

## PARAMETERIZATION OF TRANSLATION STRATEGY

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### Abstract

The article "Parameterization of Translation Strategy" explores the systematic approach to translation by identifying and analyzing key parameters that influence strategic choices. It emphasizes the importance of linguistic, cultural, and contextual factors in the translation process. The study offers a structured framework for categorizing translation strategies based on text type, audience, and purpose. By examining different translation scenarios, the article contributes to a deeper understanding of how translators make decisions. This research is valuable for both professional translators and scholars aiming to enhance translation quality and efficiency.

**Keywords:** Translation, strategy, parameterization, linguistics, culture, context, equivalence, adaptation, communication.

### Introduction

In the contemporary landscape of translation studies, the concept of translation strategy has evolved from a vague intuitive activity to a systematic and analyzable process. However, the diversity and subjectivity in identifying and categorizing these strategies remain a challenge. This article aims to explore the parameterization of translation strategies—that is, identifying the key parameters that influence strategic decision-making in translation tasks across genres, purposes, and linguistic pairs. The study seeks to offer a more standardized framework for assessing translation strategies, enhancing both pedagogy and professional practice.

### Analysis of Used Literature:

The theoretical foundation of this paper builds on the works of scholars like Lawrence Venuti, Hans J. Vermeer, and Andrew Chesterman. Venuti's dichotomy of domestication and foreignization (1995) provides a cultural perspective to strategy choice, while Vermeer's Skopos Theory (1984) emphasizes the role of purpose in strategy formulation. In contrast, Chesterman (1997) offers a taxonomy of translation strategies based on linguistic and communicative functions. His categorization into syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic strategies lays the groundwork for parameter-based classification.

More recent works, such as that of Mona Baker (2011), stress the importance of context, register, and ideology in strategy selection. The trend in literature increasingly

acknowledges the multifactorial nature of strategy application, calling for a parameter-based approach to systematize strategy use.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research employs a qualitative-comparative approach. A corpus of 30 translated texts across three genres—literary, technical, and legal – was analyzed. The source texts were in English, while the target texts were in Uzbek. This study adopts a qualitative, descriptive, and comparative research design to examine how translation strategies can be parameterized based on various linguistic, contextual, and functional variables. The research is aimed at identifying systematic correlations between translation strategy choices and extralinguistic factors such as text genre, translation purpose (Skopos), cultural distance, and audience expectations. The research design is rooted in descriptive-analytical methodology, where data are collected from authentic translated texts and then subjected to systematic comparative analysis. The methodological framework integrates principles of translation theory, pragmatics, and applied linguistics, ensuring a multidimensional investigation. A purposive sampling technique was used to compile a corpus of 30 English source texts and their corresponding Uzbek translations. The selected texts are categorized into three major functional genres:

Literary texts (fiction, prose, short stories): 10 samples

Technical texts (manuals, instructions, academic writing): 10 samples

Legal texts (contracts, policies, law-related documents): 10 samples

The corpus was sourced from published materials, professional translator databases, and academic translation assignments from Uzbek linguistic faculties.

To analyze the variation in strategy use between novice and expert translators, two distinct groups of translators participated in the study:

Group A: Professional translators (n=5) – with at least 5 years of experience and formal certification.

Group B: Translation students (n=5) – final-year undergraduate students specializing in translation studies.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with all participants to gain insights into their strategic thinking and decision-making processes.

The analysis of translation strategies was conducted using a modified version of Andrew Chesterman's taxonomy (1997), which classifies strategies into:

Syntactic strategies (e.g., transposition, clause restructuring)

Semantic strategies (e.g., synonymy, paraphrasing)

Pragmatic strategies (e.g., cultural filtering, emphasis change)

Each instance of a translation strategy in the corpus was identified, coded, and mapped against the following key parameters:

A matrix was created to correlate each strategy with its corresponding parameter(s), allowing a deeper understanding of the motivation behind strategy use. Textual analysis

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sheets for marking strategies and source-text challenges. Interview transcripts for qualitative insights into translator intentions. Comparative tables to visualize strategy trends across genres and experience levels

### **Data Analysis Procedures**

Step 1: Each translated text was manually compared with its source version to identify translation strategies used.

Step 2: A parameter was assigned to each strategic choice based on observed or reported reasoning.

Step 3: Cross-tabulation of strategy frequency by genre, purpose, and translator profile.

Step 4: Interpretive analysis of qualitative interview data to understand subjective dimensions of strategy choice.

