MAIN PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION.

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Annotation. *This article explores the fundamental problems encountered in the process of translation. It highlights the key linguistic and cultural challenges that translators face, including lexical, grammatical, stylistic, cultural, and pragmatic issues. Through relevant examples and theoretical insights, the paper emphasizes the importance of context, cultural awareness, and communicative intent in achieving accurate and effective translation. The discussion aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of translation as a complex act of cross-cultural communication rather than a simple linguistic operation.*

Keywords : *Translation, lexical problems, grammatical issues, stylistic challenges, cultural realia, pragmatic adaptation, translation theory, interlingual communication, intercultural competence, equivalence.*

ОСНОВНЫЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ ПЕРЕВОДА.

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Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматриваются основные проблемы, возникающие в процессе перевода. Освещаются ключевые лингвистические и культурные трудности, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики, включая лексические, грамматические, стилистические, культурные и прагматические аспекты. На основе примеров и теоретических положений подчёркивается важность контекста, культурной осведомлённости и коммуникативного намерения для достижения точного и адекватного перевода. Обсуждение направлено на углублённое понимание перевода как сложного акта межкультурной коммуникации, а не просто языкового преобразования.*

Ключевые слова : *Перевод, лексические проблемы, грамматические трудности, стилистические особенности, культурные реалии, прагматическая адаптация, теория перевода, межъязыковая коммуникация, межкультурная компетенция, эквивалентность.*

Translation is not merely the mechanical substitution of words from one language to another; it is a complex process of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication. The translator faces a variety of challenges that can be broadly classified into lexical, grammatical, stylistic, cultural, and pragmatic problems. Lexical problems in translation arise due to the divergence in vocabulary, semantic structures, and conceptual systems across languages. Lexical units carry not only denotative (literal) meaning but also connotative (emotional, cultural) implications. A successful translation requires careful selection of the target language equivalent that preserves both the meaning and stylistic tone of the source language unit.

Polysemy and Homonymy

Polysemy refers to a single word having multiple related meanings. For example, the word bright can mean "full of light" or "intelligent." He is a bright student should be translated as Он способный студент (not Он яркий студент, which would be a literal and misleading rendering). Homonymy involves words that are spelled or sound the same but have entirely different meanings.

For example, in English:

Bank can refer to a financial institution or the side of a river.   A sentence like He sat on the bank and looked at the water must be carefully interpreted to avoid translating it as Он сидел в банке и смотрел на воду. To resolve such ambiguity, the translator must rely on context and background knowledge. Failure to do so leads to semantic errors or miscommunication[^1].

Non-equivalent Lexical Items

Non-equivalent vocabulary refers to words or phrases in the source language for which there is no direct counterpart in the target language. These include: Culturally bound terms: The Uzbek term mahalla refers to a deeply rooted social institution combining administrative, religious, and communal functions. An English-speaking audience unfamiliar with this concept requires an explanatory translation like a traditional neighborhood community in Uzbekistan with cultural and administrative functions. Institutional names or practices: For instance, the Russian term субботник (voluntary Saturday labor for public good) has no direct equivalent in English. It is often translated descriptively: voluntary communal work performed on a Saturday. Idiomatic expressions or wordplay: The Russian expression душа нараспашку (literally: "soul wide open") is not directly translatable and may be rendered as an open-hearted person or a person who wears their heart on their sleeve, depending on context. These lexical gaps are usually addressed through:

• Descriptive translation
• Footnotes or glossaries
• Borrowing (especially for culturally important terms)

Functional equivalents, where culturally analogous terms are substituted (with care)

Ultimately, lexical translation problems emphasize the translator's role not just as a language converter, but as a cultural mediator

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[^1]:Barkhudarov, L.S. Language and Translation. Moscow:

Grammatical differences between languages can make literal or direct translation problematic. These differences affect sentence structure, verb forms, agreement systems, word order, and the use or absence of grammatical categories such as articles, aspects, or gender. A translator must understand not only the grammar of both languages but also how grammar affects meaning and communicativeintent. While many languages express time through verbal tenses, the way they do so may vary significantly. For instance, English distinguishes between several aspects—simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous—each conveying subtle nuances of time and completion. Russian, on the other hand, expresses aspect primarily through verb pairs: perfective (completed action) and imperfective (ongoing or habitual action), often without distinct tense markers for those nuances.

Example: Я читал эту книгу.

This sentence uses the imperfective aspect (читал) and can be translated depending on context as:

I was reading this book (emphasis on the process or unfinished action)

I have read this book (in contexts where the action is considered complete and relevant to the present)

I used to read this book (when implying habitual past action)

Choosing the wrong aspect in English may lead to misunderstanding the speaker's intention or timeline. This shows how tense-aspect mismatches can result in inaccurate or unnatural translations[^2].

Another significant grammatical challenge involves the use of articles. English has a highly developed article system (the definite article the and the indefinite articles a/an), which conveys specificity, quantity, and sometimes even emotional or logical emphasis. However, languages like Russian and Uzbek lack articles entirely, relying instead on word order, context, or lexical markers to express definiteness or indefiniteness.

Example: Он стал известным ученым translates as He became a famous scientist

Here, inserting the indefinite article a is essential for natural and grammatically correct English.

A literal translation like He became famous scientist is grammatically incorrect and stylistically awkward in English.

Moreover, articles can subtly influence meaning:

He became a scientist (any scientist, general information)

He became the scientist (a specific scientist previously mentioned or known to the reader). Translators must recognize when to insert appropriate articles and interpret definiteness or indefiniteness from context—a skill that cannot be automated or guessed without grammatical awareness[^2].

