

## SECRETS OF TRANSLATION

**Sugdiyona Soliyeva**, *Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages,*  
*student;*

**Axmedova Muxayyoxon**, *Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages,*  
*lecturer*

**Abstract:** *This article explores the «secrets» of effective English-to-Russian translation, emphasizing that it's an art transcending mere word-for-word replacement. It highlights the unique challenges posed by the linguistic and cultural differences between English and Russian. Key strategies discussed include prioritizing contextual understanding to avoid misinterpretations of polysemous words and phrases. The article stresses the importance of adapting grammar and syntax rather than literal translation, especially concerning voice and word order. It then delves into lexical subtleties, such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and «false friends,» advocating for the use of specialized dictionaries and contextual research. Furthermore, the text underscores the critical role of understanding cultural peculiarities and mentality, including humor and forms of address, to ensure cultural appropriateness. It also addresses the necessity of matching the correct style and register to the source text's purpose and audience. Finally, the abstract emphasizes editing and proofreading as an essential final step, detailing techniques like taking breaks, reading aloud, and rigorous comparison with the original to ensure accuracy, naturalness, and overall quality. This comprehensive approach aims to help translators achieve nuanced and effective communication across these two distinct Language.*

**Key words:** *translation, secret, cultural differences,*

### **Introduction**

Translation isn't just a mechanical replacement of words from one language with words from another. It's an art that demands a deep understanding of linguistic nuances, cultural peculiarities, and context. This is especially true for the English-

Russian pair, where differences in grammar, syntax, and the mentality of native speakers can become a serious obstacle. In this article, we'll reveal the "secrets" of proper translation that will help you achieve accuracy, naturalness, and adequacy.

### Understanding Context – The Cornerstone: A Deeper Dive

You've hit on one of the most critical aspects of successful translation: understanding context. It's not just a «secret» but the fundamental principle that underpins all good translation. Think of words as individual puzzle pieces. You can't understand the picture by looking at just one piece; you need to see how it fits with all the others.

### Why Context is Crucial in Translation

Languages are complex and contextual, with words always tied to a specific situation, conversation, or document. Ignoring context is a common pitfall in translation, often leading to errors. Here's why context matters:

**Polysemy (Multiple Meanings):** Many words have several meanings depending on the context. For example:

- "Run" can mean "to manage" a business, "flow" (as in water), or "to exercise."
- "Book" could refer to a physical object or the act of reserving something.

Without context, translating these words becomes a guessing game, often leading to inaccuracies.

**Homonyms and Homophones:** Words that look or sound the same but differ in meaning can be tricky. For instance, "bat" (animal vs. baseball equipment) or "to," "too," and "two" (different meanings, same sound). Context is necessary to capture the correct meaning.

**Figurative Language and Idioms:** Idioms or metaphors can't be translated literally. For example, "He's pulling your leg" means joking, and "The project is on thin ice" refers to danger. Without understanding the figurative meaning, translation fails.

**Nuance and Connotation:** Words carry emotional weight. For example,

"walk" vs. "stroll" vs. "trudge" in English: the context dictates which verb to use in Russian, such as «прогуливаться» for "stroll" or «тащиться» for "trudge."

**Sentence Structure and Emphasis:** In English, sentence structure often highlights certain elements. Russian uses word order and intonation to emphasize ideas differently, making context essential.

**How to Practice Contextual Understanding:**

- **Read the entire sentence or paragraph** to capture the full meaning.
- **Identify the subject matter and author's intent** to understand the context.
- **Consider the target audience** to guide your word choices.
- **Use collocations** and consult English-English dictionaries for better nuance.

**Grammar and Syntax: Not Word-for-Word Translation**

Even with perfect context understanding, translating word-for-word often sounds unnatural or incorrect in Russian due to fundamental differences in language structure between English and Russian.

**Key Grammatical Differences:**

- **Passive vs. Active Voice:** English uses the passive voice frequently, especially in scientific or technical contexts (e.g., "The decision was made quickly"). Russian prefers active voice (e.g., "Решение приняли быстро") or uses reflexive verbs for passivity, making the English passive sound awkward in Russian.
- **Word Order:** English follows a fixed SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) order, while Russian has a flexible word order due to its case system. Russian word order is often used for emphasis or flow. For example, "Вчера я увидел интересный фильм" (I saw an interesting movie yesterday) emphasizes the action, while "Очень интересный фильм я видел вчера" emphasizes the film itself.
- **Articles:** English uses articles like "a" and "the" to specify definiteness. Russian, without articles, conveys these nuances through context, word order, or demonstrative pronouns (e.g., «Эта книга» for "this book").

