

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING ENGLISH PROVERBS INTO UZBEK

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Abstract: this work is devoted to investigate the study of proverbs in Uzbek and English languages through various aspects, mainly, identifying ways of translation and exact translations in both target languages.

Keywords: proverb, free translation, literal translation, substitution translation, semantic and stylistic balance

It is true that proverbs possess bright cultural backgrounds along with ethnic and geographical characteristics. If cultural backgrounds are not mastered enough, we cannot understand proverbs true meanings and connotations. When proverbs are translated, it should be first to deal with the discrepancy between language and culture.

In short, we should not only translate the proverb's connotation, form and eloquence, but also the ethnic and local characteristics. According to the different characteristics of proverbs, mainly, linguists introduce four translations methods: literal translation, free translation, substitution translation and combination of literal and free translation¹.

Literal translation means that it is needed to translate proverbs literally. Some English and Uzbek proverbs have the same form and meaning, and these English proverbs do not have too many cultural backgrounds. It is easy for the readers to understand them. Literal translating approach cannot only keep the original proverb's form and meaning, but also can be easily understood by readers. What is important of all, literal translation can transplant the English proverbs into Uzbek culture. There are given some proverbs with two kinds of translation methods of proverbs translations - the first one is free translation and the second one is literal translation. 1. Sour grapes can never make sweet wine - Nordon uzumdan hech qachon shirin musallas chiqmas. 2. Barking dogs seldom bite – Huradiganitlarkamdan-kamqopadi.

Meanwhile, it is hard to find the Uzbek proverb with the same meaning to translate it. In this situation, free translation method can be used. For example, “Fire, Set the Thames on”. If it is translated literally like this, 'fire, set the Thames on', it is very difficult for Uzbek people to understand it. It is true that The Thames is situated in the England and English people connect this proverb with their river, but if Uzbeks want to express such situation, they cannot use this river. So they can translate it as their culture “Epchil xotin qor qalab qozon qaynatar”.

¹ Kimsanova G. 2016. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs and sayings expressing senility and youth

Substitution translation using the Uzbek proverb with the same meaning to translate English proverb. It is true that human culture has much in difference, at the same time, has much in common. Since proverbs are produced in people's working and daily life, human being's experience and observation have much in common, which are reflected on proverbs. Thus, many English and Uzbek proverbs have the same meaning, connotation and persuading way. In this situation, they should be translated with substitution translation. For example, 'Wall have ears', which has the same meaning and connotation with the Uzbek proverb, 'Devorning ham qulog'i bor'.

When translating English proverbs, sometimes there is a problem that some English proverbs have complicated historical and cultural backgrounds. If they are adopted with literal translation method, they can express the proverb's literal meaning, yet, they cannot display the primary proverb's connotation well; if free translation method is used, though its connotation is well expressed, the vivid comparison will be lost. Such situations, these proverbs should be translated with combining literal and free translation. This method will make the translation express both the primary proverb's literal meaning and connotation. For example, Rule youth well, for age will rule itself – Yoshlikni yaxshi boshqaring, qarilik o'zini o'zi boshqarar².

Overall, translating proverbs word-by-word is not a sufficient way to express the meaning of a proverbs in the other languages because of above-mentioned culturemes that exist in its content in a target language. In linguistics there is the concept of phraseological equivalent and it is phraseologism on translation language, by all indicators equal to the translated unit³. As it may result in misunderstandings in the basic meaning of a proverb, the method of finding equivalents of proverbs can be used in addition to translating methods. Here are some proverbs with Uzbek equivalent: Birds of a feather flock together. – O'xshatmasdan uchratmas (They do not meet who do not look like each other).

“A fool and his money are soon parted” - “Xisobini bilmagan hamyonidan ayrilar. “A good name is better than rich” – “Boy bo'lay deb izzatingdan ayrilma”. “It takes money to make money” - “Pulni pul topar.” “Money talks” – “Og'zi qiyshiq bo'lsa , boyni bolasi gapirsin.” “A penny saved is a penny earned.”- “Don ayagan donga yetar”. “God help the rich, the poor can beg “Boy ham boyga, Xudo ham boyga “. “The early bird catches the worm”- “Erta turganga Hudo berar”: If you want them to let you into the club, give them some money, money talks⁴.

