THE ROLE OF CONTEXT IN THE INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION OF CONNOTATIVE MEANING FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Abstract: This article examines the role of context in the interpretation and translation of connotative meaning from English into Uzbek. Connotative meaning represents the emotional, evaluative and cultural associations that words acquire beyond their primary denotative meanings. The study focuses on how linguistic and situational contexts influence the interpretation of connotative expressions and the selection of appropriate translation equivalents in Uzbek. Particular attention is given to cases in which direct lexical translation fails to preserve the emotional or evaluative implications of the source text. The research employs descriptive, comparative and contextual analysis to explore selected English expressions and their possible Uzbek translations. The discussion highlights the importance of considering the communicative situation, the speaker's intention and culturally specific associations when translating connotative meaning. The study emphasizes that context-sensitive translation can contribute to preserving the pragmatic effect of the original text and improving the accuracy and naturalness of English-Uzbek translation.

Keywords: connotative meaning, context, translation, English-Uzbek translation, pragmatic meaning, emotional associations.

Language conveys not only information but also emotions, evaluations and cultural associations. These additional elements form an important part of connotative meaning. Although two words may have similar dictionary definitions, they can differ in their emotional or evaluative implications. Such differences create challenges in translation, particularly when the source and target languages belong to different cultural environments.

Previous studies have examined connotation as a component of lexical meaning and explored its formation and cultural characteristics [Khaydarov & Aminova, 2022; Mominova & Khusinova, 2024]. However, the interpretation of connotative meaning also depends on the context in which a word or expression is used. Connotative meaning includes emotional, evaluative, stylistic and associative features that accompany a word's basic meaning. These features may express approval, criticism, affection, irony or other attitudes. Consequently, selecting a translation equivalent requires more than identifying a word's dictionary definition.

For example, the English adjective ambitious may convey a positive evaluation in the sentence She is an ambitious young researcher. In this context, it can be translated into Uzbek as U maqsadga intiluvchan yosh tadqiqotchi. However, in a sentence such as His ambition made him ignore everyone around him, the word may suggest excessive ambition and receive a negative interpretation. Depending on the context, shuhratparastlik may communicate this implication more effectively.

A similar distinction can be observed between slim and skinny. Both describe a thin body shape, but slim often has positive associations, whereas skinny may suggest excessive thinness or criticism. Therefore, their Uzbek translations should depend on the speaker's attitude and the communicative purpose of the sentence.

These examples demonstrate that context helps determine which connotative features are relevant. As research on English and Uzbek connotation indicates, lexical units may differ in their emotional and evaluative associations across languages [Bobokulova, 2024]. A translation that ignores such differences may preserve the general meaning while weakening the original message.

Linguistic context refers to the words and sentences surrounding a particular expression. It helps identify the intended meaning and distinguish between possible interpretations. Pragmatic context involves the communicative situation, the relationship between speakers, and the speaker's intention.

Consider the expression a cold response. The adjective cold does not refer to temperature; instead, it suggests emotional distance or a lack of friendliness. Depending on the context, the expression may be translated into Uzbek as sovuqqon javob or befarq javob. The first option preserves the metaphorical image, while the second communicates the attitude more directly.

Another example is the difference between stubborn and determined. Although both words may describe persistence, they generally express different evaluations.

He is stubborn and refuses to listen to advice.

She is determined to complete her research.

The first sentence may be translated as U qaysar va maslahatlarni tinglashni istamaydi, whereas the second may be rendered as U tadqiqotini yakunlashga qat'iy bel bog'lagan. The selected equivalents preserve the distinction between negative and positive evaluations.

Pragmatic context is particularly important when interpreting irony. The sentence That was a clever thing to do may express genuine admiration or in a different situation - criticism. A translator who considers only the dictionary meaning of clever may fail to convey the speaker's intention.

Ruzikulova's research on the translation of somatic phraseological units also addresses the loss of connotative meaning when expressions are transferred between English and Uzbek [Ruzikulova, 2025]. This illustrates the importance of considering not only lexical meaning but also the emotional and pragmatic effect of an expression.

Cultural context influences the associations that speakers attach to words. A lexical equivalent may communicate the same basic concept in two languages without producing identical emotional or cultural effects.

For example, the English word home may refer to a place of residence while also expressing belonging, security and family attachment. The Uzbek word uy may be sufficient when the reference is literal. However, when the context emphasizes emotional attachment, a phrase such as o'z uyi or oila bag'ri may be more appropriate.

Similarly, the English word bread and the Uzbek word non share a basic meaning, but their cultural associations may differ depending on the situation.

Translators should therefore distinguish the literal reference from the symbolic or figurative meaning intended in the original text.

Mustofaqulova's study of linguocultural features of connotative meaning in English and Uzbek highlights the relevance of cultural associations to cross-linguistic interpretation [Mustofaqulova, 2026]. Nevertheless, cultural differences should not be treated as fixed rules: individual experiences and communicative circumstances can also influence interpretation.

Several strategies may help preserve connotative meaning in translation. First, a direct equivalent can be used when the two expressions have sufficiently similar meanings and associations. Second, contextual substitution allows the translator to select a more natural target-language expression. Third, descriptive translation may be appropriate when one word cannot communicate the intended emotional or cultural implications. Finally, figurative expressions can be retained when their meaning remains clear and natural in Uzbek. The choice of strategy depends on the function of the expression in the original text.

The primary objective is not necessarily to reproduce the same words but to preserve the relevant meaning and communicative effect.

In conclusion, context plays a significant role in interpreting and translating connotative meaning from English into Uzbek. The analysis demonstrates that words with similar denotative meanings may differ in their emotional, evaluative, and cultural associations. Linguistic and pragmatic contexts help identify the speaker's intention, while cultural context influences the interpretation of certain expressions. Therefore, translators should select equivalents according to the specific situation rather than rely exclusively on dictionary definitions. Context-sensitive translation helps preserve the intended message and achieve semantic accuracy, pragmatic appropriateness, and naturalness in the target language.

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