- **Tense and Aspect:** English uses complex tenses to express time and action. Russian relies more on verb aspects (perfective vs. imperfective) to indicate whether an action is completed or ongoing. For example, "I have read the book" (completed action) becomes "Я прочитал книгу" in Russian.

- **Prepositions:** English uses prepositions for relationships (e.g., "in," "to," "from"), while Russian combines prepositions with case endings. "He lives in Moscow" becomes "Он живет в Москве," with the preposition "в" and the prepositional case.

#### **Tips for Mastery:**

- **Deconstruct and reconstruct** the sentence, understanding the meaning before adapting it to Russian structure.

- Focus on **verbs** and their tenses.

- **Read extensively** in Russian to internalize natural structures.

#### **Lexical Subtleties: Idioms, Phrasal Verbs, and Polysemy**

Translating lexical subtleties is where a translator's linguistic and cultural knowledge shine. It involves understanding words in their native context, not just their definitions.

**Idioms and Fixed Expressions:** Idioms are expressions whose meanings aren't deducible from individual words and are often culture-specific. Literal translations can lead to awkward or incorrect phrases. For example, "Break a leg!" translates to "Ни пуха ни пера!" in Russian, not "Сломай ногу!" Identifying idioms and using context clues is essential. Specialized idiom dictionaries are invaluable, and sometimes the best translation is an equivalent Russian idiom, even if the imagery differs.

**Phrasal Verbs:** Phrasal verbs combine verbs and prepositions/adverbs, creating new meanings, often unpredictable from the words alone. For instance, "Call off" (cancel) can be translated as "Отменить," not "Позвать." The key to translating phrasal verbs is understanding the context. Often, a single Russian verb can replace the English phrasal verb, making the translation clearer and more natural.

**False Friends:** False friends are words that appear similar in two languages

but have different meanings. For example, “Accurate” in English means “точный,” not “аккуратный” (which means “neat” or “careful”). Always double-check words that seem similar to avoid mistranslation. Use reliable bilingual dictionaries and context to confirm the correct meaning.

**General Strategies:**

- **Continuous Learning:** Engage with both languages through reading and listening.
- **Maintain a Glossary:** Keep track of idioms, phrasal verbs, and false friends with their correct translations.
- **Consult Native Speakers:** Native speakers can help identify unnatural phrasing.
- **Adaptation:** If there’s no direct equivalent, paraphrase or explain the meaning.

Mastering lexical subtleties requires curiosity, research, and a focus on conveying the spirit of the language, not just the words.

**Cultural Peculiarities and Mentality in Translation**

Translation goes beyond linguistics into anthropology and sociology, requiring a translator to be a cultural bridge. Ignoring cultural nuances can lead to misunderstandings or offense, even with technically correct translations.

**Humor and Puns:** Humor relies on cultural context, wordplay, and historical references. English humor often uses puns, irony, and understatement, which can be challenging to translate. The key is to adapt the humor, not simply translate it. For example, “Break a leg!” becomes “Ни пуха ни пера!” in Russian, not a literal translation. In some cases, the humor may be omitted or replaced with something culturally neutral.

**Cultural References:** Jokes or references based on celebrities or historical events may not resonate with a Russian audience. In such cases, find analogous Russian references or offer brief explanations.

**Forms of Address and Politeness:** English uses simple forms of address

like “Mr.” and “Ms.,” while Russian has a more complex system. Russian distinguishes between informal “ТЫ” and formal “ВЫ,” and often uses first names with patronymics for respect. Misusing these forms can create awkwardness. Additionally, Russian politeness is often conveyed more indirectly than in English.

**Values, Beliefs, and Social Norms:** Cultural differences in concepts like privacy, individualism, and religion impact translation. For example, a casual religious exclamation in English might need to be softened in Russian. Research and understanding of Russian sensitivities are crucial when dealing with topics like death, illness, or politics.

**Historical and Political Context:** References to historical events or political figures in English may be lost on a Russian audience. In such cases, translators must either provide context, find analogues, or neutralize controversial terms.

**The Secret:** Cultural immersion and empathy are essential for a translator to effectively adapt content, making the text feel as though it was originally written for a Russian audience.

### **Style and Register – Maintaining the Voice**

Style and register are about how a message is communicated—through vocabulary, sentence structure, formality, and tone. A mismatch can make a translation sound awkward or unprofessional, even if the words are correct.

**Formality (Register):** Languages operate on a formality scale, from formal to informal. In English, formality is reflected in complex sentences and Latinate vocabulary. Russian uses specific vocabulary, grammatical structures, and avoids colloquialisms for formality.

