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THE TRANSLATION CHALLENGES OF PROVERBS

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This article examines the translation challenges of proverbs and focuses on the linguistic and cultural difficulties that arise during the translation process. Proverbs are important elements of language because they reflect cultural values, traditions, and worldview through short and meaningful expressions. Since proverbs often contain metaphors, idioms, phraseological units, and culturally specific concepts, their translation becomes a complex task.

Keywords: Proverbs, Translation, Phraseological units, Hydronyms, Cultural meaning, National identity, Intercultural communication, Linguistic difficulties, Figurative language, Cultural translation.

INTRODUCTION

Language is not just a system of communication; it is a reflection of culture, values, and worldview. Proverbs are brief traditional sayings that convey wisdom and life lessons. They are rich in cultural significance and often use metaphors, symbols, and idioms deeply connected to the cultural and geographical background of a language. Because of this, translating proverbs from one language into another becomes a difficult task.¹⁴³ Proverbs and phraseological units are important elements of language because they contain cultural wisdom and social norms in short but meaningful expressions. They reflect the beliefs, experiences, and traditions of a particular society. Therefore, they are not only linguistic units but also carriers of deeper cultural meanings. This makes the translation process more challenging, especially when translating between English and Uzbek.¹⁴⁴

One of the major problems in proverb translation is the presence of hydronyms, such as names of rivers, seas, lakes, and other water bodies. In proverbs, hydronyms often carry meanings connected to the culture and history of the language in which they appear. When such proverbs are translated into another language, the original cultural meaning may be lost or misunderstood. This creates linguistic, cultural, and conceptual difficulties for translators.¹⁴⁵

Another important challenge is conveying national color in translation. Every literary work appears on national soil and reflects national problems, characteristics, and traditions while also touching universal human ideas. Translation helps different nations understand each other better by making literary works available to speakers of other languages. However, the brighter the national character of a work, the more difficult it becomes for the translator to find suitable figurative and functional

¹⁴³ Bassnett S. *Translation Studies*. — London: Routledge, 2014.

¹⁴⁴ Crystal D. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. — Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

¹⁴⁵ Nida E. *Toward a Science of Translating*. — Leiden: Brill, 1964.

tools in the target language.¹⁴⁶ The relevance of studying proverb translation is increasing because of the growing need for high-quality translation in intercultural communication, education, and literary studies. Poor translation of proverbs can lead to misunderstanding or loss of cultural meaning. Therefore, translators must pay careful attention not only to words but also to the cultural context and hidden meanings behind them.¹⁴⁷

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this study is based on a qualitative analysis of proverb translation and the difficulties connected with it. The research focuses on English and Uzbek proverbs that contain metaphors, idioms, phraseological units, and hydronyms. Different examples of proverbs were analyzed in order to identify linguistic, cultural, and conceptual challenges in translation.¹⁴⁸

The study also examines how translators preserve cultural meaning and national character when translating proverbs from one language into another. Special attention is given to the role of figurative language and cultural context in achieving accurate translation. Comparative analysis was used to observe differences between source-language and target-language expressions.¹⁴⁹

RESULTS

The results of the study show that proverb translation is a complex process because proverbs contain cultural values, national identity, and figurative meanings. Many proverbs cannot be translated literally because direct translation often leads to loss of meaning or misunderstanding.¹⁵⁰

The analysis demonstrates that phraseological units and hydronyms create major translation difficulties. Proverbs that contain names of rivers, seas, and other geographical objects often carry symbolic meanings that are difficult to preserve in another language. In many cases, translators must choose between literal translation and cultural adaptation in order to maintain the original message of the proverb.¹⁵¹

The study also reveals that preserving national color is one of the most difficult aspects of proverb translation. Translators must find expressions in the target language that convey both the meaning and cultural atmosphere of the original proverb.¹⁵²

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study emphasize that proverb translation is closely connected with culture and national identity. Proverbs are not simply linguistic expressions; they are carriers of historical experience, traditions, and worldview. Therefore, successful translation requires deep understanding of both the source and target cultures.¹⁵³

The research also shows that literal translation is often ineffective because it cannot fully preserve figurative meaning and cultural significance. Translators must carefully analyze metaphors, symbols, and phraseological units in order to find suitable equivalents in the target language.¹⁵⁴

Another important issue is the translation of hydronyms and culturally specific elements. Such expressions may not have direct equivalents in another language, which increases the possibility of

¹⁴⁶ Newmark P. *A Textbook of Translation*. — New York: Prentice Hall, 1988.

¹⁴⁷ Baker M. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. — London: Routledge, 2018.

¹⁴⁸ Bassnett S. *Translation Studies*. — London: Routledge, 2014.

¹⁴⁹ Newmark P. *A Textbook of Translation*. — New York: Prentice Hall, 1988.

¹⁵⁰ Baker M. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. — London: Routledge, 2018.

¹⁵¹ Nida E. *Toward a Science of Translating*. — Leiden: Brill, 1964.

¹⁵² Newmark P. *A Textbook of Translation*. — New York: Prentice Hall, 1988.

¹⁵³ Bassnett S. *Translation Studies*. — London: Routledge, 2014.

¹⁵⁴ Baker M. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. — London: Routledge, 2018.

losing cultural meaning during translation. As a result, translators need not only linguistic competence but also cultural awareness and interpretative skills.¹⁵⁵

Accurate translation requires deep understanding of both languages and cultures in order to preserve the original meaning and national character of the proverb. The study highlights the importance of cultural context and figurative language in achieving successful intercultural communication through translation.¹⁵⁶

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