

Pragmatic Interfaces in Grammatical Structures: A Comparative Analysis of Utkir Hoshimov's Story "A Stork (Laylak)" In Uzbek And English

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Abstract: This study explores the interface between grammar and pragmatics using a passage from Utkir Hoshimov's short story "A Stork (Laylak)" from his book "Notes for a Rainy Day (Daftar hoshiyasidagi bitiklar)," originally published in Uzbek and translated into English by F. Bekmurodova. Through a detailed pragmatic analysis, the paper highlights how syntactic repetition, argument structure, metaphor, contradiction, and figurative language enrich the meaning beyond literal semantics. Focusing on grammatical structures, especially repetition, metaphor, and argument omission, the paper applies theories from Green, Goldberg, Recanati, Bach, and Blutner. We argue that while the translation retains many of the original's pragmatic effects, certain shifts in tone, emotional cues, and speaker stance occur, revealing the challenge of translating pragmatic grammar across languages.

Keywords: Pragmatics, grammar, argument structure, figurative language, translation, speaker intention, syntactic repetition, Utkir Hoshimov.

Introduction: Linguistic meaning emerges through a complex interplay between grammatical structure and pragmatic context. Grammar provides the skeleton of linguistic expression, but pragmatics imbues it with life by accounting for speaker intention, discourse purpose, and contextual interpretation. This paper analyzes this interaction through a detailed examination of a short passage from Utkir Hoshimov's story "A Stork," part of his larger collection "Notes for a Rainy Day". The narrative, steeped in emotional and cultural nuance, offers fertile ground for studying how language constructs meaning beyond surface grammar.

The study is grounded in five influential theoretical perspectives:

1. Green's Theory on Pragmatics and Grammatical Organization: Georgia Green (1989) emphasizes that repetitive syntactic constructions, such as anaphoric parallels and epistrophe, fulfill pragmatic goals in discourse, including thematic cohesion, rhythm, and textual progression. In our example, repeated phrases like "The mother...", "The son..." help frame narrative

tone and establish generational roles. (Green, 1989, pp. 142–145).

2. Goldberg's Theory of Argument Structure and Discourse Goals: Adele Goldberg (2006) posits that argument structure is not solely syntactic but tied to discourse context and communicative intention. For instance, subject omission or agent generalization often reflects efforts to universalize personal experience or downplay agency in service of broader narrative goals (Goldberg, 2006, pp. 32–35).

3. Recanati's Theory on Pragmatic Enrichment: François Recanati (2004) explores how utterance meaning exceeds its literal form through enrichment strategies like metaphor, implicature, and context-based interpretation. This view supports the idea that readers actively construct meaning through inferential processes, especially when faced with poetic or emotionally loaded language (Recanati, 2004, pp. 81–84).

4. Bach's Theory on Speaker Intention and Meaning: Kent Bach (1994) distinguishes between what is said

and what is meant, underscoring the role of speaker intention and context in resolving apparent contradictions and conveying implicit messages. In narrative texts, speaker (or narrator) intention is vital in guiding the reader's interpretation of moral or ironic disjunctions (Bach, 1994, pp. 260–264).

5. Blutner's Lexical Pragmatics: Reinhard Blutner (1998) advances a theory explaining how word meaning is contextually fine-tuned via relevance and salience mechanisms. His work is particularly helpful in analyzing metaphor, emotional tone, and idiomatic expressions in literary texts (Blutner, 1998, pp. 24–28).

By applying these theories to Hoshimov's narrative in both Uzbek and English, this paper illuminates the pragmatic dimensions of grammatical expression, revealing how language choices construct narrative tone, speaker perspective, and cultural resonance.

METHODS

This research uses qualitative linguistic analysis to examine a short passage from Utkir Hoshimov's short story "A Stork (Laylak)," originally published in Uzbek and translated into English by F. Bekmurodova. The passage describes two contrasting journeys to a village taken by a mother and son at different points in their lives. The analysis is both intra-lingual (within each language) and inter-lingual (between the original and the translation).

