LEXICAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND PRAGMATIC EQUIVALENCE IN ENGLISH–UZBEK NEWSPAPER TRANSLATION A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Adiba Nosirovna Kasimova
Associate Professor of the Department of Translation Theory and Practice
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7110-6345
adibakasimova408@gmail.com

Abstract: The translation of English newspaper articles into Uzbek involves complex linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic challenges that cannot always be resolved through direct lexical equivalence. This study investigates the application of lexical transformations in English–Uzbek journalistic discourse, focusing on modulation, concretization, generalization, explicitation, and grammatical restructuring. The theoretical framework integrates the contributions of Uzbek translation scholars Ghaybulla Salomov, Qudrat Musayev, Ibrohim Ghofurov, Shuhrat Sirojiddinov, and Gulnoza Odilova with international approaches developed by Mona Baker, Peter Newmark, and Christiane Nord. The research employs qualitative comparative analysis of five selected extracts from British newspaper discourse, examining the relationship between lexical meaning, contextual interpretation, and pragmatic equivalence. The analysis demonstrates how context-sensitive transformations can preserve factual information, evaluative meaning, and communicative effectiveness while accommodating the linguistic conventions of Uzbek. The study contributes to discussions of translation equivalence by connecting the theoretical traditions of Uzbek translation studies with contemporary approaches to media translation.

Keywords: English-Uzbek translation, newspaper discourse, lexical transformations, Uzbek translation scholars.

Introduction

The increasing circulation of international news through digital media has made the translation of newspaper discourse an important component of intercultural communication. English-language journalism frequently employs metaphorical expressions, condensed headlines, institutional terminology, evaluative vocabulary, and culturally specific references. Translating these features into Uzbek requires not only linguistic competence but also contextual interpretation and an understanding of journalistic conventions.

The foundations of Uzbek translation studies provide valuable theoretical perspectives for examining these challenges. Ghaybulla Salomov's Introduction to Translation Theory (1978) represents an important contribution to the development of translation theory in Uzbekistan. His work examines translation within linguistic, literary, and cultural traditions, emphasizing the broader significance of translation beyond mechanical language substitution. Qudrat Musayev's Fundamentals of Translation Theory (2005) further develops the theoretical and practical study of translation. The textbook addresses issues relevant to translation practice and translation criticism and is intended for students and researchers in philology and journalism. Its disciplinary scope makes it particularly relevant to the analysis of newspaper translation.

The collective work Translation theory by Ibrohim Ghofurov, O. Muminov, and N. Qambarov (2012) provides another foundation for understanding translation as a professional and academic activity. Meanwhile, Sirojiddinov and Odilova's Fundamentals of Literary translation (2011) examines literary translation and problems associated with the transfer of stylistic and phraseological features. Although primarily concerned with literary translation, this perspective can inform the study of metaphorical and expressive elements in newspaper discourse. International scholarship complements these approaches. Baker (2018) distinguishes several levels of translation equivalence, including lexical, textual, and pragmatic equivalence. Newmark (1988) discusses translation procedures for resolving linguistic and cultural difficulties [6], while Nord (2018) emphasizes the relationship between translation decisions, communicative purpose, and target-audience expectations. Building upon these scholarly perspectives, the present study investigates the challenges of transferring lexical and pragmatic meanings from English newspaper discourse into Uzbek.

Materials and Methods

The study employs qualitative descriptive, contextual, and comparative methods. The material comprises five selected newspaper extracts associated with articles published in The Guardian in 2024. These extracts address environmental policy, governmental decisions, and institutional communication. The analysis follows a sequence of procedures: identification of the source-language expression - contextual interpretation - identification of the translation problem - selection of a lexical or grammatical transformation - formulation of an Uzbek equivalent - evaluation of semantic and pragmatic correspondence. The translations presented below are researcher-produced analytical versions, not published translations by the authors of the original

newspaper articles. The methodological purpose is to demonstrate possible translation decisions and assess their linguistic justification.

Results and Discussion

The comparative analysis of five newspaper extracts demonstrates that English–Uzbek translation requires the coordination of lexical, grammatical, and pragmatic transformations. These procedures can be interpreted through the theoretical contributions of both Uzbek and international translation scholars.

1. Headline compression and explicitation: The headline “Britain’s climate action plan unlawful, high court rules” (The Guardian, 3 May 2024) may be translated as: Oliy sud Buyuk Britaniyaning iqlim o‘zgarishiga qarshi kurashish rejasini qonunga zid deb topdi.

The English construction employs headline compression, omitting a linking verb and foregrounding the legal judgment. The Uzbek version introduces a complete predicative construction and makes the meaning of climate action plan more explicit. This decision may be interpreted within the broader tradition of contextual translation associated with Salomov’s work and the practical analysis of translation choices addressed by Musayev. From Baker's perspective, the example illustrates the importance of textual equivalence rather than formal lexical correspondence.

2. Metaphorical expressions and modulation: The headline “Net zero U-turns will hit UK infrastructure, say government advisers” (The Guardian, 16 May 2024) presents two metaphorical expressions.