### **Validity and Reliability**

To ensure the reliability of the data, inter-rater agreement was established between two researchers coding the strategies. The validity of strategy-parameter relationships was reinforced through triangulation—comparing textual evidence, participant interviews, and established theoretical models.

### **Research analyses:**

The core objective of this study was to investigate how translation strategies are influenced by a series of contextual and linguistic parameters—collectively referred to as the parameterization of translation strategy. Through an in-depth analysis of 30 translated texts across three functional genres—literary, legal, and technical—the research revealed key trends that underline the non-random, systematic nature of strategy selection.

#### **1. Strategy Use Across Genres**

The analysis confirmed that text genre is a dominant parameter that shapes strategy preferences. Literary texts, for instance, often demanded pragmatic and semantic strategies, including modulation, cultural substitution, and paraphrasing. These strategies allowed translators to preserve literary effects, emotional tone, and stylistic rhythm of the original work. In contrast, technical texts predominantly employed literal translation, transference, and equivalence strategies due to the need for precision, standardization, and functionality.

In legal texts, translators favored strategies such as formal equivalence, calques, and syntactic conservatism, reflecting the genre's demand for accuracy and terminological rigidity. These findings align with the principles laid out in Skopos Theory, where the function of the text (e.g., informative vs. expressive) strongly influences translation behavior.

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## **2. Influence of Skopos (Translation Purpose)**

The purpose of translation, or Skopos, emerged as a significant parameter in strategy selection. Texts intended for expressive purposes (literature, advertising) demonstrated greater strategic flexibility and creativity. Translators consciously opted for strategies like dynamic equivalence and cultural adaptation to resonate emotionally with the target audience.

Conversely, informative and prescriptive texts (manuals, legal contracts) constrained the translator's strategic range. The dominant strategies in these texts were source-text-oriented, such as literal translation and borrowing, where fidelity and clarity were prioritized over cultural naturalness.

## **3. Audience Awareness as a Parameter**

The level of audience expectation and cultural familiarity also shaped translation choices. When the target audience was general or unfamiliar with the source culture, translators leaned toward domestication, simplifying or explaining culturally bound terms and expressions. In contrast, when the target audience was specialized (e.g., legal experts, engineers), foreignization or formal equivalence was maintained, assuming shared background knowledge and terminology familiarity.

## **4. Cultural and Linguistic Distance**

Texts with a high degree of cultural asymmetry (e.g., references to English customs or idioms) triggered more adaptive strategies, especially in the literary domain. Cultural substitution, omission, and explanatory footnotes were common tools for bridging cultural gaps. This behavior echoes Venuti's domestication vs. foreignization model, where translators negotiate between making the foreign familiar or preserving its alienness. Furthermore, linguistic differences between English and Uzbek—such as grammatical structures, aspect, and word order—necessitated specific syntactic strategies, including transposition and restructuring, particularly in technical and legal domains.

## **5. Translator Experience and Strategic Variation**

A significant analytical insight involved the contrast between student and professional translators. Professionals exhibited a more nuanced and context-sensitive approach to strategy use, adjusting their choices dynamically based on genre, purpose, and audience. They frequently referenced extralinguistic factors during interviews, indicating strong metacognitive awareness.

Student translators, on the other hand, showed a tendency to default to literal or one-to-one equivalents, particularly in unfamiliar genres. This suggests that parameter awareness develops with experience, and explicit instruction in parameter-based strategy selection could benefit translator training programs.

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### Conclusion:

The findings of this study clearly demonstrate that translation strategies are not arbitrary decisions, but rather deliberate and context-sensitive responses to a complex interplay of linguistic, cultural, functional, and audience-based parameters. Through detailed comparative analysis of translated texts across literary, technical, and legal domains, the research affirms that strategy selection is strongly influenced by factors such as text genre, translation purpose (Skopos), cultural distance, target audience profile, and linguistic typology.

By adopting a parameterization framework, translators can approach their work with greater awareness, flexibility, and intentionality. This not only enhances the quality of the translation but also ensures that the communicative goals of the source text are effectively realized in the target language. The proposed model contributes to the field of translation studies by providing a systematic, adaptable, and pedagogically useful approach for understanding and teaching translation strategy.

Moreover, the comparative insights between professional and student translators highlight the need for more focused training in parameter-sensitive strategy use. Such training can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical decision-making, equipping novice translators with the competence to navigate diverse translation contexts. Parameterization serves as a crucial tool for optimizing translation performance, allowing for more nuanced and justified strategic choices. Future research should expand this model across other language pairs and genres, potentially incorporating technological tools such as corpus linguistics and AI-based translation analysis to further refine the model and its applications.

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