

**TRANSLATION PROBLEMS OF COLLOCATIONS FROM ENGLISH
TO THE UZBEK LANGUAGE**

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Annotation: Collocations are combinations of words that frequently occur together in a particular language. Understanding collocations is crucial for translators because they can greatly affect the accuracy and naturalness of a translation. This article discusses the translation problems of collocations from English to Uzbek, focusing on the difficulties translators face when transferring these fixed word combinations. By analyzing common issues such as cultural differences, syntactic structures, and semantic differences, the article sheds light on the complexity of translating collocations.

Annotatsiya: Kollokatsiyalar ma'lum bir tilda tez-tez birga keladigan so'zlarning birikmasidir. Tarjimonlar uchun birikmalarni tushunish juda muhim, chunki ular tarjimaning aniqligi va tabiiyligiga katta ta'sir ko'rsatishi mumkin. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga qo'shma so'zlarni tarjima qilish muammolari ko'rib chiqilib, tarjimonlarning ushbu turg'un so'z birikmalarini tarjima qilish jarayonida duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarga e'tibor qaratiladi. Ushbu maqola madaniy farqlar, sintaktik tuzilmalar va semantik farqlar kabi umumiy masalalarni tahlil qilib, qo'shma gaplarni tarjima qilishning murakkabligini yoritib beradi.

Keywords: Collocations, English to Uzbek translation, translation challenges, linguistic differences, cultural context, syntactic structures, semantic equivalence.

Kalit so'zlar: qo'shma gaplar, ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga tarjima, tarjima muammolari, lingvistik farqlar, madaniy kontekst, sintaktik tuzilmalar, semantik ekvivalentlik.



Translation is not simply the conversion of words from one language to another; it is the process of rendering meaning while preserving nuances, tone, and natural flow. One of the major challenges in translation is dealing with collocations, which are word pairs or groups that are frequently used together in a language [2]. These combinations of words may be semantically motivated or arbitrary in nature and vary from language to language. For translators working from English to Uzbek, the challenge lies in how to handle these fixed combinations of words that may not have direct equivalents in the target language or that carry cultural nuances specific to the source language.

In this article, we will explore the translation challenges associated with collocations from English to Uzbek, identify common problems, and suggest strategies for overcoming them. By examining both linguistic and cultural factors that affect translation, this article aims to provide insights into how translators can approach collocation problems effectively.

Collocations are combinations of words that habitually occur together in a particular language. These word pairs or groups form predictable patterns that native speakers recognize and use naturally. For example, in English, we say "**make a decision**" or "**strong coffee**", while in Uzbek, the equivalent phrases would be "**qaror qabul qilish**" (to make a decision) and "**kuchli qahva**" (strong coffee). Collocations are formed through frequent co-occurrence of words in spoken and written texts, and they help a language sound natural and fluent. Collocations can be divided into several categories:

- **Verb + Noun** (e.g., "**make an effort**" in English, "**harakat qilish**" in Uzbek)
- **Adjective + Noun** (e.g., "**big mistake**" in English, "**katta xato**" in Uzbek)
- **Noun + Noun** (e.g., "**bank account**" in English, "**hisob raqami**" in Uzbek)
- **Adverb + Adjective** (e.g., "**highly recommended**" in English, "**katta tavsiya etilgan**" in Uzbek)



Understanding and translating collocations accurately is key to producing high-quality, fluent translations. While translating collocations from English to Uzbek, translators face several challenges, primarily due to the structural and lexical differences between the two languages. These challenges can be grouped into the following categories: Collocations are often influenced by culture, as certain phrases and expressions might be common in one language but not in another. For instance, the English phrase **"break the ice"** means to initiate conversation or ease tension in a social situation. However, in Uzbek, there is no direct equivalent for this expression, and a translator might need to either describe the meaning or use a different idiomatic expression. For example, in Uzbek, one might say **"yangi suhbat boshlamoq"** (to start a new conversation). Another example can be the phrase **"football is a game of passion"** in English, which might be difficult to translate literally into Uzbek, as the cultural context surrounding football might differ. In Uzbek, this might be translated as **"futbol - bu qiziqarli o'yin"**, which is more neutral, lacking the passion inherent in the original.

