

SOCIOLINGUISTIC PROPERTIES OF JARGON TRANSLATION: THE CASE OF SPECIALIZED TERMINOLOGY TRANSFER BETWEEN LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This study examines the sociolinguistic dimensions of translating jargon and specialized terminology between languages with particular attention to the Uzbek-English language pair. The research investigates how sociolinguistic factors—including cultural context, power relationships, and discourse communities—influence the translation process of specialized lexical items. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from translation studies and sociolinguistics, this paper argues that jargon translation extends beyond mere lexical equivalence to encompass sociocultural adaptation. Through analysis of specialized terminology in academic, technical, and professional domains, the study demonstrates that effective jargon translation requires understanding of both source and target sociocultural environments. The findings reveal that translators employ various strategies, including calquing, domestication, and hybridization, when transferring specialized terminology, while negotiating sociolinguistic challenges inherent in cross-cultural communication.

Keywords: sociolinguistics; jargon translation; specialized terminology; discourse communities; Uzbek language; pragmatics; cross-cultural communication.

Аннотация. Данное исследование рассматривает социолингвистические аспекты перевода жаргона и специализированной терминологии между языками, с особым вниманием к паре узбекский-английский. В работе исследуется, как социолингвистические факторы — включая культурный контекст, властные отношения и дискурсивные сообщества — влияют на процесс перевода специализированных лексических единиц. Опираясь на теоретические рамки переводоведения и социолингвистики, статья утверждает, что перевод жаргона выходит за рамки простой лексической эквивалентности и включает в себя социокультурную адаптацию. Через анализ специализированной терминологии в академических, технических и профессиональных областях исследование демонстрирует, что эффективный перевод жаргона требует понимания как исходной, так и целевой социокультурной среды. Результаты показывают, что переводчики используют различные стратегии, включая калькирование, доместикацию и гибридизацию при передаче специализированной терминологии, одновременно преодолевая социолингвистические трудности, присущие межкультурной коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: социолингвистика; перевод жаргона; специализированная терминология; дискурсивные сообщества; узбекский язык; прагматика; межкультурная коммуникация.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu tadqiqot jargon va maxsus terminologiyani tillar o'rtasida tarjima qilishning ijtimoiy til bilimi jihatlarini o'zbek-ingliz til juftligi misolida o'rganadi. Tadqiqot madaniy kontekst, tarjimashunoslik va sotsiolingvistikaning nazariy asoslariga tayanib, jargon tarjimasi shunchaki leksik ekvivalentlikdan tashqari ijtimoiy-madaniy moslashuvni ham

qamrab olishini ta'kidlaydi. Tarjimashunoslik va ijtimoiy tilshunoslikning nazariy asoslariga tayanib, ushbu maqola jargon tarjimasi shunchaki so'zma-so'z ekvivalentlikdan tashqari, ijtimoiy-madaniy moslashuvni ham o'z ichiga olishini ta'kidlaydi. Ilmiy, texnik va kasbiy sohalardagi maxsus terminologiyani tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot shuni ko'rsatadiki, samarali jargon tarjimasi ham manba, ham maqsadli ijtimoiy-madaniy muhitni chuqur tushunishni talab etadi.

Kalit so'zlar: sotsiolingvistika; jargon tarjimasi; ixtisoslashgan terminologiya; diskurs hamjamiyatlari; o'zbek tili; pragmatika; madaniyatlararo muloqot

The translation of specialized terminology, jargon, and argot presents unique challenges that transcend traditional linguistic boundaries, inviting a deeper examination of sociolinguistic dimensions that influence the transfer of meaning across languages. While conventional approaches to translation studies have often focused on lexical equivalence and structural accuracy, this research posits that the translation of specialized language forms constitutes a complex sociocultural act embedded within power structures and community practices. The interactions between specialized terminology and sociolinguistic factors become particularly pronounced when examining language pairs with asymmetrical historical development trajectories in specialized domains, as exemplified by the Uzbek-English translation dynamic.

