

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR IDIOMS FROM ENGLISH TO UZBEK

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Abstract

The complexity of idiomatic expressions poses significant challenges in the field of translation, necessitating a nuanced understanding of cultural context, linguistic structure, and cognitive semantics. This article investigates the importance of translating idioms within this specific linguistic framework, emphasizing the cognitive and sociolinguistic implications inherent in the process. A direct translation into another language may not carry the same meaning because idioms are figurative, not literal and they have connotative meaning. By employing a comparative analysis of idiomatic structures in both English and Uzbek, this study delineates the challenges posed by linguistic relativity and the potential for loss of meaning during translation. It is vital to find equivalent idiom into another language, to paraphrase them or to choose a neutral language in order to be comprehensible, while evaluating their effectiveness in preserving the semantic richness and emotional resonance of the original idioms.

Key words: figurative meaning, translation, literal meaning, equivalent idiom, paraphrase, neutral language, direct translation, cultural awareness

Сложность идиоматических выражений представляет собой значительные трудности в области перевода, требуя тонкого понимания культурного контекста, языковой структуры и когнитивной семантики. Эта статья исследует важность перевода идиом в рамках данной языковой структуры, подчеркивая когнитивные и социолингвистические последствия, присущие этому процессу. Прямой перевод на другой язык может не передавать того же значения, поскольку идиомы являются фигуративными, а не буквальными, и имеют коннотативное значение. Используя сравнительный анализ идиоматических структур как в английском, так и в узбекском языках, это исследование выделяет проблемы, возникающие из языковой относительности, и потенциальные потери значений при переводе. Важно находить

эквивалентные идиомы на другом языке, перефразировать их или выбирать нейтральный язык, чтобы быть понятным, при этом оценивая их эффективность в сохранении семантической насыщенности и эмоциональной резонансности оригинальных идиом.

Ключевые слова: фигуративное значение, перевод, буквальное значение, эквивалентная идиома, перефразирование, нейтральный язык, прямой перевод, культурная осведомленность

Annotatsiya

Idiomatik ifodalar murakkabligi tarjima sohasida muhim qiyinchiliklarni keltirib chiqaradi, bu esa madaniy kontekst, til tuzilishi va kognitiv semantika bo'yicha nozik tushunishni talab qiladi. Ushbu maqola ushbu maxsus til ramkasida idiomalarni tarjima qilishning ahamiyatini o'rganadi, jarayonda mavjud bo'lgan kognitiv va sotsiolingvistik oqibatlarga e'tibor qaratadi. Boshqa tilga to'g'ridan-to'g'ri tarjima qilish bir xil ma'noni keltirib chiqarmasligi mumkin, chunki idiomalar figurativ, ya'ni so'zma-so'z va konnotativ ma'noga ega. Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi idiomatik tuzilmalarni taqqosiy tahlil qilish orqali, ushbu tadqiqot tilning nisbiyligi bilan bog'liq qiyinchiliklarni va tarjima jarayonida ma'no yo'qotish imkoniyatlarini belgilab beradi. Boshqa tilga ekvivalent idiomalarni topish, ularni izohlash yoki tushunarli bo'lish uchun neytral tilni tanlash juda muhimdir, shu bilan birga ularning asl idiomlarning semantik boyligini va hissiy rezonansini saqlashdagi samaradorligini baholash zarur.

Kalit so'zlar: figurativ ma'no, tarjima, so'zma-so'z ma'no, ekvivalent idioma, izohlash, neytral til, to'g'ridan-to'g'ri tarjima, madaniy xabardorlik.

INTRODUCTION

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be derived from the literal interpretations of its individual words. This linguistic characteristic enables the communication of complex ideas in a concise and vivid way, enhancing understanding by drawing on shared cultural knowledge. Idioms are commonly found in everyday speech as well as in specialized writing, including academic texts, where they can help clarify concepts or emphasize points. [6,12p] When used effectively, idioms can strengthen messages, captivate readers, and enrich the overall communicative experience. Different regions and dialects may have different idioms or variations of the same idiom, which can create further confusion for learners trying to communicate across different English-speaking regions. [2,5p] When idioms are translated, it is essential to find a balance between creativity and cultural awareness, and people can have a deep understanding of the source and target languages. Neutrality in idiom translation has its own importance. It means understanding and conveying the meaning of the idiom clearly and

accurately rather than focusing on a literal, word-for-word rendering. Paraphrasing and explaining are the best friends. Moreover, the cognitive dimensions of idiomaticity play a critical role in language acquisition and use. Idioms often reflect the cognitive frameworks that shape cultural perceptions. This cognitive aspect is particularly relevant in the context of Uzbek, which has its own set of idiomatic expressions that reflect its unique cultural heritage. [5,1p] By bridging these linguistic gaps, translators not only facilitate comprehension but also contribute to the preservation and enrichment of cultural identity within the target language. Here are the strategies of idioms, some practical examples and insights to better understand and how to translate them.

METHODS AND RESULTS

A) Finding an equivalent idiom

Often, the most effective way to translate idioms is to find an equivalent expression in the target language. This equivalent should convey the same underlying meaning as the original idiom. Importantly, the translated version should maintain the figurative nature of the expression while also preserving its cultural nuance.

1. 'Able to take a joke (can take a joke)' – be able to deal with humorous remarks or tricks without becoming angry or offended. [1,9p]

Example: Don't be mad? Can you take a joke?

in Uzbek - hazilni tushunmoq, hazil ko'tara olmoq;

2. Above and beyond - in excess of the expectations or demands of; [1,9p]

Example: I value your effort but it is above and beyond.

