

Literary Translation: From the Magic of The Words to The Bridge of The Cultures

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Abstract: This exploration contemplates literary translation not as a mere assemblage of linguistic masteries, but as the very art of transforming the enchantment inherent in words from one tongue to another, thereby erecting vital bridges between disparate cultural realms. It delves into the principal impediments encountered within this delicate undertaking, such as the intricate tapestry of language itself, the profound wellspring of cultural context, and the singular voice that distinguishes each author. Moreover, it illuminates the imaginative stratagems employed by the translator and the distinct considerations attendant upon the rendering of diverse literary forms. Ultimately, the article underscores the signal office of literary translation in the fortification of intercultural concord and unveils its enduring significance within the contemporary global theater.

Keywords: Mastery of translation, artistic translation, intercultural connections, multifaceted nature of language, cultural context, author's style, translator's creativity, literary genres, cultural bridge, importance of translation.

Introduction: Literature is the unique expression of humanity's aspiration to understand itself, perceive the world, and imagine the future. Each literary work created in any language embodies the spirit of that language, the culture, history, and philosophy of that people. The treasure trove of world literature consists of a collection of these invaluable masterpieces created in various languages. However, to fully benefit from this treasure and build spiritual bridges between different cultures, translating literary works from one language to another is a vital necessity.

The process of translation, especially literary translation, is much deeper and more complex than simple linguistic exchange. It is the art of not only finding the lexical meanings of words but also recreating the style, tone, emotional and psychological state of the original text, and most importantly, the author's intention. A literary translator bears the responsible tasks of not only having a perfect command of two languages but also deeply understanding the cultural context of those languages, possessing literary sensitivity, and creative imagination. They must uncover the meanings, subtexts, and cultural codes hidden in every word and every sentence of the original work and convey them to the reader of another

language in a clear and impactful way.

Literary translation is a magical bridge that carries the magic of words from one heart to another, from one culture to another. It strengthens mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity between different peoples. By reading the best examples of world literature, we become acquainted with the richness and diversity of other cultures, understand the common values of humanity, and broaden our perspectives on the world. In this article, we will strive to deeply analyze the unique linguistic and cultural characteristics of literary translation, the main challenges that arise in the translation process, the translator's creative role, and its incomparable importance in intercultural communication.

METHODS

When we speak of the multifaceted nature of language, we mean not only the lexical meanings of words but also their emotional coloring, stylistic features, cultural connections, and even the uniqueness of their sounds. In literary works, authors skillfully use all these facets of language to create their ideas, emotions, and images. The translator's task is to recreate this multifaceted world using another language.

However, we must consider the following challenges that may arise in this process:

- **Polysemy (Multiple meanings of a word):** A single word having several meanings in different contexts can lead to confusion in translation. The translator must choose the most appropriate meaning based on the overall content of the work. For example, the Uzbek word "oyoq" can refer not only to a body part but also to the leg of a table or chair, the foot of a field, the ending of winter days, or the foot of a mountain. Its English translation "foot" also has multiple meanings: a body part (foot), the base of a mountain (foot of the mountain), a metrical unit in poetry (foot in poetry). In literary translation, it is crucial to accurately understand which meaning of "oyoq" is intended and choose the corresponding English word. If the context is about a table, the word "leg" would be more appropriate.
- **Idioms and expressions:** Every language has its own unique idioms and expressions whose meaning is lost when translated literally. The translator needs to find their equivalent in another language or explain their meaning. In A. Qodiriy's novel "Bygone Days," the expression "Men shunday erni topib tegsam boshim ko'kka yetar edi" expresses great joy. Its English translation is given as "If I had a husband like that I would fly to the sky in joy," which depicts flying to the skies out of happiness. To express the same joy, synonymous idioms such as "I would be over the moon if I married a man like that" could also be used instead.
- **Metaphors and similes:** In literary works, metaphors and similes are widely used to express ideas figuratively. In translating them, it is important to preserve not only the meaning but also the imagery. For example, the metaphor "qalbi muzlagan" is used to describe an emotionless, cold-hearted person. In English, this metaphor can be translated as "frozen heart". However, sometimes other figurative expressions like "He has a heart of stone" can also be used, depending on the context. The metaphor used in "Bygone Days," "Sichqonni poylagan mushukdek", is translated into English as "Like a cat chasing a mouse." The translation "Like a cat stalking a mouse" would be more fitting. Although both words imply pursuit, there are certain differences between them. According to my research, "chasing" is usually used for romantic interest and attracting attention, while "stalking" expresses intimidating or constantly monitoring the victim. Therefore, I favor the second translation.
- **Stylistic differences:** Word combinations, sentence structures, and overall stylistic tendencies can differ in various languages. The translator must choose the option that matches the style of the original work.

In many cases, in Uzbek, several modifiers can come between the subject and the predicate of a sentence: "Kechagi yomg'irli, sovuq havoda ko'chada qolgan bola juda xafa edi." In English, such long and complex sentence structures are not very common. The translator might break this sentence down into several shorter and clearer sentences: "The child was very sad. He had been left in the street. The weather yesterday was rainy and cold."

