



ISSUES OF TRANSLATING PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND
UZBEK

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Abstract: *Phraseological units pose significant challenges in translation due to their semantic opacity, structural stability, and strong cultural specificity. This thesis explores the major issues involved in translating phraseological units between English and Uzbek, two languages that differ typologically and culturally. The study focuses on problems of equivalence, cultural mismatch, and contextual interpretation that arise during the translation process. It is argued that literal translation often leads to semantic distortion or loss of expressive meaning, especially when direct equivalents are absent in the target language. The thesis emphasizes the importance of functional and adaptive translation strategies, as well as the role of cultural and pragmatic awareness in achieving accurate and natural translation. The findings highlight that successful translation of phraseological units requires not only linguistic competence but also deep understanding of cultural context, making phraseological translation a key area in translation studies and contrastive linguistics.*

Keywords: *phraseological units; translation issues; equivalence; English and Uzbek; cultural specificity; idiomatic translation*

Phraseological units present one of the most challenging aspects of translation due to their semantic complexity, structural stability, and strong cultural grounding. This thesis examines the main issues involved in translating phraseological units between English and Uzbek, two typologically and culturally different languages. Phraseological units often convey figurative meanings that cannot be understood through literal interpretation, which makes direct translation ineffective or misleading.

The study highlights that one of the key problems in translating phraseological units is the lack of full equivalence between languages. While some English and Uzbek phraseological units share similar meanings and functions, many expressions differ in metaphorical imagery, stylistic value, and cultural connotations. As a result, translators frequently encounter partial or non-equivalence, requiring the use of adaptive translation strategies.

Another major issue discussed in the thesis is cultural specificity. Phraseological units reflect national traditions, historical experience, and social values, which may not exist in the target language. English phraseological units often derive from historical, literary, or religious sources, whereas Uzbek phraseological units are closely connected with family relations, moral values, and everyday life. These differences create difficulties in preserving both meaning and expressive effect in translation.

The thesis also emphasizes the importance of selecting appropriate translation methods, such as using functional equivalents, descriptive translation, or substitution with culturally appropriate expressions. It is argued that successful translation of phraseological



units requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness and contextual understanding.

In addition, the thesis points out that literal translation remains one of the most common mistakes in rendering phraseological units. Literal translation often leads to semantic distortion or loss of pragmatic effect, especially when the target language lacks an equivalent idiom. For example, direct translation may preserve lexical meaning but fail to convey the emotional or stylistic nuance intended in the source language. This issue is particularly evident when translating idioms with metaphorical imagery unfamiliar to the target culture.

The study also stresses the role of context in phraseological translation. Phraseological units may change their meaning depending on discourse type, register, and communicative intention. Therefore, translators must analyze not only the phraseological unit itself but also its surrounding context. Ignoring contextual factors can result in inappropriate or unnatural translations that do not reflect authentic language use.

Furthermore, the thesis underlines the pedagogical value of studying phraseological translation. Understanding translation issues related to phraseological units can significantly improve translator training and foreign language teaching. By raising learners' awareness of idiomatic usage and cultural differences, educators can help students avoid negative transfer and develop more natural translation skills.

Moreover, the thesis emphasizes that the choice of translation strategy depends largely on the purpose of translation and the target audience. In literary translation, preserving stylistic color and emotional impact is often more important than maintaining formal similarity, whereas in academic or informational texts, semantic clarity may take priority. This distinction requires translators to be flexible and creative when dealing with phraseological units.

The analysis also shows that bilingual and phraseological dictionaries, although useful, are not always sufficient for accurate translation. Many phraseological units are context-dependent, and their meanings may vary according to usage. Therefore, reliance on dictionaries alone can result in inappropriate equivalents. Translators are encouraged to consult authentic texts and parallel contexts in both languages to achieve more natural translations.

In conclusion, the thesis argues that the translation of phraseological units between English and Uzbek requires an integrated approach that combines linguistic analysis, cultural knowledge, and pragmatic awareness. Addressing these issues contributes not only to higher translation quality but also to deeper intercultural understanding, confirming the importance of phraseological studies in modern translation theory and practice.

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