's message, beauty, and spirit while sounding natural and meaningful to the Uzbek reader. Therefore, translation is not merely about changing words—it is about building understanding between cultures and sharing the universal beauty of human expression.

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