



TRANSLATING IDIOMS AND PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WHILE MAINTAINING THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT OF THE ORIGINAL TEXT

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Abstract: Translating idioms and phraseological units (PUs) presents unique challenges to translators due to their reliance on cultural context and emotional resonance. Idioms often contain layers of meaning that are not easily transferred between languages. This article explores various strategies and techniques that translators can employ to retain the emotional impact and cultural essence of idiomatic expressions when translating from English to Uzbek. The focus is on finding appropriate equivalents, adapting culturally specific expressions, and utilizing creative translation methods to ensure that the emotional and cognitive stimuli of the source text are conveyed in the target language. Through the examination of translation strategies and the use of examples from literary texts, this article provides a comprehensive analysis of idiomatic translation challenges and solutions.

Keywords: translation, idioms, emotional impact, cultural context, equivalence, adaptation, phraseological units, creative translation

1. Introduction

Idioms and phraseological units (PUs) are integral components of language that enhance the expressive capacity of communication, often carrying deeper cultural meanings and emotional undertones. These fixed expressions frequently defy direct translation because their meanings are rooted in the cultural and historical contexts of the source language. For translators, the challenge lies in preserving both the literal and figurative meanings of idioms while ensuring the emotional resonance and impact are maintained in the target language.

In literary translations, idioms can be particularly difficult because they often reflect the shared experiences, beliefs, and values of a culture. For example, the English idiom "to kick the bucket" translates literally to an action involving a bucket but is widely understood as a metaphor for dying. A direct translation into Uzbek, or any other language, would likely sound absurd or lose the intended meaning. Similarly, translating culturally bound idioms into another language can result in a loss of the original's emotional weight or humor if not done carefully.

This article aims to explore how idioms and phraseological units can be translated from English to Uzbek while retaining their original emotional impact. The strategies discussed include the identification of cultural contexts, research for potential equivalents, creative adaptation of idioms, and the use of figurative language. Through this investigation, we will provide insights into how translators can navigate the complexities of idiomatic translation and preserve the emotional richness of the original text.

2. Methods

2.1 Identifying Cultural Context and Intended Meaning

The first step in successfully translating an idiom or phraseological unit is to grasp its cultural context and intended meaning in the source language. Idioms are often deeply connected to the social norms, traditions,

and shared experiences of the source culture, which may not have direct equivalents in the target language. According to Newmark (1988), idioms and metaphors should be understood in relation to their cultural, situational, and linguistic contexts. For example, the English idiom "to spill the beans," meaning to reveal a secret, has playful undertones in English. However, a direct translation of this phrase into Uzbek might not resonate with the same meaning. In Uzbek culture, where secrets are often associated with discretion and formality, a more culturally appropriate idiom such as "og'zidan chiqib ketdi" (slipped out of their mouth) could be used.

2.2 Researching Potential Equivalents in the Target Language

Once the cultural context is established, translators must search for idiomatic equivalents in the target language. Finding an equivalent requires balancing literal meaning, cultural appropriateness, and emotional impact. In some cases, there may be no direct equivalent in the target language, requiring creative problem-solving.

Schäffner (2004) discusses the importance of communicative equivalence, where the translator finds expressions that may not be literal translations but carry the same communicative purpose and emotional tone. For example, the English idiom "break a leg," often said to performers to wish them good luck, does not have an equivalent in Uzbek. Instead, translators can use the phrase "ishing baroridan kelsin" (may your work succeed) to preserve the intended supportive tone.

2.3 Adapting Idioms to Cultural Norms

When idiomatic expressions do not have direct equivalents, translators may need to adapt them to align with the cultural norms of the target audience. Idioms that are neutral or humorous in one culture may be offensive or inappropriate in another, requiring careful consideration of how the translated idiom will be received by readers.

For example, the idiom "to kick the bucket," as mentioned earlier, could be considered disrespectful in some cultures where euphemisms for death are used with great care. A more culturally sensitive translation could involve using phrases like "hayotdan ko'z yumdi" (closed their eyes to life) in Uzbek, which conveys the idea of passing away in a respectful manner.