There are many synonym words and phrases in a language, likewise, proverbs can be synonymous to one another. Sometimes their meanings are similar and they can substitute one another in a context. However, many of synonym proverbs cannot be

² PQ-1875 «On measures to further improvement of foreign language learning system» Xalqso'zi December 10, 2012

³ N.D. Djalilova. 2019. Science, research, development

⁴ Polvonova M.F. 2020. Comparative analysis of proverbs with component denoting “money” in Uzbek and English language

absolute synonyms even they resemble one another semantically as expressiveness in their meanings differs in some degree from each other, consequently they are used in different cases and situations – so they own different pragmatic and sociolinguistic features: some of them. Although the proverbs that given below have several synonyms they cannot substitute one another in a context, otherwise, the semantic or stylistic balance would be destructed roughly: A man is known by the company he keeps – Do'sting kimligini ayt, sening kimligingni aytaman (Tell me your friend, I shall tell who you are). There is no better looking-glass than an old friend. / The eye of a friend is a good mirror – Do'st achitib gapirar, dushman kuldirib (A friend tells bitter (truth), an enemy sweet (lie)). A friend in court is better than a penny in purse – Boylik boylik emas, birlik boylik (Wealth is not wealth, solidarity is wealth). It is good to have some friends both in heaven and hell – Do'sting yoningda bo'lsa, ishing oson bitadi (While your friend is with you, you solve your problem fast). Be a friend to thyself and others will befriend thee – O'ziga boqmagan, o'zgaga yoqmas (If one does not pay attention to himself (his character or behaviour), others do not like him). Friends are made in wine and proved in tears – Do'st kulfatda bilinar (A friend is tested in trouble)⁵.

It is true that proverbs of different nations have a lot in common, but there are some specific feature that can help them distinguish. We have already looked through equivalents of proverbs and translation methods. However, even if a linguistic equivalent exists, there may be cultural differences. It often helps to determine the origin of the proverb, especially, if it is not an entirely common saying. An obscure literary proverb should be translated into a very familiar proverb in the target language. It is the best to aim for equivalence between the proverb's standing within the context of the source culture and the target. Often, proverbs deal directly with societal customs that might not translate directly to the belonging to others. In these cases, it might help to find a saying that approximates the intended message of the proverb and use that. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs are polysemantic, so it makes them difficult for comparison. There are a number of English proverbs which are easily translated into Uzbek and they can be called full equivalents. It can be seen that they can be translated word by word. For instance: 1)English: First think, and then speak Uzbek: Avval o'yla, keyin so'yla. 2)English: Silence gives consent Uzbek: Sukutalomati rizo 3)English: Bad news has wings Uzbek: Yomon so'zning qanoti bor. 4)English: Better late than never Uzbek: Hechdan ko'ra kech yahshi 5)English: Bird likes its own nest Uzbek: Qush ham o'z uyim der⁶

However, there are some English proverbs that are a bit different from Uzbek and they are called partial equivalents. It can be seen that they are similar, but in translation

⁵ Abdullaeva N.E. 2017. Semantic and linguacultural features of English and Uzbek provebrs with concept of friendship

⁶ http://www.bmpublgrou.com/assets/part_1_usa.pdf

the words change. Thus, they are not translated word by word. They differ in the same way as the circumstances of development of the countries: differences in their national characters, tempers, mentality and the languages themselves, in which these discrepancies are reflected. For example: 1) English: Better buy than borrow Translation: Qarz olgandan ko'ra sotib ol. Uzbek: Qarzing uchun qayg'ur, oladiganing qochmas. 2) English: None as blind as those who won't see. Translation: Ko'rishni istamaganlardan ko'rroq odam topilmasI: Ko'rmas- tuyani ham ko'rmas 3) English: Company in distress makes trouble less Translation: Mushkul vaziyatni baham ko'rish musibatni yengillashtiradi. Ko'pchilikka hamroh bo'lsang, Manzilinga tezroq yetasan 4) English: Long hair and short wit. Translation: Sochi uzun, aqli kalta. Uzbek: Aqli boshda soch turmas. 5) English: All talk and no cider. Translation: Gap ko'p, sharbat esa yo'q. Uzbek: Gap ko'p ko'mir esa yo'q⁷.