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

It is no secret that cultural context plays a very important role in literary translation. In fact, a literary work is created in a specific cultural environment and is closely linked to the customs, traditions, history, beliefs, sense of humor, and even the daily life of that culture. The translator's task is not only to translate words but also to convey this cultural layer to the reader of another language. In this process, complexities such as the following can arise:

- **Cultural specificities:** Each culture has its own unique concepts, objects, rituals, and social norms that may not have exact equivalents in another language.
 - **References to historical events and figures:** Literary works often contain references to specific historical events, famous people, or legends. The translator needs to understand the meaning of these references and find a way to convey them to the reader.
 - **Humor and jokes:** Each culture has its own sense of humor, and what is funny for one culture may be completely incomprehensible or even offensive to another.
 - **Nonverbal communication and body language:** In literary works, the gestures, body language, and behavior of characters reveal their inner world and their relationships with each other.
 - **Taboos and restrictions:** Every society has certain topics, words, or behaviors that are considered taboo or restricted. The translator must demonstrate this cultural sensitivity.
- In my opinion, the role of cultural context in literary translation is very significant and multifaceted. I would like to give some examples that I have personally witnessed:
- **National dishes and drinks:** For example, in Uzbek literature, concepts such as "palov," "manti," and "somsa" are very common, and they are an important part of Uzbek culture. Simply finding a lexical equivalent for these words in another language is not enough. The translator must also explain the method of preparation, the cultural significance of these dishes, and the customs associated with them, or be able to

convey this emotionally to the reader. Otherwise, a part of the text may remain incomprehensible.

- **National customs and ceremonies:** Weddings, funeral rites, and holidays like Navruz are celebrated in a unique way in each culture. When such ceremonies are depicted in a literary work, the translator must reveal their essence, symbolic meanings, and social significance. For example, "kelin salom" (bride's greeting), "qiz bazmi" (girls' gathering), and "nikoh majlisi" (wedding ceremony) hold an important place in Uzbek culture, and there is no exact analogue for these ceremonies in other cultures. How the translator explains this situation or what approach they should take to make it more understandable to the reader is an important issue.

- **Proverbs and sayings:** The unique wisdom of each nation is reflected in proverbs and sayings. Many of these wise words have arisen based on specific historical events, cultural observations, or life experiences. Translating them word-for-word often turns out to be meaningless. The translator needs to find an equivalent in another language that corresponds to the meaning of the proverb or explain its meaning. For example, the Uzbek proverb "Yetti o'lchab bir kes" (Measure seven times, cut once) can have the English equivalent "Look before you leap." Or, we can see as an example that the proverb in our work "Yov qochsa botir ko'payar" is expressed in the English translation as "If the enemy flees, the heroes will multiply".

- **National characteristics of humor and jokes:** The Uzbek people have their own unique sense of humor. Sometimes these jokes may be based on wordplay, local events, or well-known figures. It is precisely this kind of humor, irony, and witty remarks that our great writer A. Qodiriy masterfully used in his works. However, when I read the English translations of his works, I could not feel these wonderful humorous nuances. Preserving the funny aspect of such jokes when translating them into another language is very difficult. The translator sometimes has to explain the essence of the joke or try to find a similar element of humor in another language.

- **Nonverbal communication and body language:**

A gesture that signifies approval in one culture might be deeply offensive in another. For instance, the "thumbs-up" gesture, positive in many Western cultures, is considered rude in parts of the Middle East. In literary descriptions, a character's "bow" can convey respect in Japanese culture, but might be interpreted differently in a culture where bowing is less common. In Uzbek culture, certain gestures carry specific

meanings. For example, placing a hand over one's heart can signify sincerity and respect. Similarly, the way people greet each other, the duration of a handshake, or the use of eye contact can vary and carry cultural significance that needs careful consideration in literary descriptions. Translators need to be mindful of these subtle cues that reveal character and relationships.

- **Taboos and restrictions:**

Like many cultures, Uzbek society has its own set of taboos. Certain topics related to family matters or personal life might be considered private and not discussed openly. Translators need to be sensitive to these cultural norms when rendering dialogue or narrative that touches upon such subjects. The directness of language used for certain topics might also need to be adjusted based on the target culture's level of formality and accepted discourse. Similarly, discussions around certain political or religious topics might be handled very differently based on cultural norms and restrictions.

In my judgment, these instances clearly show how important cultural context is in literary translation. A literary translator must not only have linguistic knowledge but also deeply understand both cultures and take into account their unique characteristics. Literary translation plays an important role in strengthening intercultural connections, developing mutual understanding, and creating the opportunity to benefit from the treasure trove of world literature.

The next important stage is to consider the uniqueness of the author's style. Each writer has their own unique voice, word choice, syntax, rhythm, and use of imagery. The translator's task is to sense this individual style and strive to recreate it in their translation. The uniqueness of the author's style is one of the most delicate and complex aspects of literary translation. This characteristic is the "personal card" of the work, distinguishing it from other works. For the translator, sensing this style and recreating it in another language requires a high level of skill and sensitivity. A literary translator, in fact, acts as a unique bridge between two cultures. They introduce the literary heritage of one people to another, fostering a sense of mutual understanding and respect between them. By translating the best examples of world literature, we understand the common values of humanity and become acquainted with the richness and diversity of different cultures.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, literary translation is not just an exchange of words between two languages, but a complex and delicate art of recreating the spirit, style, and cultural environment of the original work in a new language. As

we have observed, the multifaceted nature of language, the depth of cultural context, and the uniqueness of the author's style pose serious challenges for the translator. To surmount these challenges, the translator must possess not only deep linguistic knowledge but also cultural sensitivity, literary taste, and most importantly, a creative approach.

In the modern world, as the process of globalization intensifies, the significance of literary translation is increasing even further. The role of literary translators is invaluable in the strengthening spiritual connections between people who speak diverse languages, developing cultural exchange, and creating the opportunity to benefit from the treasure trove of world literature. Despite the advancement of technology in the future, the human factor in literary translation, the translator's creative skill and cultural sensitivity will always retain their importance.

It may be added that literary translation is a noble art that preserves the magic of words and conveys it from one culture to another, thereby serving to enrich the spiritual world of humanity. We can confidently say that literary translation will maintain its importance in the future, as we witness the ever-increasing need for qualified literary translators in the global world.

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