Corpus and Data:

Original Uzbek passage from "Daftar hoshiyasidagi bitiklar".

English translation by F. Bekmurodova "Notes for a rainy day".

Analytical Techniques:

Syntactic Analysis: Identification of repeated grammatical patterns, agent omission, and sentence framing.

Pragmatic Function Identification: Detection of metaphors, presuppositions, implicatures, and contextual enrichments.

Comparative Translation Analysis: Evaluation of shifts in pragmatic functions across languages.

Theory Application: Systematic application of Green, Goldberg, Recanati, Bach, and Blutner's frameworks to interpret findings.

The methods involve close reading, grammatical parsing, and context-based interpretation informed by linguistic theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Green: Pragmatic Use of Repetition

The repeated temporal framing ("The mother...", "The

child...") and the mirrored depictions of the mother's and son's paths are not merely stylistic flourishes—they serve a crucial pragmatic function. Georgia Green's insights into the role of repetition in discourse highlight its dual function: reinforcing coherence and marking emphasis within narrative structure (Green, 1989, pp. 142-145). In oral traditions, such devices act as mnemonic aids and rhetorical signals, helping listeners track the progression of ideas while emotionally anchoring them. In *A Stork* (Laylak), Hoshimov draws on this oral storytelling schema by embedding repeated cues that unify disparate narrative episodes. According to Green, repetition fosters "local coherence" by bridging clauses and themes, allowing readers to form expectations and recognize thematic motifs (Green, 1989, pp. 142–145). In this way, the narrative's emotional architecture mirrors its structural coherence, a convergence of form and affect that strengthens reader engagement.

2. Goldberg: Discourse Motivation Behind Argument Structure

A striking feature in both the English and Uzbek versions of *A Stork* (Laylak) is the frequent use of agentless constructions, such as "He had to go back" instead of "He chose to go back." These linguistic choices align with Adele Goldberg's theory of construction grammar, particularly her claim that syntactic forms carry their own meaning independent of the lexicon. According to Goldberg, argument structure constructions are "meaning-bearing units" that speakers select based on communicative goals rather than purely grammatical rules (Goldberg, 2006, pp. 32–35). The preference for passive or agentless expressions reflects a cultural frame in which obligation and inevitability are emphasized over volition. In Hoshimov's narrative, such constructions suggest that the protagonist's actions are constrained by societal or historical forces—aligning individual psychology with broader cultural narratives. The construction itself subtly communicates an external locus of control, resonating with themes of duty and resignation.

3. Recanati: Enrichment Through Metaphor and Context

The metaphorical imagery in *A Stork* (Laylak)—such as the stork that "says hello" or the sycamore tree "bowing its branches"—demonstrates how non-literal language enhances emotional and interpretive depth. François Recanati's theory of pragmatic enrichment explains how readers interpret such metaphors by drawing on background knowledge and context to fill in semantic gaps. Rather than treating metaphors as decorative, Recanati argues they are inferentially rich, requiring the hearer to engage in "free enrichment" to

arrive at an intended meaning (Recanati 81–84). The image of the sycamore tree, for instance, invites interpretation as a symbol of nostalgia, reverence, or the passage of time—each possibility evoked through shared cultural scripts. Pragmatic enrichment here transforms the literal into the symbolic, producing affective resonances that deepen the narrative’s emotional weight.

4. Bach: Pragmatic Interpretation of Contradiction

The juxtaposition of phrases like “the wise age of the twentieth century” with “the age of insanity” might appear to present a semantic contradiction. However, Kent Bach’s concept of conversational implicature explains that such contradictions serve pragmatic, not semantic, purposes. According to Bach, what appears on the surface as contradiction often functions as an invitation for the listener or reader to infer unstated premises (Bach, 1194, pp. 260–264). In this case, the oxymoronic structure critiques the assumed progress of modernity, suggesting that technological or scientific advancement does not equate to moral or emotional wisdom. The contradiction thus generates interpretive tension, compelling the reader to reconcile conflicting truths about the era. Such pragmatic challenges

provoke deeper engagement, as the reader is pushed to fill in the ideological and emotional gaps left by the text.

