

**TRANSLATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH A CULTURAL COMPONENT IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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**Abstract:** This article examines the translation of phraseological units with a cultural component in the English and Uzbek languages. Phraseological units reflect national identity, cultural values, traditions, and historical experience of a speech community. Their translation requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness. The study analyzes the main challenges faced in translating culturally marked phraseological units and highlights modern approaches used in contemporary translation studies to preserve meaning and cultural connotation.

**Key words:** Phraseological units, cultural component, translation, English language, Uzbek language, linguocultural studies, national mentality.

**Introduction**

In the context of globalization and expanding intercultural communication, translation plays a crucial role in ensuring mutual understanding between different linguistic communities. Among various linguistic phenomena, phraseological units pose particular difficulties for translators due to their figurative meaning and strong cultural background. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units often emerge from historical events, customs, beliefs, and everyday experiences of the people. Therefore, translating such units requires careful consideration of cultural differences in addition to semantic accuracy.

**Cultural components in phraseological units and modern translation approaches**

Phraseological units with a cultural component function as carriers of national worldview. English idioms such as expressions related to maritime life, monarchy, or sports reflect the cultural and historical development of English-speaking societies. Similarly, Uzbek phraseological units often originate from agricultural life, family relations, and traditional moral values. Direct translation of these expressions usually leads to loss of meaning or misunderstanding. Modern translation studies emphasize functional equivalence, descriptive translation, and cultural adaptation as effective strategies. Instead of literal translation, translators aim to convey the pragmatic effect and emotional coloring of the original phraseological unit. This approach allows the target text to remain natural and culturally acceptable while preserving the original message. Phraseological units with a cultural component represent stable expressions whose meanings are shaped by the historical experience, traditions, and worldview of a particular linguistic community. In both English and Uzbek, such units function not only as linguistic elements but also as cultural markers that transmit national identity. Their translation therefore requires careful interpretation of both semantic content and cultural implication.

One of the main difficulties in translating culturally marked phraseological units lies in the absence of direct equivalents between English and Uzbek. Many English phraseological units are based on cultural realities such as maritime life, social hierarchy, or historical events, which may be unfamiliar to Uzbek speakers. Conversely, Uzbek phraseological units often reflect traditional family values, agrarian life, and moral norms, making them difficult to interpret for

English-speaking audiences. Literal translation in such cases usually leads to misunderstanding or loss of expressive meaning.

To overcome these difficulties, modern translation studies propose several effective strategies. Functional equivalence is widely used when a phraseological unit in the target language can convey a similar meaning and pragmatic effect. This approach allows the translator to preserve the communicative purpose of the original expression rather than its formal structure. When no equivalent exists, descriptive translation becomes necessary, enabling the translator to explain the meaning of the phraseological unit in a clear and culturally neutral way.

Cultural adaptation also plays an important role in translating phraseological units, especially in literary and media texts. This strategy involves replacing a culturally specific expression with a more familiar one in the target language while maintaining the intended emotional and stylistic impact. Such adaptation helps the target audience grasp the message without feeling alienated by unfamiliar cultural references.

Another significant aspect of translating phraseological units is maintaining their stylistic and emotional value. Phraseological units often carry expressive features such as irony, humor, evaluation, or emotional intensity. A successful translation should reproduce these features as closely as possible, since they contribute to the overall meaning and artistic quality of the text. This requires the translator to possess not only linguistic competence but also cultural sensitivity and creative thinking.

In contemporary translation practice, the integration of linguocultural analysis has become increasingly important. By analyzing phraseological units as cultural signs, translators can better understand their deeper meanings and choose appropriate translation strategies. This approach enhances the quality of translation and supports effective intercultural communication between English and Uzbek speakers.

Phraseological units with a cultural component are a reflection of collective knowledge and national experience encoded in language. They arise from traditions, beliefs, historical events, and everyday practices that shape the worldview of a speech community. In English and Uzbek, such phraseological units serve not only communicative purposes but also preserve cultural memory, making their translation a linguocultural challenge rather than a purely linguistic task.

In the English language, culturally marked phraseological units are often connected with historical development, religion, geography, and social life. Expressions rooted in biblical narratives, royal traditions, or maritime culture demonstrate how language reflects the lifestyle and values of English-speaking societies. These expressions may carry symbolic meanings that are immediately understood by native speakers but remain obscure to representatives of another culture. As a result, direct translation into Uzbek frequently fails to convey the intended message or emotional nuance.