- **Formal Example:** English: “*Therefore, it is imperative that all protocols be strictly adhered to.*”

Russian: “*Следовательно, крайне важно строго соблюдать все протоколы.*”

- **Informal Example:** English: “*He’s super stoked about the concert.*”

Russian: “*Он в диком восторге от концерта.*”

Maintaining consistency in formality is essential to avoid confusion.

**Genre-Specific Styles:** Different genres require different styles:

- **Scientific/Technical:** English uses passive voice and specialized terminology, while Russian also favors precision and impersonal constructions.
- **Legal/Official:** English legal texts use formal terms and repetition; Russian requires even more precision with specific legal terms and formal syntax.
- **Journalistic/Publicistic:** English journalism is concise and engaging; Russian also uses emotional language, rhetorical questions, and more direct tone.
- **Literary/Artistic:** English emphasizes rhythm and imagery. In literary translation, the translator must recreate the emotional resonance of the original text, sometimes deviating from a literal translation.

### **Tone:**

Tone reflects the author's attitude—serious, humorous, sarcastic, etc. Translators must match the tone in Russian using equivalent words and structures. A sarcastic comment in English needs a sarcastic Russian counterpart. Cultural differences may require adjusting tone for appropriateness.

**Purpose and Audience Dictate Style:** Before translating, ask:

- What is the text's purpose? (To inform, persuade, entertain?)
- Who is the target audience? (Experts, general public, children?)

These answers guide lexical and grammatical choices, ensuring that the translation is both accurate and culturally appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

As we've explored, translating from English to Russian is far more than a mere linguistic exercise; it's an intricate art form. It demands a profound engagement with both the source and target languages, extending beyond dictionaries and grammar rules to encompass the very soul of each culture. The «secrets» we've uncovered — from the foundational importance of context and the necessity of adapting grammar and syntax, to navigating lexical subtleties like idioms and false friends, and understanding deep-seated cultural peculiarities and stylistic nuances — all converge on one central idea: effective translation is about conveying meaning and intent, not just words.

A truly successful translation is one that feels organic and native to the



Russian reader, as if it were originally conceived in their language. It resonates culturally, flows naturally, and communicates with precision and clarity. It's a bridge built not just with words, but with understanding, empathy, and meticulous attention to detail.

While the journey to mastering these secrets is ongoing, the dedication to these principles will undoubtedly elevate your translations. Embrace the challenge, continuously learn, and always remember that the ultimate goal is to bridge communication gaps and connect people across linguistic and cultural divides.

### **REFERENCE**

1. Sister Cities International. (2021). About Us. Retrieved from <https://sistercities.org/who-we-are/about-us/>
2. Brown, C., & Landry, C. (2016). Intercultural Communication: An Introduction. John Wiley & Sons.
3. United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. (2020). Borders and Identity. Retrieved from <https://www.unaoc.org/education/borders-and-identity/>
4. Smith, L. (2018). The Power of Intercultural Dialogue: Leveraging Diversity to Build Resilient Communities. Routledge.
5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2005). Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000184627>
6. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2002). Intercultural Dialogue: Proposal for a Coordinated Strategy. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000120795>
7. MacNair, R. M. (2019). The Importance of Intercultural Dialogue in Conflict Resolution. In Multi-Cultural Dialogues for Peace and Conflict Resolution (pp. 17-32). Springer, Cham.
8. Aitken, J., & Smith, R. (2018). Intercultural Dialogue: A Critical Analysis. Journal of Intercultural Studies, 39(6), 609-625.



9. Mansouri, F., & Jenkins, L. (Eds.). (2018). *Intercultural Relations, Migration and Racism in Australia*. Springer.
10. Jackson, I. (2017). Overcoming Barriers to Intercultural Dialogue. In *Handbook of Communication in Cross-cultural Perspective* (pp. 315-332). Routledge.
11. Śliwa, M., & Ramírez, N. (2020). The Role of Intercultural Dialogue in Building Peace: A Case Study Analysis. *International Journal of Conflict Management*, 31(2), 184-203.
12. Sister Cities International. (n.d.). About Us. Retrieved from <https://sistercities.org/about-us/>
13. Dong, Z., & Shao, Z. (2019). Creating a Safe Space for Intercultural Dialogue: Lessons from Practice. *Journal of International Education Research*, 15(1), 31-44.
14. Dürr, E., & Stalder, B. E. (2018). Cross-Border Cooperation: Best Practices for Fostering Harmony. *European Journal of Cross-Border Cooperation*, 2(1), 58-72.
15. Lavoie, G. M., & Schultz, A. (2020). Leading Intercultural Dialogues: Challenges and Opportunities. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 76, 78-92.
16. Smith, J. K., & Wang, L. (2017). Building Bridges: The Power of Intercultural Dialogue. *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 44, 102-118.