5. Blutner: Lexical Pragmatics and Translation Shifts

Reinhard Blutner’s work on lexical pragmatics offers a compelling framework for analyzing the tonal shifts that occur in translation. For instance, the Uzbek diminutive “jinnivoy”—which conveys affection and playfulness—is rendered as the harsher “Are you deaf?” in English. Blutner argues that word meanings are not fixed but exist along a continuum shaped by context and usage. His theory of meaning modulation suggests that literal translation often fails to preserve implicatures and emotional nuance (Blutner, 1998, pp. 24–28). In this case, the English version shifts from affectionate teasing to abrupt reprimand, altering the interpersonal dynamics between characters. This supports the view that pragmatic meaning is deeply embedded in cultural and contextual practices, and cannot be fully captured through one-to-one lexical substitution. Translators must thus navigate the delicate terrain of preserving pragmatic tone, not just semantic equivalence.

Aspect	Uzbek Original	English Translation	Comment
Syntactic Repetition	High rhythmic repetition (e.g., “Ona yosh edi...”)	Preserved, with slight elaboration	Effectively rendered
Metaphorical Language	Rich, embedded in culture (“jinnivoy”, “savatdek”)	Rendered more literally or softened (“sweetheart”, “basket-like”)	Partially translated
Argument Omission	Frequent; relies on inference	More explicit, though omissions remain	Less ambiguity, more clarity
Emotional Register	Subtle tonal shifts through suffixes and vocatives	Sharpened in some places (“Are you deaf?”)	Slight tone intensification
Lexical Symbolism	Culturally rich (“laylak” as symbol of memory)	Retained, though symbolic richness reduced	Symbolism less accessible
Discourse Goals	Emphasizes cyclical roles,	Successfully preserved	Strong fidelity

	aging, and memory		
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CONCLUSION

This analysis of Utkir Hoshimov's *A Stork* (Laylak) through multiple pragmatic and grammatical frameworks reveals the intricately layered nature of meaning-making in literary texts. The use of repetition, ellipsis, metaphor, contradiction, and culturally bound lexical choices shows how language operates beyond its surface structure to construct emotional, cultural, and narrative depth. Each theoretical lens—whether Green's discourse coherence, Goldberg's construction grammar, Recanati's pragmatic enrichment, Bach's implicature, or Blutner's lexical modulation—contributes to a fuller understanding of how language functions dynamically in context.

The comparative analysis between the Uzbek original and its English translation underscores the challenges inherent in cross-linguistic interpretation. While core propositional content often remains intact, the pragmatic effects—tone, interpersonal positioning, and cultural resonance—are frequently diminished or reshaped. This highlights a crucial insight: pragmatic competence is not a peripheral skill but central to full language understanding, especially in multilingual and multicultural contexts.

From a broader linguistic and pedagogical standpoint, these findings affirm the need to incorporate pragmatic awareness into translation studies, ESL instruction, and applied linguistics curricula. Literary texts like *A Stork* (Laylak), rich in cultural and emotional subtext, provide fertile ground for cultivating this awareness. Teachers, translators, and learners alike must be attuned not only to what is said, but to how it is said, why it is said in that way, and what remains unsaid yet understood. Pragmatic analysis offers the tools to uncover these subtleties, opening new pathways for empathy, comprehension, and cross-cultural dialogue. Furthermore, this case study demonstrates the indispensable role of pragmatics in preserving literary voice and cultural nuance in translated literature—a challenge that must be approached with theoretical rigor and intercultural sensitivity.

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