In Uzbekistan, the post-independence period has witnessed a rapid evolution of terminological systems across multiple domains, from legal and administrative language to information technology and scientific discourse. This evolution has occurred within a sociolinguistic context characterized by multilingual practices and ongoing language policy developments. As Uzbek specialists increasingly participate in global discourse communities, the need for effective translation of specialized terminology has grown exponentially, raising important questions about the sociolinguistic dimensions of this process. The translation challenges emerge not merely from linguistic disparities but from divergent sociocultural contexts in which specialized terminology is embedded and operationalized.

The present study investigates how sociolinguistic factors—including discourse community membership, register variation, power dynamics, and cultural context—influence the translation of specialized terminology between Uzbek and English. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from both translation studies and sociolinguistics, this research examines how translators navigate complex sociolinguistic terrain when transferring specialized terminology, focusing particularly on strategies employed to bridge contextual gaps between source and target languages.

The translation of specialized terminology exists at the intersection of multiple theoretical domains, including terminology science, sociolinguistics, and translation studies. Traditional approaches to terminology translation have often adopted prescriptive methodologies grounded in Wüster's General Theory of Terminology, emphasizing standardization and one-to-one equivalence between source and target terms. However, contemporary sociolinguistic perspectives have challenged these prescriptive approaches, arguing instead for a descriptive understanding of terminology as socially constructed phenomena embedded within discourse communities. Temmerman's (2000) sociocognitive approach to terminology positions specialized terms as dynamic units that evolve through usage within particular social contexts rather than static entities with fixed meanings.

Similarly, sociolinguistic theories have increasingly recognized the role of specialized terminology in constructing and maintaining professional identities and community boundaries. Gumperz's (1982) interactional sociolinguistics provides a valuable framework for understanding how specialized terminology functions as a marker of in-group membership and professional competence. The sociolinguistic concept of "communities of practice" (Wenger, 1998) further elucidates how specialized terminology develops and functions within bounded professional groups, creating particular challenges for translators operating outside these communities.

In the Uzbek context, Abdullayev's (2016) research on terminological developments in post-independence Uzbekistan highlights the interplay between linguistic, cultural, and political factors in shaping terminology systems. His work demonstrates how terminology evolution reflects broader sociopolitical changes, including shifts from Russian-influenced terminology toward more indigenous lexical resources or international (often English-based) terminology.

This study employs a qualitative research methodology designed to capture the sociolinguistic dimensions of terminology translation between Uzbek and English across multiple domains. The research combines corpus analysis of parallel texts in academic, technical, legal, and medical domains with semi-structured interviews conducted with fifteen professional translators with expertise in specialized domains. Data analysis employed a grounded theory approach, allowing themes and patterns to emerge from the data rather than imposing predetermined categories.

The analysis reveals multiple sociolinguistic dimensions that influence the translation of specialized terminology between Uzbek and English. These dimensions extend beyond purely linguistic considerations to encompass social, cultural, and institutional factors that shape translation practices and outcomes.

A foundational sociolinguistic dimension concerns the asymmetrical development trajectories of specialized terminology systems in Uzbek and English. In domains such as information technology, Uzbek terminology has developed more recently and often under the influence of English terminology, creating particular translation dynamics. As one translator interviewed for this study noted, "Many IT concepts arrive in Uzbekistan already labeled in English, and we must decide whether to create Uzbek equivalents or simply adopt the English terms." This observation highlights how translation practices intersect with broader language planning and terminology development processes. The sociolinguistic concept of prestige emerges as significant here, with English terminology often carrying higher status in technical domains, influencing translators' decisions about adaptation versus borrowing.

Discourse community membership constitutes another crucial sociolinguistic dimension affecting terminology translation. Specialized terminology functions not merely as a tool for precise communication but as a marker of professional identity and community boundaries. Translation challenges arise when the discourse communities in the source and target language contexts have different configurations, histories, or practices. For example, in legal translation between Uzbek and English, translators must navigate between civil law and common law traditions with distinct terminological systems reflecting different legal conceptualizations. As Xudoyberganova (2019) notes in her analysis of Uzbek legal

terminology, concepts like "sud huquqi" contain cultural and institutional specificities that resist straightforward translation into English legal terminology.

