FUNCTIONAL AND DESCRIPTIVE TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR DOMAIN-SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY

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Annotation: This paper explores functional and descriptive translation strategies used in rendering domain-specific terminology across languages. Based on the theoretical frameworks of Skopos theory (Vermeer), functionalism (Nord), semantic and communicative translation (Newmark), and augmented by insights from terminology scholars (Sager, Cabré, and Picht & Draskau), the article analyzes how text function, cultural context, and communicative intent influence strategy choice. Through examples from medical, legal, and technical domains, it compares the effectiveness, clarity, and equivalence of different approaches.

Keywords: functional translation, descriptive strategy, domain-specific terms, Skopos theory, communicative translation, terminology, scientific equivalence

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada soha terminlarini tarjima qilishda qo'llaniladigan funksional va tavsifiy strategiyalar tahlil qilinadi. Vermeerning Skopos nazariyasi, Nordning funksionalistik yondashuvi, Newmarkning semantik va kommunikativ tarjima qarashlari asosida tarjima strategiyasi tanloviga matn vazifasi, madaniy kontekst va kommunikativ niyat qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishi muhokama qilinadi. Tibbiyot, huquq va texnika sohalaridan olingan misollar orqali strategiyalarning aniqlik, tushunarlilik va terminologik ekvivalentlik nuqtai nazaridan samaradorligi solishtirib ko'riladi.

Kalit so'zlar: funksional tarjima, tavsifiy strategiya, soha terminlari, Skopos nazariyasi, kommunikativ tarjima, terminologiya, ilmiy ekvivalentlik

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются функциональные и описательные стратегии перевода терминов в различных профессиональных областях. На основе теоретических моделей Скопос (Фермеер), функционализма (Норд), а также семантического и коммуникативного перевода (Ньюмарк), анализируется влияние текстовой функции, культурного контекста и коммуникативного намерения на выбор переводческой стратегии. На примерах из медицины, права и техники проводится сравнительный анализ эффективности, ясности и эквивалентности различных подходов.

Ключевые слова: функциональный перевод, описательная стратегия, терминология, теория Скопос, коммуникативный перевод, профессиональные термины, научная эквивалентность

In the translation of domain-specific terminology, accuracy is a central concern. However, the challenge lies not only in finding lexical equivalents but in ensuring that the translated term serves its intended purpose in the target culture. Functional and descriptive strategies offer solutions that prioritize context, audience, and communicative goals [1, p. 182; 2, p. 29; 3, p. 47]. This article discusses these strategies within the framework of key translation theories and examines their application in scientific fields.

Functional Strategy and Skopos Theory

Skopos theory, developed by Hans Vermeer, places the **purpose of translation (skopos)** at the heart of translation decision-making. Instead of prioritizing formal equivalence, translators select terms and structures that fulfill the text's communicative function in the target culture.

"The purpose of a translation determines the methods and strategies to be employed" [1, p. 182].

This is particularly useful when the target audience lacks background in the source field. For instance, the term *informed consent* in medical ethics may be translated

not literally, but functionally as *tibbiy muolajaga rozilik berish bo'yicha ongli qaror*, thereby conveying the term's intent, not just its form.

Descriptive Strategy and Textual Function

Descriptive strategies involve paraphrasing or explanation of terms for clarity, often when the target language lacks a direct equivalent. Nord emphasizes that the translator should analyze the function of both source and target texts before choosing a strategy [2, p. 45].

For instance, *intellectual property* may be rendered descriptively in Uzbek as *mualliflik va ixtiro huquqlarini qonuniy himoya qilish*, especially when addressed to a general audience.

"Descriptive translation makes complex concepts accessible to non-specialists" [4, p. 213].

Descriptive strategies are widely used in public health communication, legal reforms, and technical manuals designed for laypersons.

Comparative View: Semantic vs. Communicative Translation

Newmark contrasts **semantic translation**, which preserves source-text meaning, with **communicative translation**, which emphasizes effect on the reader [3, p. 39]. In translating specialized terms, a hybrid of both approaches may be needed.

"Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original" [3, p. 39].

Sager argues that the translator's task is not only linguistic but **conceptual mediation**, bridging disciplinary and cultural gaps [5, p. 68].

Terminology and Translation Choices

Cabré highlights the importance of terminological competence in scientific translation: understanding a term's **denotation, connotation, and usage context** [6, p. 87]. Picht & Draskau emphasize terminological consistency, but acknowledge that **variation is inevitable in culturally diverse contexts** [7, p. 52].

In the case of *artificial intelligence*, direct translation as *sun'iy intellekt* works technically, but adaptation may be required depending on genre and audience (e.g., textbooks vs. news media).

Summary Comparison Table

Strategy	Features	Strengths	Limitations
Functional	Purpose-oriented, Skopos-based	Suits target audience's needs	May deviate from formal structure
Descriptive	Based on explanation, paraphrasing	Enhances comprehension	Terminological inconsistency possible
Semantic	Word-for-word, meaning-focused	Preserves original meaning	May confuse readers unfamiliar with term
Communicative	Reader-focused, effect-oriented	Produces natural, fluent output	May oversimplify technical content

Functional and descriptive strategies represent effective responses to the inherent complexity of domain-specific terminology translation. Translators must not only seek equivalents but determine how those equivalents function within the target culture. Applying theoretical models such as Skopos theory, textual function analysis, and communicative equivalence allows for **flexible yet principled** strategy choices.

A well-trained scientific translator operates as both **linguist and communicator**, mediating between knowledge systems, cultures, and expectations. In practice, hybrid strategies often offer the most appropriate solutions, balancing fidelity with usability.

References

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