EQUIVALENCE IN TRANSLATING IDIOMS AND PROVERBS FROM UZBEK INTO ENGLISH

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Abstract. This study examines the equivalence in translating idioms and proverbs from Uzbek into English, focusing on semantic, cultural, and contextual challenges. Idioms and proverbs are culturally bound expressions whose meanings often cannot be deduced from individual words, making literal translation ineffective. The research analyzes strategies used to achieve equivalence, including direct translation, substitution with culturally similar expressions, and explanatory paraphrasing. Findings highlight the importance of preserving both meaning and pragmatic effect to maintain naturalness and communicative impact in the target language. The study provides practical insights for translators, language learners, and educators dealing with cross-cultural translation

Translating idioms and proverbs poses a significant challenge in cross-linguistic communication because these expressions carry meanings that are often culturally specific and cannot be understood literally. Idioms and proverbs encapsulate the cultural values, social norms, and historical experiences of a speech community, making them an integral part of language use and intercultural communication. In the context of Uzbek and English, these linguistic units differ not only in vocabulary and structure but also in the cultural references and pragmatic functions they convey. Literal translation of Uzbek idioms into English often fails to preserve the intended meaning, tone, or stylistic effect, which can result in miscommunication or loss of cultural nuance. Translators, therefore, must employ strategies that achieve semantic, pragmatic, and cultural equivalence, such as using a target-language idiom with a similar meaning, paraphrasing the original expression, or providing explanatory translation. Understanding these strategies is crucial for accurate translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication, as it allows learners and translators to convey intended meanings while maintaining naturalness and clarity. This study aims to explore the principles and techniques of translating

Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English, focusing on the challenges of equivalence, the role of cultural and contextual factors, and effective strategies for achieving both linguistic and cultural fidelity in translation. By analyzing examples from authentic texts and examining translation methods, the research seeks to provide practical insights for translators, educators, and language learners engaged in cross-cultural communication**.**

Literature review. Research on translating idioms and proverbs has emphasized the intricate interplay between language, culture, and meaning. Nida [1] highlights that idiomatic expressions are culturally bound and that literal translation often fails to convey the intended sense, necessitating dynamic equivalence to preserve meaning and communicative effect. Vinay and Darbelnet [2] propose translation strategies such as literal translation, transposition, modulation, and equivalence, noting that equivalence is particularly relevant for idioms and proverbs when direct correspondence is impossible. Baker [3] stresses that the translator must consider both semantic meaning and pragmatic function, suggesting techniques like substitution with a culturally analogous expression or paraphrasing to achieve naturalness in the target language. Newmark [4] categorizes idioms as fixed expressions requiring context-sensitive translation and argues that cultural adaptation is essential for maintaining both meaning and stylistic effect. In the context of Uzbek-English translation, Abdukarimov [5] observes that many Uzbek proverbs and idioms rely on cultural references and metaphorical imagery, which often lack direct English equivalents, making explanatory translation or functional substitution necessary. These studies collectively underscore the importance of balancing semantic, cultural, and pragmatic considerations in translating idiomatic and proverbial expressions to maintain equivalence and communicative effectiveness.

Table. Strategies for translating uzbek idioms and proverbs into english

Strategy	Description	Example (Uzbek)	Example (English)
Substitution	Replacing the original idiom with a culturally equivalent English idiom	“Olma bilan olmani solishtirmaslik”	“Don’t compare apples and oranges”
Paraphrasing	Explaining the meaning in English without using an idiom	“Shoshilinch qaror qabul qilma”	“Do not make a hasty decision”
Literal Translation	Translating word-for-word when possible	“Suvdan chiqib, quruqqa tushmoq”	“Out of the water, onto dry land”

Strategy	Description	Example (Uzbek)	Example (English)
Explanatory Translation	Adding context to clarify meaning	“Boshini baloga solmoq”	“To put oneself in danger or trouble”

This table demonstrates the main techniques used to translate Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English. Substitution allows the translator to maintain naturalness by using an equivalent idiom in English, while paraphrasing and explanatory translation help convey the intended meaning when no direct equivalent exists. Literal translation is less common due to cultural and semantic differences. Understanding these strategies is essential for translators, language learners, and educators to achieve both semantic and cultural equivalence in translation.