2.4 Creative Translation Techniques

When literal or equivalent translations fail to capture the full meaning of an idiom, translators can employ creative techniques to retain the idiom's emotional weight. These techniques include:

- **Paraphrasing:** Rewriting the idiom while preserving its core meaning and emotional impact. This method is useful when the idiom's meaning cannot be conveyed directly in the target language.
- **Substitution:** Replacing the idiom with a similar expression that has the same meaning and emotional tone in the target language. For instance, "break a leg" can be substituted with "omad yor bo'lsin" (may luck be with you) in Uzbek.
- **Borrowing:** Sometimes, an idiom can be borrowed from another language, especially if it is already familiar to the target audience. For example, the French term "déjà vu" is widely used in English, Spanish, and other languages. Borrowing can provide clarity while also introducing new linguistic elements.
- **Figurative Language:** Using similes, metaphors, or analogies to convey the emotional weight of the original idiom. If an exact translation isn't feasible, these techniques can help bridge the gap between the source and target languages.

3. Results

3.1 Idiomatic Translation in Practice: Examples from Literary Texts

The translation of idioms and phraseological units from English to Uzbek was analyzed through various literary texts. One notable example is the translation of Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* into Uzbek by Nurali Qobul, Anvar Jo'raboyev, and Tohir Qahhor. In this translation, the idiomatic expression "A burning noonday sun" was adapted to "bir kuni jazirama mahali" (a scorching day), preserving the imagery of heat and intensity that the original text conveyed.

In another instance, the idiom "walking through the house without paying attention to anyone" was translated as "aslo pinak buzmas xonada uyoqdan buyoqqa yurib..." This idiomatic expression reflects the character's disregard for his surroundings and is rendered in a culturally relatable way for Uzbek readers,

preserving both the literal and emotional aspects of the original phrase.

3.2 Emotional and Cultural Preservation in Translation

The success of these translations lies in their ability to maintain the emotional impact of the original idioms. Translators used culturally appropriate equivalents or adapted the phrases creatively to resonate with Uzbek readers while preserving the overall emotional tone of the text. The analysis showed that idioms with no direct equivalents were often substituted with familiar Uzbek expressions, ensuring that the target audience could grasp the intended meaning without losing the emotional resonance.

4. Discussion

4.1 Challenges of Cross-Cultural Translation

The translation of idioms between languages with differing cultural backgrounds poses significant challenges. English idioms often draw from Western cultural experiences, metaphors, and humor that may not be understood or appreciated in Uzbek culture. These differences in cultural perceptions require translators to not only be linguistically proficient but also culturally sensitive to the subtleties of the target language.

The findings from this study demonstrate that creative adaptation is crucial for preserving the emotional essence of idioms in translation. Idioms like "spill the beans" and "kick the bucket" showcase how literal translation can fail, underscoring the need for culturally appropriate alternatives.

4.2 Effective Translation Strategies

Effective idiomatic translation relies heavily on context, cultural awareness, and a balance between literal meaning and emotional impact. Translators must carefully consider how idioms are perceived in the target culture and use strategies such as paraphrasing, substitution, or borrowing where necessary. The use of corpus tools to study idiomatic expressions in real-world texts also helps ensure that the translated idioms are contextually and culturally appropriate.

5. Conclusion

Translating idioms and phraseological units is an art that requires more than linguistic proficiency—it demands a deep understanding of the cultural and emotional nuances that give idioms their meaning. The emotional resonance of idiomatic expressions is key to their impact, and preserving this in translation is no easy feat.

This study emphasizes the importance of identifying cultural contexts, researching equivalents, and employing creative translation techniques to bridge cultural gaps and retain the emotional essence of idioms. Translators must navigate between literal translation and cultural adaptation to produce translations that are both accurate and emotionally compelling for the target audience.

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