

SCIENTIFIC AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LITERARY TRANSLATION TRANSFORMATIONS

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Abstract: The process of translating literature is complex and encompasses linguistic, cultural, and semantic elements. The way translators handle interlingual transformations—adjustments made to communicate meaning, style, and cultural nuances from the source language into the target language—largely determines how effective it is. This article analyses different kinds of translation changes (lexical, syntactic, and cultural) and their purpose in guaranteeing functional equivalency, drawing on the writings of eminent academics including E. Nida, L. Venuti, A. Lefevere, and Uzbek translation theorists. It emphasises how crucial it is to appropriately maintain the text's creative worth and meaning while modifying it to fit the linguistic and cultural background of the intended audience. The study comes to the conclusion that a careful use of translation changes improves literary works' aesthetic and communicative qualities, which in turn enriches intercultural communication.

Keywords: Literary translation, transformation, linguistic adaptation, cultural equivalence, semantic adjustment, functional equivalence, translator's competence

Introduction

Literary works can transcend geographical and chronological borders thanks to translation, which has long been acknowledged as a bridge uniting various languages and civilisations. The procedure becomes considerably more complex in the field of literary translation because of the source text's creative quality, stylistic elements, and cultural realities. According to academics like Nida and Taber (1982), Lefevere (1992), and Venuti (1995), the translator's job is not just to translate words from one language to another; rather, it is to convey the spirit and emotional resonance of the original text in the target language.

Salomov (1983) and Rahimov (2016) have emphasised the importance of linguistic, semantic, and cultural changes in Uzbek translation studies. These modifications, often known as "transformations," take place when the translator tries to preserve functional equivalency while reshaping the text to fit the standards of the target language and culture. The main theoretical underpinnings of literary translation alterations are examined in this essay, with an emphasis on their lexical, syntactic, and cultural functioning. It also discusses the real-world difficulties translators encounter when trying to strike a balance between the target audience's communication needs and original faithfulness.

Interlingual Transformations as Core Processes

According to Nida and Taber (1982), translation is frequently defined as a series of interlingual transformations in which the meaning of the source text is expressed in the target language via reorganised linguistic patterns. Uzbek academics like Salomov (1983) contend that these changes need to take into consideration the original's stylistic flavour as well as its semantic meaning. The fundamental idea is that translation equivalency is a functional alignment of meaning, style, and cultural context rather than just a word-for-word match.

Linguistic, Cultural, and Semantic Dimensions

Transformations in literary translation function on several levels:

- Linguistic dimension: Adapting word choice, grammar, and syntax to the rules of the target language (Komissarov, 1990).
- Cultural dimension: elucidating or modifying idioms, realia, or statements that are culturally specific such that the intended audience understands their meaning (Venuti, 1995).
- Semantic dimension: Maintaining the original meaning but occasionally using contextual cues, compensation, or paraphrase to keep things clear (Nida & Taber, 1982).

Equivalence and Adequacy

In literary translation, equivalency takes several forms. Focussing on the reader's reaction, dynamic equivalence (Nida, 1964) seeks to elicit in the intended audience an emotional and aesthetic impact that is comparable to that of the source material in its original context. Maintaining stylistic and ideological components is necessary for a translation to be deemed adequate, since it must meet the expectations of the intended audience as well as the spirit of the source material (Lefevere, 1992).

Major Types of Translation Transformations

1. Lexical Transformations

Lexical transformations address differences in vocabulary and cultural references between the source and target languages. Examples include:

- **Synonym substitution:** Replacing a word with a target-language synonym to preserve nuance or tone.
- **Antonymic translation:** Conveying meaning by flipping it into its opposite form, e.g., "He is no fool" → "He is wise".
- **Borrowing and calque:** Transliterating or literally translating culture-specific items if no direct equivalent exists (e.g., "sumalak" → "traditional wheat pudding").

Such strategies can clarify cultural concepts, though they may occasionally dilute the original's emotional resonance.

2. Syntactic Transformations

Syntactic transformations arise from the structural differences between languages. For instance, English follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) pattern, while Uzbek typically uses a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order. Converting complex sentences into simpler forms—or vice versa—often helps preserve meaning and readability.

- **Reordering:** “I have read her letter” → “Men uning xatini o‘qib bo‘ldim.”
- **Splitting or combining sentences:** Converting a compound sentence into two simple sentences, or merging multiple simple sentences into a compound or complex structure, depending on the target language norms.

3. Cultural Transformations

Cultural transformations deal with culturally specific elements, such as idioms, proverbs, or references to customs. Translators might use:

- **Adaptation:** Changing a culturally bound expression to a more familiar target-culture reference.
- **Explanatory notes:** Adding brief clarifications for culturally rich terms or realia, e.g., “Navruz” as “the Persian New Year”.
- **Compensation:** Introducing a culturally equivalent phrase elsewhere in the text if direct translation is not feasible in the original location.

By applying cultural transformations, translators ensure that readers experience a similar emotional and cultural impact.

Practical Challenges in Applying Transformations

Despite the clear frameworks for transformation, translators frequently face **pragmatic** challenges:

1. **Maintaining stylistic integrity:** Balancing the original's poetic or rhetorical style with target language norms can be difficult, especially if the languages differ typologically.
2. **Avoiding over-compensation:** Excessive additions or explanatory notes can disrupt narrative flow.
3. **Preserving authorial voice:** Some transformations risk muting the unique voice of the source text's author if the translator over-edits or simplifies.
4. **Ensuring coherence:** Transformations must align with the text's broader context to maintain logical flow and thematic consistency.

Conclusion

Literary translation transformations are vital for accurately conveying the multifaceted nature of a source text into a new linguistic and cultural environment. As evidenced by the work of Nida, Lefevere, Venuti, and Uzbek scholars like Salomov, these transformations—lexical, syntactic, and cultural—help bridge linguistic disparities and preserve the artistic essence of the original. The translator's expertise lies in balancing faithfulness to the source with the target audience's expectations and cultural context.

By systematically applying transformation strategies—such as synonym substitution, syntactic reordering, cultural adaptation, and compensation—translators can produce renditions that resonate emotionally, aesthetically, and cognitively with readers. However, successful literary translation also demands ongoing awareness of potential pitfalls, including stylistic mismatch and excessive explanatory material. Future research could explore how modern translation technologies assist or complicate the application of these transformations, as well as investigate reader reception across diverse cultural contexts.

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