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# Translation Theory and the Representation of Character Psychology in Translation

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**Abstract:** This article examines the problem of representing character psychology in translation within the framework of translation theory, focusing on the artistic mechanisms of psychological depiction. In literary translation, the adequate rendering of a character's inner world constitutes one of the most complex and essential tasks, as psychological depth largely determines the aesthetic and ideological value of a literary work. The study analyzes key mechanisms of psychological portrayal—such as inner monologue, stream of consciousness, psychological portrait, character behavior, and environmental description—and discusses their role in achieving functional and artistic equivalence in translation. Special attention is paid to the influence of cultural and linguocultural factors on the interpretation and transfer of psychological meaning. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of psychological representation in literary translation and may serve as a theoretical basis for further research in translation studies. **Keywords:** Khaled Hosseini, adolescence, psychology, trauma, guilt, resilience, *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, psychoanalytic theory.

**Keywords:** literary translation, translation theory, character psychology, psychological depiction, artistic mechanisms, equivalence.

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**Introduction.** In contemporary translation theory, literary translation is regarded as a complex and multidimensional process that goes far beyond the mere transfer of linguistic units from one language to another. The artistic value of a literary work is determined not only by its plot structure but also by the psychological depth of its characters, their emotional experiences, and their inner development. For this reason, the representation of character psychology in translation has become one of the most significant and challenging issues in translation studies.

Character psychology forms the emotional and semantic core of a literary text and plays a decisive role in shaping the reader's perception of the author's message. Any distortion or loss of psychological nuance in translation inevitably weakens the artistic impact of the original work. Therefore, identifying the artistic mechanisms of psychological depiction and analyzing their reproduction in translation is a task of considerable theoretical and practical importance.

## Main part. The Role of Character Psychology in Translation Theory

Within translation theory, the problem of rendering character psychology is closely connected with the concept of equivalence. Traditional approaches tended to define equivalence primarily in semantic terms; however, modern translation studies emphasize functional and aesthetic equivalence. From this perspective, successful translation is achieved when the target text produces an effect on the reader

comparable to that of the source text.

Eugene Nida's theory of dynamic equivalence highlights the importance of recreating the original reader's response rather than adhering strictly to formal linguistic structures. This principle is particularly relevant in the translation of psychological depiction, as a character's inner experiences often rely on subtle emotional and stylistic cues. Qudrat Musayev also emphasizes that in literary translation, preserving the psychological coherence of characters is as crucial as maintaining lexical accuracy. According to him, any disruption of psychological continuity leads to the disintegration of the artistic image and undermines the integrity of the work.

### **Artistic Mechanisms of Psychological Depiction**

In literary texts, character psychology is conveyed through several interrelated artistic mechanisms, including inner monologue, stream of consciousness, psychological portrait, character behavior, and environmental description. These mechanisms function collectively to reveal the inner world of characters and guide the reader's emotional engagement.

Inner monologue serves as a direct means of expressing a character's thoughts and emotions. It allows access to the most intimate layers of consciousness and plays a vital role in modern psychological prose. In translation, preserving the syntactic rhythm, emotional tone, and stylistic fragmentation of inner monologue is essential. Excessive normalization or simplification may result in the loss of psychological authenticity.

The stream of consciousness technique represents an even more complex form of psychological depiction. Character thoughts unfold in an associative, non-linear manner, reflecting the spontaneous flow of mental processes. Translating such passages requires particular sensitivity, as restructuring them according to conventional syntactic norms may distort the psychological realism of the original.

Psychological portraiture also plays a significant role in revealing character psychology. External appearance, facial expressions, gestures, and movements often function as indicators of internal emotional states. In translation, these details must be handled with care, as even minor omissions can weaken the psychological depth of characterization.

Similarly, character behavior and actions often serve as indirect expressions of inner conflict or emotional tension. Silence, hesitation, or abrupt movements may convey complex psychological meanings. The translator's task is to preserve these nuances without reducing them to explicit explanation.

Environmental description constitutes another important mechanism of psychological depiction. Landscapes, interiors, and symbolic details frequently mirror a character's emotional state. Translating such descriptions requires an understanding of their symbolic and emotional function rather than a purely descriptive approach.

### **The Translator's Role in Psychological Interpretation**

Modern translation theory increasingly recognizes the translator as an active interpreter rather than a passive mediator. The translator's psychological sensitivity, literary competence, and cultural awareness significantly influence the quality of psychological representation in translation. Different translations of the same literary work may present divergent psychological interpretations of characters, reflecting the translator's individual perspective.

Interdisciplinary approaches that integrate translation studies with literary criticism, psychology, and cultural studies have proven particularly productive in analyzing psychological depiction. Such approaches enable a more comprehensive understanding of character psychology and its transformation in translation.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the representation of character psychology in translation constitutes a central issue in translation theory and literary translation practice. The artistic mechanisms of psychological

depiction—inner monologue, stream of consciousness, psychological portrait, character behavior, and environmental description—play a decisive role in shaping the emotional and aesthetic impact of a literary text. Their adequate reproduction in translation requires not only linguistic competence but also psychological insight and cultural awareness.

The translator's primary task is not merely to transfer words from one language to another but to recreate the psychological and aesthetic effect of the original text in the target language. From this perspective, the successful rendering of character psychology serves as a key criterion for evaluating the quality of literary translation and confirms its status as a form of artistic creation rather than a mechanical linguistic process.

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