Power relationships between languages and cultures constitute perhaps the most significant sociolinguistic dimension influencing terminology translation. In the global knowledge economy, English often occupies a dominant position as the primary language of scientific and technical communication, creating unequal conditions for terminology exchange. This asymmetry affects translation in multiple ways, including the prevalence of English loanwords in Uzbek specialized discourse and the challenges of translating indigenous Uzbek concepts into English. As Karimov (2018) observes, this power dynamic can lead to "conceptual erosion" when indigenous knowledge systems are forced to conform to dominant terminological frameworks through translation.

Cultural embeddedness of specialized terminology emerges as another critical sociolinguistic dimension affecting translation. Even highly technical terms carry cultural associations and operate within culturally specific conceptual frameworks. Medical terminology translation between Uzbek and English illustrates this dimension clearly. Traditional Uzbek medical concepts like "sovuq tegish" (literally "cold touching," referring to a condition resulting from exposure to cold) reflect culturally specific understandings of health and illness that do not align neatly with Western biomedical terminology. Translators must therefore engage with these cultural dimensions when transferring specialized terminology between languages.

The research findings indicate that translators employ diverse strategies when navigating the sociolinguistic complexities of terminology translation between Uzbek and English. Terminological borrowing represents one common strategy, particularly in domains where English terminology dominates global discourse. In information technology translation, for instance, English terms like "software," "hardware," and "online" frequently appear in Uzbek texts either preserved in their original form or with minimal orthographic adaptation. This borrowing strategy reflects both pragmatic considerations and sociolinguistic realities including the prestige associated with English technical terminology.

Calquing, or loan translation, emerges as another prominent strategy that allows translators to create terminological equivalents while maintaining connection to source language concepts. Examples from the corpus include Uzbek terms like "ma'lumotlar bazasi" (literally "information base") for "database" and "qattiq disk" (literally "hard disk") for "hard drive." This strategy represents a middle path between complete borrowing and independent terminology development, allowing for cultural adaptation while maintaining conceptual links across languages.

Contextual adaptation represents a more transformative translation strategy guided by sociolinguistic awareness. Rather than seeking direct equivalents, translators employing this strategy reconfigure terminology to fit the discursive conventions and conceptual frameworks of the target language community. For example, when translating academic terminology from English to Uzbek, translators often adapt terms to suit the more hierarchical and formal discourse patterns characteristic of Uzbek academic writing.

Hybridization strategies combine elements from multiple languages or registers to create terminology that functions effectively in multilingual professional environments. In contemporary Uzbek professional discourse, hybrid terminology forms incorporating

elements from Uzbek, Russian, and English are increasingly common, reflecting the complex linguistic landscape of professional communication in Uzbekistan. Rather than viewing such hybridization as deficient translation, this research suggests understanding it as a creative sociolinguistic adaptation to multilingual realities.

The findings of this research have significant implications for both translation practice and pedagogy. For translation practice, this research underscores the importance of developing what might be termed "sociolinguistic competence" alongside traditional linguistic and subject-matter expertise. Effective terminology translators require awareness of how specialized terms function within particular discourse communities and cultural contexts. For translation pedagogy, the research points toward more integrated approaches that combine terminology science with sociolinguistic perspectives. Translation programs should incorporate modules addressing the social life of specialized terminology, helping students understand how terms function as markers of professional identity, vehicles of cultural knowledge, and instruments of power.

This research has examined the sociolinguistic properties of jargon and specialized terminology translation with particular attention to the Uzbek-English language pair. The findings demonstrate that effective terminology translation extends well beyond finding lexical equivalents to encompass complex processes of sociolinguistic adaptation and cultural negotiation. The study has identified multiple strategies employed by translators to navigate the sociolinguistic complexities of terminology translation, including borrowing, calquing, contextual adaptation, hybridization, and explanatory expansion. Rather than representing technical deficiencies, these varied strategies reflect translators' attempts to mediate between different sociolinguistic contexts while maintaining communicative effectiveness.

In conclusion, this research demonstrates that the translation of jargon and specialized terminology constitutes a complex sociolinguistic practice rather than merely a technical linguistic procedure. By recognizing and addressing the sociolinguistic properties of terminology translation, translators, educators, and language planners can contribute to more effective cross-cultural communication and knowledge exchange in an increasingly interconnected global context.

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