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CULTURAL AND CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES IN THE TRANSLATION OF SUBJECT-SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY

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Annotation:

This article explores the cultural and contextual challenges encountered in the translation of subject-specific terminology, with a focus on English-to-Uzbek translation. Translators often face difficulties due to semantic mismatches, differences in realia, connotative meanings, and pragmatic nuances. Drawing on examples from fields such as law, medicine, technology, and linguistics, the paper identifies the nature of these problems and discusses effective solutions. Based on translation theories, the study suggests alternative approaches, including descriptive and functional translation methods and cultural adaptation strategies.

Keywords: Cultural differences, context, terminological translation, equivalence, adequacy, realia, translation strategies.

Annotatsiya:

Ushbu maqolada fanning muayyan sohalariga oid terminlarni tarjima qilishda yuzaga keladigan madaniy va kontekstual muammolar, ayniqsa ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga tarjima jarayoni tahlil qilinadi. Tarjimonlar ko'pincha semantik nomuvofiqlik, realiyalar farqi, konnotatsiya va pragmatik tafovutlar kabi qiyinchiliklarga duch keladilar. Maqolada huquq, tibbiyot, texnologiya va lingvistika kabi sohalardan olingan misollar asosida ushbu muammolarning mohiyati ochib beriladi hamda samarali yechimlar taklif etiladi. Tarjima nazariyalariga asoslangan holda maqola tavsiflovchi va funksional tarjima uslublari, shuningdek, madaniy moslashtirish strategiyalarini taklif qiladi.



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Kalit soʻzlar: Madaniy tafovutlar, kontekst, terminologik tarjima, ekvivalentlik, adekvatlik, realiyalar, tarjima strategiyalari.

Аннотация:

В данной статье рассматриваются культурные и контекстуальные проблемы, возникающие при переводе терминов из специализированных областей, особенно с английского языка на узбекский. Переводчики часто сталкиваются с трудностями, связанными с семантическими несоответствиями, различиями реалий, коннотативными значениями и прагматическими нюансами. На примере таких областей, как право, медицина, технологии и лингвистика, в статье раскрывается суть этих проблем и предлагаются эффективные решения. Основываясь на теориях перевода, исследование предлагает альтернативные подходы, включая описательные и функциональные методы перевода, а также стратегии культурной адаптации.

Ключевые слова: Культурные различия, контекст, терминологический перевод, эквивалентность, адекватность, реалии, переводческие стратегии.

In an increasingly globalized academic and professional environment, the accurate translation of subject-specific terminology has become essential for effective cross-cultural communication. Terminological translation is more than a lexical substitution—it is a culturally embedded and context-dependent process. According to Susan Bassnett (2002), translation is not merely about language, but about transferring knowledge across cultures. This becomes especially complex when dealing with terms rooted in specific legal, medical, technical, or linguistic traditions that do not have exact equivalents in the target language.

The Role of Culture in Terminology Translation

Cultural values, social structures, and local realities shape the terminological systems of every language. The translator must consider the cultural connotations and historical context of a term to render it adequately in the target language. For instance, English legal terminology such as "plea bargain" or "habeas corpus"



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carries historical and legal implications that do not exist in the Uzbek legal system. Translating these terms requires descriptive approaches and supplementary explanations.

Contextual Sensitivity in Polysemous Terms

Many terms are polysemous, meaning they carry different meanings in different disciplinary contexts. Take, for example, the term "platform". In computing, it refers to an operating system; in politics, a policy agenda; and in transportation, a railway boarding area. Translation without context-awareness can result in ambiguity or misinformation. Translators must examine both micro-context (sentence-level) and macro-context (subject-area and purpose) to select the appropriate equivalent.

Realia and Untranslatability

Realia are culturally specific concepts that lack direct counterparts in other languages. For example, "Thanksgiving" in English or "Navruz" in Uzbek encapsulate unique cultural practices. In scientific translation, similar challenges arise with measurement units, medical procedures, or legal customs. Translators must either borrow the term (transliteration), calque it (literal translation), or provide explanatory translations, depending on the target audience's familiarity.

Strategies to Address Cultural and Contextual Issues

To overcome cultural and contextual challenges in terminological translation, several strategies are recommended:

- **Functional equivalence:** Focus on the function rather than the form of the term.
- **Descriptive translation:** Provide detailed explanations when no direct equivalent exists.
- **Cultural substitution:** Replace culturally specific items with culturally relatable ones.
- **Glossary development:** Create bilingual glossaries for recurring technical terms.



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- **Collaborative translation:** Involve subject-matter experts to verify terminology.

Translation of subject-specific terminology is a sophisticated task requiring not only linguistic expertise but also deep cultural and contextual knowledge. As suggested by Newmark (1988), a good translation balances between communicative and semantic accuracy. In the context of Uzbek-English translation, further research, education, and glossary standardization are critical to improve the quality of terminological translations.

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