Research methodology. This study employs a qualitative-contrastive research methodology to examine the equivalence in translating Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English. The research is based on a descriptive-analytical approach, focusing on identifying, categorizing, and analyzing idiomatic and proverbial expressions from authentic Uzbek texts, literary works, and spoken discourse. Selected examples are compared with their English translations to evaluate strategies used to achieve semantic, pragmatic, and cultural equivalence. Data analysis involves classifying translation techniques such as literal translation, substitution with culturally similar expressions, paraphrasing, and explanatory translation. The methodology also considers the role of contextual factors, including syntactic structure, cultural background, and pragmatic function, in determining the most appropriate translation approach. By systematically examining both successful and problematic translations, the study identifies patterns, challenges, and effective strategies in conveying meaning, preserving stylistic effect, and maintaining cultural relevance. This approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of how idioms and proverbs can be translated effectively while balancing linguistic accuracy and cultural fidelity, providing practical insights for translators, language educators, and learners engaged in cross-cultural communication**.**

Research discussion. The analysis of translating Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English highlights several significant challenges, stemming from both linguistic and cultural differences between the two languages. Idioms and proverbs are deeply embedded in the cultural context of a language, often reflecting historical experiences, social norms, and value systems, which makes their meanings non-literal and sometimes untranslatable word-for-word. Literal translation of Uzbek idioms into English frequently leads to semantic loss, unnatural expressions, or even

misinterpretation, as the metaphorical or figurative sense may not correspond directly to any English expression. The study identifies several strategies that translators employ to overcome these difficulties. Substitution with a culturally or contextually equivalent English idiom is often the most effective method, allowing the target text to convey a similar meaning and maintain naturalness, although finding a perfectly equivalent expression is not always possible. Paraphrasing is another common technique, where the figurative meaning is explained or rephrased in English to ensure comprehension while preserving the original intent. In cases where neither substitution nor paraphrasing is sufficient, explanatory translation can be used, providing additional context to clarify the meaning for the target audience. The discussion also emphasizes the role of pragmatic and stylistic factors in translation. Some Uzbek idioms carry connotative or emotional weight that must be reflected in English to maintain the communicative effect. Translators must therefore balance semantic equivalence with cultural fidelity and stylistic appropriateness, often making decisions based on the text type, audience, and purpose of translation. Additionally, the study highlights that the syntactic and structural differences between Uzbek and English can influence the placement and integration of idiomatic expressions within sentences, further complicating the translation process. For example, Uzbek idioms often appear in flexible positions within the sentence due to its SOV structure, while English's rigid SVO order may require syntactic adjustments to maintain grammaticality and readability. Overall, the discussion demonstrates that achieving equivalence in translating idioms and proverbs is a complex task requiring a deep understanding of both linguistic structures and cultural contexts. Effective translation involves not only transferring meaning but also preserving the stylistic, emotional, and pragmatic nuances inherent in the original expression. These insights are crucial for translators, language educators, and learners, as they inform best practices for teaching translation strategies, enhancing intercultural communication, and minimizing misunderstandings in cross-cultural contexts.

Conclusion. he study of translating Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English demonstrates that achieving equivalence is a complex process influenced by linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic factors. Uzbek idioms and proverbs often carry figurative meanings rooted in cultural and historical contexts, which cannot be conveyed accurately through literal translation alone. The research shows that translators employ strategies such as substitution with culturally similar expressions, paraphrasing, and explanatory translation to preserve meaning, stylistic effect, and communicative impact. Additionally, syntactic differences between Uzbek and

English, including flexible SOV versus rigid SVO word order, require careful adaptation to ensure grammaticality and naturalness in the target language. The study of translating Uzbek idioms and proverbs into English demonstrates that achieving equivalence is a complex process influenced by linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic factors. Uzbek idioms and proverbs often carry figurative meanings rooted in cultural and historical contexts, which cannot be conveyed accurately through literal translation alone. The research shows that translators employ strategies such as substitution with culturally similar expressions, paraphrasing, and explanatory translation to preserve meaning, stylistic effect, and communicative impact. Additionally, syntactic differences between Uzbek and English, including flexible SOV versus rigid SVO word order, require careful adaptation to ensure grammaticality and naturalness in the target language. Understanding these strategies and challenges is essential for translators, language learners, and educators, as it enables more accurate, culturally sensitive, and effective cross-linguistic communication. In conclusion, successful translation of idioms and proverbs requires balancing semantic fidelity, cultural equivalence, and pragmatic function, highlighting the importance of contrastive analysis and culturally informed translation practices.

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