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TRANSLATION ISSUES OF TEMPORAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

Qodirova Madinaxon Umidjon kizi
Master's student at Kokand University
Madinakadirova21@gmail.com

Abstract

This article provides an in-depth linguocultural analysis of temporal phraseological units in Uzbek and English and explores the challenges involved in translating them. The study focuses on the national and cultural components embedded in phraseological units containing temporal elements and examines their influence on meaning transfer between languages. Using comparative, semantic, and discourse-based methods, the research identifies both shared and language-specific features of temporal phraseological units. The findings demonstrate that differences in cultural perceptions of time significantly affect translation strategies, often requiring adaptive or descriptive translation approaches rather than direct equivalence. The results contribute to the development of translation studies, phraseology, and linguocultural research.

Keywords

temporal component, phraseological unit, translation problems, linguocultural specificity, time semantics, cross-cultural analysis.

Introduction

In modern linguistics, phraseological units are regarded as an essential part of the lexical system that reflects the cultural memory, worldview, and historical experience of a speech community. Among them, temporal phraseological units occupy a special place, as they express attitudes toward time, duration, sequence, and inevitability of events. Time is not merely a grammatical category but a culturally conditioned concept that varies significantly across languages.

Uzbek and English belong to different language families and cultural traditions, which has led to distinct conceptualizations of time. In English-speaking cultures, time is often associated with efficiency, precision, and economic value, whereas in Uzbek culture it is frequently connected with patience, destiny, and life experience. These differences become especially evident in phraseological units and pose serious challenges in translation.

The purpose of this article is to analyze temporal phraseological units in Uzbek and English from a linguocultural perspective and to identify the major translation difficulties associated with their national and cultural components.

Methods

The research employs a combination of qualitative linguistic methods. Comparative analysis is used to examine similarities and differences between Uzbek and English temporal phraseological units. Semantic analysis helps reveal the internal meaning structure of the units, while a linguocultural approach allows identification of culturally specific elements embedded in phraseological expressions.

The research material includes examples drawn from phraseological dictionaries, literary texts, and academic sources in both languages. Translation strategies are analyzed to determine how cultural and semantic nuances are preserved or transformed in the target language.

Results

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The analysis shows that temporal phraseological units in both Uzbek and English are largely metaphorical in nature and reflect culturally determined perceptions of time. In English, expressions such as “time is money” or “at the last minute” emphasize efficiency, urgency, and economic value. These units highlight a linear and measurable understanding of time.

In contrast, Uzbek temporal phraseological units such as “vaqti kelganda” or “zamoni o‘tib” reflect a cyclical and experiential view of time, closely linked to fate and patience. While some Uzbek and English temporal phraseological units share similar meanings, their cultural connotations often differ, which complicates direct translation.

The findings indicate that complete phraseological equivalence is relatively rare, and translators frequently rely on partial equivalence or descriptive translation to convey meaning adequately.

Discussion

Translation difficulties associated with temporal phraseological units arise primarily from cultural divergence rather than linguistic form alone. When a phraseological unit carries strong national and cultural connotations, literal translation may distort or obscure its meaning. As a result, translators
must adopt flexible strategies to maintain pragmatic and semantic adequacy.

Common strategies include functional substitution, paraphrasing, and contextual adaptation. The choice of strategy depends on the communicative purpose of the text and the target audience. Failure to account for cultural differences may lead to loss of expressive force or misinterpretation in translation.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that temporal phraseological units are deeply embedded in national culture and reflect culturally specific perceptions of time. Their translation requires more than linguistic competence; it demands awareness of cultural values and conceptual differences between languages.

Successful translation of temporal phraseological units depends on achieving cultural adequacy alongside semantic equivalence. The findings of this research underline the importance of a linguocultural approach in translation studies and contribute to a deeper understanding of phraseology in Uzbek and English.

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