In Uzbek- keragidan ortiq, me'yoridan oshiqcha;

3. To see eye to eye - to agree, to come an agreement;

Example: Sarah often does not see eye to eye with her mother about telling her problems.

In Uzbek – bir fikrda bo'lish, kelishib olish;

4. To hit the nail on the head – exactly right, correct;

Example: You hit the nail on the head with this furniture for the livingroom. It is better than I expected.

In Uzbek – aynan shunday, to'g'ri;

However, this strategy is pretty limiting if the two languages do not share similar metaphors or cultural experiences.

B) Finding an idiom with similar meaning

This process necessitates exchanging the original idea for one from the target language. This substitution aims for semantic equivalence while accommodating distinct cultural expressions of imagery and metaphor. It works when a word-for-word translation is impossible due to cultural differences, but the general meaning can still be conveyed through a different idiom. [1,3p]

1. Be glad to see the back of - be happy when a person leaves or when an unpleasant situation is ended; [4,5p]

Example: It is the boss's last day at work and he fears that everyone will be glad to see the back of him.

In Uzbek - "Sulaymon o'ldi, devlar qutuldi;

2. Work like a beaver- to work steadily and industriously or to work very hard and energetically. Also, work like a dog, work like a horse;

In Uzbek – itdek ishlamoq; chumoli kabi mehnat qilmoq;

Example: He worked like a beaver to clean the house.

3. When pigs fly- something that is never going to happen;

Example: I've already told you; I will learn to dance when pigs can fly.

In Uzbek – tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda;

4. To be between a rock and a hard place - to be in a very difficult situation and to have to make a hard decision;

Example: I want to help you, unfortunately, I am between a rock and a hard place.

In Uzbek – ikki o't orasida qolmoq;

Unfortunately, finding a direct equivalent isn't always straightforward. Some idioms simply may not have direct counterparts in the target language, and the closest match might not fully convey the same feeling or nuance.

C) Explaining the meaning

Sometimes, there's no idiom in the target language that matches the original. In these cases, explaining the meaning of the idiom is a practical solution. You can use this approach in technical, educational, or formal contexts where clarity is more important than creativity. Explaining an idiom may, of course, cause a loss of color or cultural flavor, especially if the idiom plays a key role in the text's tone or character. In some cases, it can also lengthen the text and disrupt the flow. This can be problematic in creative writing or marketing copy. [7,3p]

For example, ‘to cost an arm and a leg’ means to be very expensive. This idiom implies that something is so costly that you would have to give up something as valuable as an arm or a leg to afford it. In the Uzbek explanation is ‘juda qimmat’ or ‘narxi juda baland’.

1. ‘to let the cat out of the bag’ means to accidentally reveal a secret – sirni ochib qo’ydi, tasodifan aytib yubordi;

2. to break a leg means ‘Good luck’ – ‘Omad tilayman’

D) Choosing for neutral language

In certain cases, especially in formal or technical content, you may not even have to struggle to find an equivalent idiom in the target language. The use of idioms may simply not be appropriate in the first place.

Instead of translating the idiom, you can opt for neutral language that conveys the message in a straightforward way. For example, ‘to kill the birds with one stone’ means to accomplish two things with one effort. In Uzbek it conveys ‘bir vaqtni o’zida ikki ishni bajarmoq yoki Bir o’q bilan ikki quyonni urmoq’. This approach ensures that the translation remains accessible and clear for a broader audience, emphasizing the importance of context in the translation process.

1. To be in a hot water means – muammoga duch kelmoq, noqulay ahvolga tushmoq, boshiga ish tushmoq;

2. Man up – kuchli bo’ling;

3. You’re so old-fashioned- butunlay boshqa fikrda bo’lmoq;

Overall Implications: The findings demonstrate that the translation of idioms between English and Uzbek is a multifaceted endeavor requiring a nuanced understanding of both languages' cultural and contextual backgrounds. The effectiveness of each strategy varies based on the idiomatic expression and its cultural significance, highlighting the necessity for translators to be adaptable and culturally aware.

Discussion

Preserving the idiom with added context

The translation of idioms from English to Uzbek presents unique challenges and opportunities that warrant a thorough examination of effective translation strategies. As idioms are often deeply embedded in cultural contexts, their successful translation requires an understanding of both the source and target languages' nuances. Idioms enhance the diversity and richness of language by providing distinctive ways to convey ideas and emotions, often

making them more vivid and memorable compared to literal expressions. The disappearance of idioms can lead to a uniformity in language, resulting in a loss of expressiveness and subtlety. When idioms are significant in the original content, such as in literature or creative writing, some translators opt to retain the idiom while adding explanatory context. This approach preserves the cultural depth of the original text while ensuring that the target audience comprehends the expression.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the translation of idioms from English to Uzbek presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities that underscore the critical importance of employing effective translation strategies. While the allure of preserving the original idiom's form is understandable, the practical realities of translation demand a focus on meaning. A meaning-based approach, prioritizing clarity, accessibility and contextual appropriateness is the most effective way to bridge the cultural and linguistic gap ensuring that the message, not just the words is successfully conveyed. It acknowledges that the true essence of an idiom lies not in its literal components, but in the shared understanding and cultural context it evokes. The study of translation strategies for idioms is vital for achieving accuracy, clarity, and cultural relevance in translated texts. By prioritizing these strategies, translators can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of language and culture, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of translation between English and Uzbek.

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