

COMMON PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATING NEWSPAPER TEXTS

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Abstract: Translating English newspaper articles into Uzbek faces challenges due to linguistic and cultural differences. This article covers common issues: lexical gaps, idioms, cultural references, syntax, ambiguity, wordplay, passive voice, reporting verbs, and headlines. Solutions are discussed for accurate, impactful, and culturally relevant translations.

Keywords: Newspaper Translation, English-Uzbek, Challenges, Lexical Gaps, Idioms, Cultural.

Translating newspaper texts from English into Uzbek involves several common challenges. These issues arise from differences in language structure, cultural context, idiomatic expressions, and journalistic style. Understanding these problems is essential for translators to deliver an accurate and effective translation that maintains the integrity and impact of the original text. Below are some of the most frequent translation problems faced in this field. One of the most common issues in translation is dealing with lexical gaps—words in the source language (English) that do not have a direct equivalent in the target language (Uzbek). This is particularly common with cultural terms, technical jargon, and new concepts introduced in English-language newspapers.

Additionally, false friends (words that look similar in both languages but have different meanings) can cause confusion. For instance, the English word "event" may be translated as "voqea" in Uzbek, but this translation may not fully convey the sense of a scheduled or organized event, which might require a more specific word like "tadbir."

Solution: Translators often need to paraphrase, use loanwords, or provide an explanation to convey the meaning accurately.

2. Idiomatic Expressions

Idiomatic expressions are phrases whose meanings cannot be derived from the individual words. They are widespread in newspaper articles as they add color and local flavor to the language. Translating idioms is particularly challenging because they rarely have direct equivalents in the target language.

For example, English idioms like "hit the nail on the head" or "break the ice" require creative translation in Uzbek. A literal translation would confuse the reader, so

translators must find equivalent expressions or rephrase the idea in a way that makes sense in the cultural and linguistic context of the target language.

Solution: Translators must use idioms and expressions that are culturally relevant to the target language or provide a detailed explanation.

3. Cultural References and Allusions

Newspaper articles are often filled with cultural references, historical allusions, and local events that may not be familiar to readers in a different cultural context. For example, a reference to a well-known British politician or American pop culture icon may not have any meaning for Uzbek readers.

In such cases, the translator faces the challenge of either explaining the cultural reference, finding an equivalent in the target culture, or omitting it altogether.

Solution: Translators may add footnotes or explanations, replace the reference with something culturally relevant, or use a more general term that communicates the idea without relying on a specific reference.

4. Differences in Sentence Structure

The sentence structures in English and Uzbek differ significantly, which can create difficulties when translating complex sentences. For example, English sentences often have a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure, while Uzbek syntax is more flexible and may involve different word order or the use of case markers. Additionally, English sentences may contain clauses that require restructuring in Uzbek to maintain clarity and coherence.

Solution: Translators must restructure sentences to follow the natural syntax of the target language while preserving the original meaning. This might involve changing the word order or splitting long sentences into shorter ones for clarity.

5. Ambiguity and Polysemy

Words with multiple meanings (polysemy) are common in both English and Uzbek. In newspaper writing, ambiguity can arise when a single word has more than one possible meaning, depending on the context. For example, the word "issue" could mean a "problem," a "topic of discussion," or a "publication" in English, and the context determines the appropriate translation in Uzbek.

Solution: Context is crucial in translation. Translators must carefully analyze the surrounding text and determine the correct meaning of the ambiguous word to provide the most accurate translation.

6. Puns and Wordplay

Puns and wordplay are often used in headlines and articles to add humor, draw attention, or convey a deeper meaning. These elements are challenging to translate because they rely on the double meaning of words or similar-sounding words in the source language. A pun that works in English may not make sense in Uzbek due to the differences in vocabulary and phonetics.

For example, a headline like "Time to make a change" might involve a play on the word "time" (referring to both the concept of time and the act of making a change). This play on words would likely require rethinking the headline or adapting it to convey the same meaning without the wordplay.

Solution: Translators need to either find an equivalent pun in the target language or replace the wordplay with a different expression that conveys the same message.

7. Overuse of Passive Voice

English-language newspapers often use the passive voice to shift the focus of the sentence away from the subject and onto the action or the object. While this is a common stylistic feature in English, Uzbek tends to favor the active voice for clarity and directness.

For example, an English sentence like "The decision was made by the committee" may sound unnatural if translated directly into Uzbek, where the active voice would be more common: "Komitet qarorni chiqardi."

Solution: In many cases, the passive voice in English should be transformed into the active voice in Uzbek to make the sentence more natural and easier to understand.

8. Reporting Verbs and Attribution

Newspaper articles often include direct or indirect speech, which is introduced by reporting verbs like "says," "reports," "claims," or "announces." These verbs carry different nuances of meaning and can significantly influence the tone of the article. For instance, "claims" suggests doubt, while "states" implies certainty.

Translating reporting verbs accurately is essential to maintain the tone and meaning of the original text. Choosing the wrong reporting verb in the target language can lead to misunderstandings or misrepresentations of the source text.

Solution: Translators need to pay attention to the nuances of the reporting verb and select an appropriate equivalent in Uzbek that reflects the intended meaning.

9. Headlines and Subheadings

Headlines are often designed to be eye-catching and concise, which can create challenges for translators. They may include abbreviations, allusions, or wordplay that do not have direct equivalents in the target language. Additionally, headlines must be adapted to fit the cultural context of the target audience.

For example, an English headline like "Breaking News: Budget Cuts in Education" may need to be rephrased to capture the same attention-grabbing quality in Uzbek while ensuring the message remains clear and impactful.

Solution: Translators must find ways to adapt headlines to be just as compelling in the target language, which might involve rewording or restructuring the headline to suit the target culture.

Translating newspaper articles from English into Uzbek is a complex task that involves navigating various linguistic and cultural challenges. By recognizing common

translation problems—such as lexical gaps, idiomatic expressions, and syntactic differences—translators can take proactive steps to ensure that the final text is accurate, engaging, and culturally relevant. This process requires a deep understanding of both languages and a careful balance between fidelity to the original and adaptation to the target audience.

Translating English newspapers to Uzbek is complex, involving linguistic and cultural hurdles. By understanding common issues like lexical gaps and idioms, translators can ensure accurate, engaging, and culturally relevant final texts, balancing fidelity with audience adaptation.

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