Uzbek translation is: Hukumat maslahatchilarining bildirishicha, sof nol emissiyaga erishish siyosatidan chekinish Buyuk Britaniya infratuzilmasiga salbiy ta’sir ko‘rsatadi. The metaphor U-turns is rendered as siyosatidan chekinish, while hit becomes salbiy ta’sir ko‘rsatadi. These choices demonstrate modulation and partial demetaphorization. The relevance of Uzbek scholarship is evident in the need to reconcile semantic precision with natural target-language expression. The study of phraseological and stylistic transfer in Sirojiddinov and Odilova’s work [4] provides a related theoretical perspective, although their monograph focuses on literary translation rather than newspaper discourse.

3. Political terminology and contextual generalization: The headline “Labour must ramp up renewable energy to meet 2030 climate vows, says watchdog” (The Guardian, 18 July 2024) contains political terminology, a phrasal verb, and an institutional reference.

Uzbek translation is: Nazorat organiga ko‘ra, Leyboristlar hukumati 2030-yilga mo‘ljallangan iqlim majburiyatlarini bajarish uchun qayta tiklanuvchi energiya ishlab chiqarishni keskin oshirishi zarur.

The expression ramp up is translated as keskin oshirmoq, while climate vows is rendered as iqlim majburiyatlari. The term watchdog is generalized as nazorat organi. However, the article concerns the Climate Change Committee; therefore, Iqlim o‘zgarishi bo‘yicha qo‘mita would provide greater institutional specificity. This example illustrates a distinction between linguistic acceptability and referential precision. In accordance with functional approaches to translation, the translator must consider whether generalization preserves sufficient information for the intended readership.

4. Legal terminology and explicitation: The expression climate action plan unlawful, taken from the first newspaper headline, contains a legal judgment rather than a general negative evaluation.

Its central meaning may be rendered in Uzbek as: Iqlim o‘zgarishiga qarshi kurashish rejasi qonunga zid deb topildi.

The adjective unlawful requires a legally accurate equivalent. Rendering it merely as noto‘g‘ri (incorrect) would weaken the legal significance of the original. The distinction is relevant to the treatment of semantic accuracy in translation theory, including the theoretical and practical concerns addressed by Ghofurov, Muminov and Qambarov.

5. Figurative language and evaluative meaning: A further example is the expression “historic mistake” from the article Labour will take global lead on climate action, Ed Miliband vows, published in The Guardian on 1 July 2024.

A contextually appropriate Uzbek equivalent is: Tarixiy xato.

Although the lexical structure is preserved, the translator must consider the expression's evaluative force. The adjective historic intensifies the significance of the criticism and should not be reduced to a neutral description of an event in the past. The example illustrates that formal equivalence may be adequate when the target-language expression carries a comparable pragmatic meaning. Taken together, the five examples demonstrate that the selection of lexical transformations is determined by the interaction of semantic meaning, linguistic structure, contextual interpretation, and communicative purpose. The contributions of Uzbek scholars provide a valuable foundation for understanding translation as an interpretive and culturally situated activity, while contemporary international theories offer additional tools for evaluating equivalence at lexical, textual, and pragmatic levels.

Conclusion

The present study has examined selected lexical and pragmatic challenges in translating English newspaper discourse into Uzbek through five newspaper extracts and an integrated theoretical framework. The analysis suggests that modulation, explicitation, generalization, and grammatical restructuring are useful procedures for resolving context-dependent translation problems. Their

application, however, must be guided by factual accuracy, institutional precision, and the communicative requirements of the target readership. The study also highlights the relevance of Uzbek translation scholarship to contemporary media translation research. The contributions of Ghaybulla Salomov, Qudrat Musayev, Ibrohim Ghofurov, O. Muminov, N. Qambarov, Shuhrat Sirojiddinov and Gulnoza Odilova provide a national scholarly foundation that can be brought into dialogue with the approaches of Baker, Newmark and Nord.

The proposed research perspective treats lexical transformation not simply as linguistic replacement but as a contextually motivated process of meaning reconstruction. Further investigation based on a larger corpus of English newspaper articles and their Uzbek translations would make it possible to examine the frequency and effectiveness of individual transformation types more systematically.

REFERENCES

1. Salomov, Gh. Introduction to Translation Theory. Tashkent: O‘qituvchi, 1978.
2. Musayev, Q. Fundamentals of Translation Theory. Tashkent: Fan, 2005.
3. Ghofurov, I., Muminov, O., Qambarov, N. Translation Theory. Tashkent: Tafakkur-Bo‘stoni, 2012.
4. Sirojiddinov, Sh., Odilova, G. Badiiy tarjima asoslari. Tashkent: Mumtoz so‘z, 2011.
5. Baker, M. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation (3rd ed.). Routledge, 2018.
6. Newmark, P. A Textbook of Translation. Prentice Hall, 1988.
7. Nord, C. Translating as a Purposeful Activity: Functionalist Approaches Explained (2nd ed.). Routledge, 2018.
8. Horton, H. Britain’s climate action plan unlawful, high court rules. The Guardian. May 3, 2024.
9. Net zero U-turns will hit UK infrastructure, say government advisers. The Guardian, May 16, 2024.
10. Harvey, F. Labour must ramp up renewable energy to meet 2030 climate vows, says watchdog. The Guardian, July 18, 2024.