

Article

Lexical Transformation and its Types

Panjiyeva Mahliya Murodulla kizi¹, Zaripova Aziza Shaxobiddinovna²

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Languages Direction of Translation Theory and Practice

Abstract: This article examines the types of lexical transformations used in translation, focusing on lexical substitution, antonymic translation, compensation, supplementation, and omission. Lexical transformation refers to the changes applied to words, phrases, and expressions during the translation process in order to preserve meaning, stylistic features, and communicative effect between the source and target languages. Since languages differ in vocabulary, cultural background, and semantic structure, translators often use lexical transformations to achieve equivalence and naturalness in translation. Transformation methods such as concretization, generalization, antonymic translation, supplementation, compensation, and omission are analyzed with examples. The findings highlight that lexical transformations are dynamic, context-sensitive strategies rather than mechanical substitutions, emphasizing the creative and interpretive nature of translation.

Keywords: lexical transformation, lexical substitution, concretization, generalization, supplementation, compensation, antonymic translation, omission, translation.

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Introduction

Lexical transformation refers to changes made to words, phrases, and expressions during translation to preserve meaning and adapt the text to the norms of the target language. These transformations help translators overcome linguistic and cultural differences between languages while maintaining the content and stylistic value of the original text.[1] In the modern era of globalization, translation plays a significant role in the exchange of information, knowledge, and culture among nations. Effective translation requires not only the transfer of literal meaning but also the preservation of emotional tone and cultural connotations. In this regard, lexical transformations are essential in making translated texts natural, clear, and understandable for readers.[2] The relevance of this topic is connected with the considerable grammatical, semantic, and stylistic differences between the English and Uzbek languages. To overcome these differences, translators apply various methods of lexical transformation, such as lexical substitution, concretization, generalization, antonymic translation, supplementation, compensation, and omission.[3] Previous research in translation studies demonstrates that scholars such as N.K. Garbovsky, V.N. Komissarov, and L.S. Barkhudarov made significant contributions to the theoretical foundations of lexical transformations. Although lexical adaptation and semantic changes have also been studied in Uzbek linguistics, the systematic analysis of lexical transformations in English-Uzbek translation remains highly relevant. Therefore, this article seeks to provide both theoretical and practical conclusions regarding the effective use of lexical transformations in translation practice.[4]

Methodology

Lexical substitution.

Lexical substitution, or putting one word in place of another. It often results from the different semantic structures of the source language and target language words. Thus, the word *молодой* is not always translated as *young*; rather, it depends on its word combinability: *молодой картофель* is equal to *new potatoes*. [5]

This translation equivalent is predetermined by the word combination it is used in. This type of translation can hardly be called substitution, since it is a regular equivalent for this phrase. In substitutions of lexical units, words, and stable word combinations are replaced by others which are not their equivalents. More often, 3 cases are met with: [6]. A concrete definition or Specification – replacing a word with a broad sense by one of a narrower meaning: *He is at school* – *U maktabda o'qiydi*. Он учится в школе; *He is in the army* – *U armiyada xizmat qiladi*. Он служит в армии; *Will you do the room?* – *Xonani yig'ishtirasanmi?* Ты уберешься в комнате? [7]. *I'll get the papers on the way home*. Мен газеталарни уйга келаяотганимда сотиб оламан. Я куплю газеты по дороге домой. The underlined English words have larger scopes of meaning than their Russian counterparts and their particular semantics are recognized from the context.[8]

Results and Discussion

Generalization – replacing a word's narrow meaning with one with a broad sense: *A Navajo blanket* – *jun adyol*; индийское одеяло. *People don't like to be stared at*. *Odamlarga tikilib qarasang yoqmaydi*. – Людям не нравится, когда на них смотрят. If we compare the semantic structure of English and Russian verbs, we can see that the English *verb* specifies the action of seeing expressed by the Russian verb.[9] The Russian *смотреть* can imply staring, facing, eyeing, etc. The specific meaning in the Russian sentence can be expressed by the adverb *пристально*. Another reason for generalization in translating can be that the particular meaning expressed by the source A language word might be irrelevant for the translation receptor: *She bought the Oolong tea on her way home*. – По дороге домой она купила китайского чаю. *Oolong* is a sort of Chinese tea, but for the receptor, this information is not important; therefore, the translator can generalize. [10].

Supplementations. A formal inexpressibility of semantic components is the reason most often cited for using supplementations as a way of lexical transformation. A formal inexpressibility of certain semantic components is especially of English word combinations N + N and Adj. 4- N: Pay claim – Иш хакини ошириш талаби. – Требование повысить заработную плату; Logical computer. – Логик операцияларни бажарувчи ҳисоблаш машинаси - компьютер. [11].

Antonymic translation.

Antonymic translation is a complex transformation when a source language construction is shifted to a target language construction, whose components are of opposite meanings. There are three major types of antonymic transformations: 1) substituting a word with its antonym (*Snowdrifts are three feet deep.* – *Сугробы высотой в один метр.*) or conversive (*Some of the country's art treasures have been secretly sold to foreign buyers.* – *Покупатели иностранцы тайно скупили некоторые из художественных шедевров страны.*)[12]

2) substituting a negative sentence with an affirmative one and vice versa: *I never heard of it!* – *В первый раз слышу!*

3) shifting the position of a negative component: *I don't think I can do it.* – *Думаю, я не смогу этого сделать.* [13].

Omission or dropping.

In the process of lexical transformation, words that are generally omitted with a surplus meaning are omitted / e.g., Components of typically English pair – synonyms, possessive pronouns, and exact measures/to give a more concrete expression. *To raise one's eyebrows* – *ялг этиб карамок; поднять брови* – *в знак изумления.* [14]. Appropriate use of lexical layers of the language, lexical-stylistic tools and methods give the opportunity to positively solve the lexical problems of translation and, as a result, to increase the quality of the translation and reach the level of adequacy. Lexical problems of Translation can be solved using the five types of transformations discussed above. It is up to the translator's skill and experience to determine which The transformation method is appropriate where. It is very important for a A businessman to be fluent in two languages, as well as to be aware of all its fields. Taking into account the features and possibilities of style and genre When choosing words gives a good result. [15].

Conclusion

The analysis of lexical substitution, concretization, generalization, supplementation, antonymic translation, and omission demonstrates that each transformation performs a specific function in overcoming linguistic and cultural differences. These methods enable translators to convey the original message more accurately and naturally while maintaining the stylistic and semantic value of the source text. The examples discussed in the article show that lexical transformations are not mechanical replacements of words, but context-dependent and creative translation strategies. Furthermore, the study confirms that the successful use of lexical transformations depends on the translator's linguistic competence, cultural awareness, and professional experience. An appropriate choice of transformation method contributes to the quality, adequacy, and readability of translation. Thus, lexical transformations remain one of the fundamental aspects of modern translation theory and practice, especially in English–Uzbek translation studies.

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