One has to remember that in every language there are phrases and expression which can be perceived literally, even if one understands the semantic and grammatical meaning of every word, the idea of the proverb seems obscure and strange. The attempts to translate these expressions word for word can lead to unexpected and frequently odd result. There are some examples: 1) English: A hard nut to crack Translation: Yechishga og'ir masala. Uzbek: Og'ir karvon og'ir ko'char. 2) English: Hare, first catch your rabbit, then cook it. Translation: Oldin quyonni tutib ol, keyin uni qovur. Uzbek: Avval otingni taqala, keyin yo'l tanla. 3) English: Juice, Stew in one's own. Translation: O'z sharobida qovrilmoq. Uzbek: O'zing pishirgan- osh aylanib ich, o'rgilib ich. 4) Kick down the ladder. Translation: Narvonni tepib, pastga uloqtirmoq. Uzbek: Ishing bitdi- eshak loydan o'tdi. 5) English: Slow and steady wins the race. Translation: Sekin va o'z chopgan otchoparda yutar. Uzbek: Shoshmagan arava quyonga yetar.

In addition, there are a lot of proverbs which are common for the most people in the world, because proverbs are spoken and not written, they relate to everyday wisdom people want to convey in speech. As a result, they relate matters of everyday interest. As a rule, proverbs also have semantic, syntactic, grammatical categories. The semantic sphere of proverbs is very wide and we cannot limit them. The proverbs describe every branch of human's life: the economical, psychological, cultural and others. The fact is that proverbs and sayings are similar in meaning in spite of their diversity in form and language. The following examples can prove our above mentioned idea: A bird in hand is worth two in the bush- Nasiya saryog'dan naqd o'pka yahshi⁸.

It is important to mention a few variations in translating proverbs from one language into another. It helps to translate proverbs from the English language to the

⁷ Karamatova K.M. 2000. Proverbs Maqollar Пословицы

⁸ Masharipova N. O. 2000. Proverbs and sayings as reflection of people's perception of the world

Uzbek language through these types of translation. There are several types of proverbs that can be translated into other languages: 1) Using phraseological Equivalent: a) Absolute Equivalent, b) Similar Equivalent. 2) Using analogue phrase: a) Using the 'Kalka' way, b) Use direct translation.

All translations methods are used in the translation of proverbs. In some cases, proverbs in English and Uzbek are pragmatic and stylistic, and the image they represent is homogeneous and has the same English and Uzbek proverbs and is translated into absolute style. The following are examples of this: A watched pot never boils - Kutilgan qozon qaynamas. All the words in these two-language proverbs have been translated using the absolute translation because they have the same grammar and have the same meaning.

There are some proverbs that are translated in part to the Uzbek language, and we use the partial translation of the phrasal translation. But the meaning remains the same in both languages, but the meaning of some words is not the same: Wisdom is the beauty of men - Odam bezagi aql (beauty of man is his wisdom). Manners make the man - insonni fazilatlar ulug'laydi (Manners earns reputation for man). There are some types of English proverbs that cannot be translated into Uzbek directly. In this case, we need to find and translate proverbs in this language in Uzbek. Different lexis 22 is used in two languages: A rotten apple spoils the barrel- Tirriq qo'zi podani buzar (thin lamb spoils the herd).

A proverb in the English language that a bad-tempered person can be influenced by the whole group is "spoilt apple" in English, but in the same meaning the Uzbek proverb says that "thin lambs destroy the herd."

There are a few examples of this proverb: A fool at forty is a fool forever - Qari bo'lgan bilan dono bo'lmas (Although man becomes older he will not be wise). One of the ways to translate other proverbs is "Kalka" way. The words in the prose are translated directly, because some words can be found in words directly from English into the Uzbek language. 'Leopard cannot change its spots', in this proverb the word leopard has been translated directly into Uzbek, since it is not a native of Uzbek, and it is the English language word translated into Uzbek.

Another way to translate proverbs is by way of "visual translation" In some proverbs, since the English-language lexis does not exist in Uzbek, they are translated into Uzbek language by explaining them so that the proverb may not be equivalent or analogous: Beware of Greeks bearing gifts (Be aware of the Greeks wrapped in a gift). If the above-mentioned proverb is not translated into a literal translation, the meaning of this proverb will be unclear if it does not have a historical background. To sum up, through this method of translation, we will be able to translate English language proverbs into Uzbek. In the translation process, we can define the difference between

the two language proverbs and learn how they are differentiated by using the appropriate translation methods⁹.

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