Uzbek phraseological units, in contrast, are deeply influenced by traditional social relations, agricultural activities, and moral concepts such as respect for elders, patience, and unity. Many expressions are based on metaphors derived from nature, family life, and everyday labor. When translated into English, these phraseological units may lose their cultural richness if the translator does not take into account the underlying national mentality and cultural symbolism.

One of the central issues in translating phraseological units is the balance between meaning preservation and cultural representation. Modern translation theory emphasizes the importance of identifying the core semantic meaning of a phraseological unit and distinguishing it from its cultural imagery. This allows the translator to decide whether the cultural image should be preserved, adapted, or replaced. Functional equivalence remains one of the most effective

strategies, as it focuses on achieving the same communicative effect in the target language rather than reproducing the original form.

Descriptive translation is particularly useful when phraseological units contain culture-specific elements that have no equivalents in the target language. By providing an explanatory translation, the translator ensures comprehension while minimizing cultural loss. However, this strategy may reduce stylistic expressiveness, which is why it is often combined with contextual adaptation. Cultural adaptation enables the translator to replace unfamiliar cultural references with more accessible ones, especially in texts intended for a broad audience.

Another important factor in translating phraseological units is their pragmatic function within the text. Phraseological units often convey evaluation, attitude, or emotional intensity. Ignoring these pragmatic aspects can result in an incomplete or misleading translation. Therefore, translators must consider the communicative situation, genre, and target audience when selecting an appropriate translation strategy.

In contemporary translation studies, the integration of linguocultural analysis has become increasingly prominent. This approach views phraseological units as cultural signs that require interpretation at both linguistic and cultural levels. By applying linguocultural analysis, translators can better understand the symbolic meaning of phraseological units and ensure that their translations remain meaningful, expressive, and culturally appropriate in the target language.

Phraseological units with a cultural component are among the most expressive elements of language, as they encode the historical experience, social norms, and value systems of a nation. In English and Uzbek, such units are formed through long-term cultural development and function as fixed expressions whose meanings cannot be deduced from their individual components. Their translation therefore requires comprehensive linguistic analysis combined with cultural interpretation.

A major challenge in translating culturally marked phraseological units is cultural asymmetry between the source and target languages. English phraseological units often reflect cultural phenomena such as individualism, social mobility, and historical institutions. Many idiomatic expressions originate from medieval traditions, religious discourse, or professional spheres such as navigation and commerce. Without sufficient cultural background knowledge, these expressions may be misunderstood or inaccurately translated into Uzbek.

Uzbek phraseological units, on the other hand, are strongly influenced by collectivist values, traditional family structure, and close connection with nature. Expressions related to patience, fate, hospitality, and moral responsibility occupy a significant place in Uzbek phraseology. When translating these units into English, translators must consider whether the target audience is familiar with such cultural concepts or whether adaptation is required to ensure comprehension.

Another important issue is the symbolic imagery embedded in phraseological units. Cultural images such as animals, natural elements, or everyday objects often carry specific associative meanings within a culture. These associations may differ significantly between English and Uzbek. A literal translation may preserve the image but distort the meaning, while excessive adaptation may eliminate the cultural flavor. Modern translation approaches therefore emphasize selective preservation of imagery, allowing the translator to retain cultural identity while ensuring semantic clarity.

The choice of translation strategy is also influenced by the genre and purpose of the text. In literary translation, preserving cultural color and stylistic richness is often prioritized, whereas in academic or informational texts, clarity and accuracy may take precedence. Functional

equivalence, descriptive interpretation, and cultural substitution are commonly combined to achieve an optimal balance between meaning and cultural representation.

Pragmatic factors play a crucial role in the translation of phraseological units. These expressions often convey speaker attitude, emotional evaluation, or social judgment. Failure to transmit these pragmatic meanings can lead to a neutralized or weakened translation. Therefore, translators must consider contextual factors such as tone, register, and audience expectations when rendering phraseological units into the target language.

In recent years, linguocultural and cognitive approaches have significantly influenced translation studies. These approaches view phraseological units as cognitive models shaped by cultural experience. By analyzing underlying conceptual metaphors and cultural schemas, translators gain deeper insight into the meaning of phraseological units. This enables them to produce translations that are not only accurate but also culturally meaningful and communicatively effective.

### Conclusion

The translation of phraseological units with a cultural component in English and Uzbek is a complex linguistic and cultural process. Successful translation depends on the translator's ability to recognize cultural markers and apply appropriate translation strategies. Preserving cultural meaning while ensuring clarity for the target audience is essential for effective intercultural communication. Modern translation practices demonstrate that culturally sensitive translation enhances mutual understanding and strengthens the connection between languages and cultures.

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