These cultural and contextual differences make it essential for translators to not only translate words but also to consider the broader cultural implications of the phrase [6]. One of the most common issues in translating collocations is the lack of direct lexical equivalents between languages. English and Uzbek have different lexical inventories, meaning that certain collocations might not have a corresponding word pair in Uzbek. For example, the collocation **"heavy rain"** in English has no direct counterpart in Uzbek. While the word **"og'ir"** (heavy) is commonly used for physical weight, it is not typically used to describe weather conditions. Therefore, a translator would likely choose to use **"kuchli yomg'ir"** (strong rain) instead. Similarly, the phrase **"take a shower"** is commonly used in English, but in Uzbek, the expression would likely be **"dush qabul qilish"** (to take a shower), since **"take"** and **"shower"** don't usually form a direct collocation in the Uzbek language. These lexical gaps require translators to be creative in finding equivalent expressions that convey the same meaning while maintaining the natural flow of the target language [1]. Another major challenge when translating collocations from English to Uzbek is the syntactic



differences between the two languages. English follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure, while Uzbek typically uses a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure. For example, the English collocation **"make a decision"** would be translated into Uzbek as **"qaror qabul qilish"**, with the verb **"qabul qilish"** (to make) placed at the end of the phrase. This syntactic shift can cause awkward phrasing if not handled properly. Additionally, English often combines adjectives and nouns in ways that are uncommon in Uzbek. For instance, **"strong coffee"** in English may be translated as **"kuchli qahva"** in Uzbek, but there are cases where such combinations sound unnatural. Translators must adapt the structure to the norms of the target language [4]. Idiomatic expressions, a type of collocation, pose one of the most significant challenges in translation. Idioms often rely on cultural knowledge, making them difficult to translate directly. For example, the English expression **"kick the bucket"** (to die) has no equivalent in Uzbek. A translator must either use a descriptive phrase, such as **"dunyo bilan xayrlashmoq"** (to say goodbye to the world), or choose a more culturally appropriate idiom to convey the meaning [3]. The meaning of a collocation in one language may not always align perfectly with its counterpart in another language due to differences in connotation. For example, the English collocation **"strong argument"** might be translated directly into **"kuchli dalil"** in Uzbek, but the connotations associated with **"strong"** might vary. In Uzbek, **"kuchli"** might imply physical strength rather than intellectual force, and an alternative like **"ishonchli dalil"** (reliable argument) might be more appropriate in certain contexts [5].

Translating collocations from English to Uzbek involves several strategies to ensure that the final translation is accurate and natural. Here are some strategies to handle collocation challenges. The best approach is to find equivalent collocations that naturally occur in the target language. This requires a deep understanding of both languages and the cultural context behind the collocations. For example, **"make progress"** in English can be translated to **"oldinga siljimoq"** (to move forward) in Uzbek. When an exact match does not exist, translators may need to use a descriptive translation. This means explaining the meaning of the collocation in simpler terms. For example, the English collocation **"break the ice"** might be translated as **"suhbatni**



boshlamoq" (to start a conversation) in Uzbek. When a collocation has no equivalent in the target language, translators might choose to use a culturally appropriate substitute. For example, instead of directly translating "**Thanksgiving dinner**", a translator might refer to "**Oilaviy bayram kechki ovqati**" (family holiday dinner), which carries a similar cultural significance in Uzbek. Literal translations of collocations rarely work well, especially with idiomatic expressions. For instance, translating "**a cold shoulder**" literally into "**sovuq yelka**" in Uzbek would not make sense. The translator must find a more culturally and contextually appropriate phrase.

Collocations are an essential part of any language, and translating them from English to Uzbek presents numerous challenges. These challenges arise from lexical gaps, syntactic differences, cultural nuances, and the lack of equivalent expressions in the target language. Successful translation of collocations requires a deep understanding of both languages' structure and culture, as well as a creative approach to find equivalent expressions or to provide descriptive alternatives. By employing strategies such as finding equivalent collocations, using descriptive translations, or opting for cultural substitutions, translators can overcome these challenges and produce high-quality, accurate translations that resonate with the target audience.

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