English typically follows Subject–Verb–Object (SVO) order strictly, while Russian and Uzbek allow greater flexibility due to case endings. Translators must reorganize sentences to maintain natural syntax in the target language. Grammatical gender exists in many languages (e.g., Russian), but not in English. The translator must handle gender-related agreements in adjectives and pronouns carefully.

For example: Мой друг (masc.) пришёл vs. Моя подруга (fem.) пришла — both translate as My friend came, but gender is not explicitly shown in English.

Passive vs. Active Voice: English uses the passive voice frequently, especially in formal or scientific texts, while some languages may prefer active structures. Translators must adapt the voice depending on genre conventions and target language norms.

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[^2]: Komissarov, V.N. General Theory of Translation. Moscow:

Style in translation refers to how something is expressed rather than what is expressed. It includes word choice, tone, register, rhetorical devices, and sentence rhythm. Translators must preserve or adapt these features to maintain the stylistic integrity of the original while ensuring naturalness in the target language. Idioms and colloquialisms are culturally bound expressions that often cannot be translated word-for-word without losing their meaning or emotional impact.

Example: Kick the bucket (English idiom) = "to die". A literal translation into Russian as Он пнул ведро makes no sense. A correct idiomatic translation would be: Он умер (He died)

Он скончался (He passed away) — more formal. Idiomatic translation requires functional equivalence, i.e., replacing an idiom in the source language with a culturally appropriate expression in the target language. Sometimes, if no equivalent idiom exists, translators may resort to descriptive paraphrasing. Other examples: English: Break the ice → Russian: Разрядить обстановку. Uzbek: Ko'nglini olish → English: To make amends or To please someone. Languages often use different tones or levels of formality depending on context. What sounds neutral in one language may appear too formal or too casual in another.

For example: English: Could you please send me the document? (polite request)

Russian: Не могли бы вы отправить мне документ? Uzbek: Iltimos, hujjatni yuboring. Inappropriate register can result in a message sounding disrespectful

or overly stiff. Therefore, translators must match the emotional tone and social distance of the original text[^3].

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[^3]: Koptelova, N.A. Stylistics and Translation. Moscow: Flinta, 2004.

Cultural realia refers to objects, customs, institutions, or concepts that are specific to a particular culture and often lack direct equivalents in the target language. Translating such elements poses a challenge, as the translator must decide whether to preserve the foreign element, adapt it, or explain it.

Example: Holidays and Customs

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday unique to North American culture. A direct translation might not convey its significance to readers unfamiliar with it. Thus, a translation such as Thanksgiving Day (a national holiday in the United States commemorating gratitude and harvest) provides cultural clarity[^4].

Other examples include:Uzbek: Navruz — usually translated as Navruz (Persian New Year celebrated on the spring equinox).

Russian: День Победы — often rendered as Victory Day (May 9, commemorating the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany)

Translation Strategies for Cultural Realia

1. Transliteration or Borrowing: Keep the original word with a brief explanation. Mahalla, Navruz, Sumalak

2. Descriptive Translation:Explain the meaning within the translation. Subbotnik → voluntary community work on Saturday

3. Cultural Substitution: Replace with a culturally similar concept if appropriate (with caution). Banya → sauna (though not exactly equivalent)

4. Footnotes or Glossaries:

Provide extra cultural context outside the main text. These methods help bridge the gap between source and target cultures, enhancing comprehension while respecting cultural identity[^4].

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[^4]: Nida, E.A. Cultural Translation: Theory and Practice. St.

Pragmatic issues in translation arise from the need to convey not just the literal meaning of the source text, but also its intended function, speaker's intention, situational context, and expectations of the target audience. Pragmatics involves how meaning is shaped by context, social norms, and the communicative goal of the speaker or writer. A message can be pragmatically appropriate in one language but may require adaptation in another to achieve the same communicative effect. This is particularly important in advertising, legal texts, technical manuals, and public communication.

Example: Technical Instructions

Consider the instruction in English: Press here to reset the device. If translated literally into Russian as Нажмите здесь, чтобы сбросить устройство, it may be clear to laypeople, but imprecise for a technical audience. Depending on the intended audience, the translation might vary.This example illustrates the translator's need to adapt language pragmatically—choosing terms and formulations appropriate to the target audience's knowledge, expectations, and purpose[^5].

Other Examples of Pragmatic Shifts

Formal vs. Informal Address: English does not distinguish between formal and informal "you," but languages like Russian (ты/вы) or Uzbek (sen/siz) do. The choice must reflect the relationship between speaker and audience.

Politeness Strategies:

In Japanese or Korean, indirectness and honorifics are common. Translating them into a more direct language like English requires compensation strategies, such as softening commands or adding modal verbs (could, would).

Legal and Bureaucratic Texts:

Bureaucratic documents may be terse and impersonal in one culture but require more explicitness or a different tone in the target language. For example, the Russian expression в случае возникновения проблем... may be translated in English as Should any issues arise..., preserving the formal tone, or If something goes wrong... in less formal contexts.

Strategies for Dealing with Pragmatic Problems

1. Audience Analysis: Tailor the translation to the level of expertise, age, or cultural expectations of the target reader.

2. Functional Equivalence: Translate the intended function or communicative effect, even if the wording changes.

3. Genre Sensitivity: Respect conventions of the target language's text type (e.g., manuals, contracts, advertisements).

4. Adaptation: Modify expressions, tone, or structure to better fit the pragmatic norms of the target culture.

Failing to consider pragmatic elements can lead to miscommunication, awkwardness, or even offense, undermining the effectiveness of the translation[^5].

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[^5]: House, J. Translation Quality Assessment: A Model Revisited. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 1997.

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