

RENDERING OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Abstract

Translation is not only a linguistic process but also a cultural and communicative act. Phraseological units, including idioms, fixed expressions, and proverbs, represent one of the most complex aspects of translation due to their figurative meaning and strong cultural associations. This article examines the peculiarities of rendering phraseological units from English into Uzbek, identifies the main translation challenges, and analyzes effective strategies used by translators. The study employs comparative and descriptive methods, focusing on semantic, structural, and cultural aspects of phraseological units. The findings demonstrate that successful translation requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness and contextual understanding.

Keywords: phraseological units, idioms, translation, English language, Uzbek language, equivalence, cultural adaptation, translation strategies.

Introduction

Translation plays a crucial role in intercultural communication by enabling the exchange of knowledge, literature, and cultural values between nations. However, translation is not merely a mechanical substitution of words; it involves transferring meaning, style, and cultural nuances from one language into another. Phraseological units (PUs) are among the most difficult elements to translate because they are deeply rooted in the culture, history, and worldview of a particular language community. These units include idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions that often carry figurative meanings that cannot be understood literally. According to modern research, phraseological units “encapsulate cultural memory and national worldview” and require both semantic accuracy and cultural adequacy in translation. Similarly, scholars emphasize that ignoring context or cultural background may lead to misunderstanding or loss of meaning.

This article aims to analyze how phraseological units are translated from English into Uzbek and to identify the most effective strategies for preserving their meaning and stylistic value.

Main Strategies for translating phraseological units

This study is based on a comparative and descriptive research methodology, including:

- Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek phraseological units
- Contextual analysis to examine how meaning changes depending on usage
- Semantic analysis to explore literal and figurative meanings
- Examples from literature and everyday speech

The research also relies on theoretical works in translation studies and phraseology, as well as modern linguistic studies on English–Uzbek translation.

1. Types of Phraseological Units and Their Translation

Type of phraseological unit	English example	Uzbek translation	Translation type
Idiom	“break the ice”	“gap boshlamoq”	Equivalent/paraphrase
Idiom	“spill the beans”	“sirni ochib qo’ymoq”	Equivalent
Proverb	“time is money”	“vaqt oltindan qimmat”	Cultural equivalent
Fixed expression	“by heart”	“yoddan”	Direct equivalent

2. Translation Strategies

a) Equivalent Translation

English / Uzbek Equivalent

“Kill two birds with one stone” → “Bir o‘q bilan ikki quyovni urmoq”

“Actions speak louder than words” → “Amal so‘zdan ustun”

This strategy is the most effective because it preserves both meaning and stylistic impact.

b) Literal Translation

English / Literal Uzbek Translation Result

“Heart of stone” : “Tosh yurak” → Acceptable

“Cold feet” : “Sovuq oyoq” → Incorrect meaning

Literal translation works only when the metaphor is shared between cultures.

c) Descriptive (Paraphrasing) Translation

English / Uzbek Translation

“Kick the bucket” → “Vafot etmoq”

“Piece of cake” → “Juda oson ish”

This method ensures clarity but may lose stylistic color.

d) Cultural Substitution

English / Uzbek Substitute

“The early bird catches the worm” → “Erta turgan – baraka topadi”

This strategy adapts the meaning to the target culture.

Analysis and Discussion

The analysis reveals that phraseological units are complex linguistic structures that require careful interpretation during translation. Their meanings are often figurative, and direct translation may lead to misunderstanding. One of the main challenges is **cultural specificity**. Many English idioms are based on historical or cultural references unfamiliar to Uzbek speakers. For example:

“Break the ice” → requires contextual adaptation

“Kick the bucket” → cannot be translated literally

Research shows that phraseological units are strongly influenced by cultural and historical context, which shapes their meaning and usage. Another important issue is **context**

dependency. The same phraseological unit may have different meanings depending on the situation. Therefore, translators must analyze the context before choosing a translation strategy. Furthermore, **stylistic features** such as expressiveness, rhythm, and imagery must be preserved. Phraseological units often add emotional or stylistic color to the text, and losing this aspect reduces translation quality. The study confirms that equivalent translation is the most effective method, but it is not always possible. In such cases, paraphrasing or cultural substitution becomes necessary.

Conclusion

The translation of phraseological units from English into Uzbek is a complex and multifaceted process that requires linguistic, cultural, and contextual competence. Phraseological units are not only linguistic elements but also carriers of cultural identity and national worldview.

The study shows that translators use various strategies, including equivalent translation, literal translation, paraphrasing, and cultural substitution. Among these, equivalent translation is the most effective, while paraphrasing is often used when no direct equivalent exists. Understanding cultural differences and context plays a crucial role in achieving accurate and expressive translation. Therefore, further research in phraseology and translation studies is essential for improving translation quality and intercultural communication.

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