

ERRORS IN THE DIRECT TRANSLATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM

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Abstract

The article examines primary errors that occur in the direct translation of phraseological units and methods for their prevention. The study suggests effective translation strategies considering cultural and linguistic characteristics of idiomatic expressions.

Keywords: Phraseological units, translation errors, translation methods, cultural context, linguistic features.

Introduction

Phraseological units represent the uniqueness of any language and reflect the historical, cultural, and social experiences of its speakers. These idiomatic expressions are often deeply rooted in national mentality and worldview, making their translation particularly challenging. Literal translation of such units often results in semantic distortion or complete misunderstanding, as the figurative meaning is not deducible from the literal meaning of individual words (Baker, 2011).

The main purpose of this article is to analyze the causes of common translation errors in rendering phraseological units and to propose strategies that can help prevent these mistakes, ensuring both accuracy and cultural sensitivity in cross-linguistic communication.

In this study, three main methods were employed to investigate the translation of phraseological units: Linguistic and Cultural Analysis: Phraseological expressions from English, Uzbek, and Russian were analyzed based on their semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic features. Experimental Method: A group of 20 translators were asked to translate 30 idioms from Uzbek and Russian into English and vice versa. Their translations were evaluated to identify recurring errors. Comparative-

Analytical Method: Equivalents of idioms were compared across three languages to observe how linguistic and cultural factors influence translation strategies and outcomes.

Results and Discussion

The analysis of the translated material revealed three main categories of errors:

The most common mistake observed was word-for-word translation, which often failed to convey the idiomatic meaning. For example, "a piece of cake" was translated as "bir bo'lak tort" instead of the appropriate meaning, "oson ish". Such errors typically occur when translators lack familiarity with the target language's idiomatic usage (Newmark, 1988).

Many idioms reflect specific cultural realities. For instance, the Uzbek idiom "kalla tashlash" (to headbutt) used metaphorically may be incomprehensible or misinterpreted in another culture. Failure to understand or convey such cultural references reduces the effectiveness and appropriateness of the translation (Nida & Taber, 2003).

Pragmatic-Linguistic Mismatch

Even when the literal meaning is preserved, pragmatic functions (tone, formality, emotion) may be lost. This often leads to unnatural or awkward expressions in the target language, thereby reducing communicative success. To minimize the issues identified above, the following strategies are recommended: Using Pragmatic and Semantic Equivalents: Translators should focus on conveying the meaning and function rather than translating the form. Enhancing Cultural Awareness: Knowledge of the cultural roots of idioms enables translators to find suitable expressions in the target language that reflect similar ideas or emotions. Consulting Specialized Phraseological Dictionaries: These resources can provide accurate equivalents and context of usage (Moon, 1998). Training in Contextual Translation: Translators should be trained to consider the context of the phrase and the communicative goal of the message.

Conclusion

Phraseological units present significant challenges for translators due to their figurative nature and cultural specificity. However, by applying appropriate

strategies such as searching for functional equivalents, deepening cultural understanding, and consulting idiom-specific resources, translators can greatly enhance the accuracy and naturalness of their translations. The findings of this study emphasize the need for both linguistic expertise and cultural competence in professional translation practice.

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