



SEMANTIC CHANGES AND THE PROBLEM OF EQUIVALENCE IN ENGLISH-UZBEK TRANSLATION

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga tarjima jarayonida uchraydigan semantik o'zgarishlar va tarjima ekvivalentligi muammosi tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada tarjimada so'z ma'nolarining to'g'ri yetkazilishi, kontekstga mos ekvivalentlarni tanlash, madaniy tafovutlarning ta'siri va semantik siljishlarning turlari ko'rib chiqiladi. Muallif inglizcha va o'zbekcha misollar orqali ekvivalentlikning amaliy muammolarini yoritadi hamda samarali tarjima uchun tavsiyalar beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima, semantik o'zgarish, ekvivalentlik, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili, kontekst, madaniy tafovut.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются семантические изменения и проблема эквивалентности при переводе с английского языка на узбекский. Особое внимание уделяется точности передачи значения слов, выбору адекватных эквивалентов в зависимости от контекста, влиянию культурных различий и типам семантических сдвигов. Автор иллюстрирует практические трудности перевода на примерах из английского и узбекского языков, а также предлагает рекомендации для более эффективного перевода.

Ключевые слова: перевод, семантические изменения, эквивалентность, английский язык, узбекский язык, контекст, культурные различия.

Translation is a complex process that involves transferring meaning not only between words but also across cultural and contextual boundaries. This complexity is especially evident in language pairs such as English and Uzbek, which belong to different linguistic families and cultural spheres. Achieving equivalence in translation is often complicated by semantic changes that occur due to differences in lexical structure, cultural background, and pragmatic usage. Semantic shifts—including broadening, narrowing, amelioration, and pejoration—affect how meanings are conveyed and understood in the target language. These changes influence the fidelity and naturalness of the translated text, making the translator's task particularly challenging. The issue of equivalence in translation has been extensively discussed in linguistic and translation studies. English, a globally dominant Germanic language, contrasts significantly with Uzbek, a Turkic language with its own distinct grammatical and semantic features. These differences result in a range of semantic phenomena that affect translation accuracy and effectiveness. This study aims to investigate the nature of semantic changes in English-Uzbek translation, analyze their impact on equivalence, and provide comparative examples to illustrate these challenges. Understanding these semantic

dynamics is essential for developing translation strategies that preserve both the denotative and connotative meanings of the source text.

Semantic broadening occurs when a word in Uzbek acquires a wider meaning than its English counterpart. For example, the English word *challenge* implies a difficult but potentially rewarding task. Its Uzbek equivalent *qiyinchilik* generally denotes difficulty or hardship without the positive, motivational undertone. This semantic broadening risks losing the constructive nuance embedded in the original text. Translators often address this by adding clarifying words such as *sinov* (test) or phrases like *qiyinchilik va imkoniyat* (difficulty and opportunity) to retain the aspirational meaning.

Semantic narrowing is observed in cases where one English word corresponds to multiple Uzbek words, each with a more specific meaning. The English term *issue* can mean an important topic, a problem, a publication edition, or offspring. Uzbek differentiates these meanings through distinct words: *masala* for topic or problem, *nashr* or *son* for edition, and *farzand* or *avlod* for offspring. Such semantic narrowing requires precise contextual analysis to select the appropriate equivalent and avoid semantic ambiguity.

Evaluative semantic shifts such as amelioration and pejoration also impact translation. The English adjective *cheap* often carries neutral or positive connotations in marketing contexts, highlighting affordability. However, the Uzbek *arzon* frequently acquires a negative connotation, implying low quality. This pejoration poses challenges in commercial translation, where maintaining a positive image is critical. Alternatives like *munaqqab narxdagi* (reasonably priced) or *tejamkor* (economical) are often used to mitigate negative associations and preserve the intended meaning.

Loanwords from English introduced into Uzbek also experience semantic shifts. The term *software* is translated as *dastur*, originally meaning any plan or program in Uzbek. Over time, this term has expanded to include computer software but can also refer to non-technical plans. This semantic broadening requires careful contextual interpretation to ensure accurate translation in technical texts.

Cultural differences further complicate semantic equivalence. The English phrase *freedom of speech* denotes a legally protected human right with deep social and political implications. The Uzbek equivalent *soʻz erkinligi* literally means “freedom of word” but may not fully convey the same legal and cultural weight. Translators must consider these contextual differences and often provide additional explanations to ensure the concept is correctly understood.

Idiomatic expressions are another domain where semantic equivalence is difficult to achieve. For example, the English idiom *kick the bucket*, meaning “to die,” has no

direct equivalent in Uzbek. Instead, culturally relevant idioms such as *qismatga yuz tutmoq* (to turn to fate) or *dunyo yuzini ko‘rmaslik* (not to see the face of the world) are used to maintain pragmatic equivalence. This reflects the importance of dynamic equivalence approaches in translating idioms, focusing on functional rather than literal correspondence.

Semantic changes in English-Uzbek translation reveal the intricate interplay between linguistic structures, cultural contexts, and pragmatic meanings. Broadening, narrowing, amelioration, pejoration, loanword adaptation, and cultural specificity all contribute to the complexity of achieving equivalence. Translators must employ careful contextual analysis, cultural awareness, and dynamic equivalence strategies to navigate these semantic shifts effectively. Understanding these phenomena not only enhances translation quality but also fosters better cross-cultural communication. This study underscores the need for ongoing research and practical approaches to semantic challenges in translation, particularly between typologically and culturally distinct languages like English and Uzbek.

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