



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES AND CULTURAL LOSSES OF UZBEK
NATIONAL REALIA IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION (“AFFAIRS OF LIFE”) OF
THE WORK “DUNYONING ISHLARI”

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Abstract: This article analyzes the methods of rendering national realia encountered in the English translation of “Dunyoning ishlari” (Affairs of Life), an important work of Uzbek literature. Specifically, it examines the translation strategies used for cultural units such as *supa*, *rayhon* (basil), *tillaqosh*, *surp yaktak*, *fotiha*, and *diyodor*, as well as the associated cultural losses. Research results indicate that, along with maintaining equivalence, conveying cultural semantics is of significant importance in translation.

Keywords: national realia, translation strategy, cultural loss, transcription, descriptive translation, adaptation.

Introduction

In the context of globalization, the process of translating national literatures into other languages is becoming an important means of intercultural communication. However, every nation possesses unique cultural concepts, and transferring them precisely to another language is a complex issue. In particular, national realia—units specific to the lifestyle, traditions, and mentality of a particular nation—pose great difficulties in translation.

The work “Dunyoning ishlari” broadly covers the daily life, traditions, and values of the Uzbek people. In the English translation of this work, titled “Affairs of Life,” conveying these national realia places significant tasks upon the translator. The purpose of this study is to identify the strategies used in translating national realia in the work and to analyze the cultural losses that occur as a result.

Methods

The following scientific methods were used in the research:

- **Comparative-analytical method:** Identifying the translation of realia by comparing the original text with its English translation;
- **Semantic analysis:** Studying the layers of meaning of the realia;
- **Analysis based on translation theory:** Identifying strategies such as transcription, transliteration, descriptive translation, and adaptation;
- **Contextual analysis:** Determining the function of the realia within the text.

The object of the study is the work “Dunyoning ishlari” and its English translation, while the subject consists of the national realia and their translation methods.

Results

The analysis reveals the following main strategies in the translation of national realia:

1. **Transcription and transliteration:** Some realia are preserved in their original form (e.g., *supa* → *supa*, *rayhon* → *rayhon*). This method maintains the national color but may be unintelligible to foreign readers.

2. **Descriptive translation:** The meaning of the realia is provided through an explanation (e.g., *supa* → *raised outdoor platform for sitting*, *fotiha* → *a traditional blessing prayer*). This method clarifies the content but makes the text cumbersome.



3. **Functional equivalent:** Replacing the unit with one having a similar function (e.g., *yaktak* → *traditional robe*, *tillaqosh* → *traditional head ornament*). This method is understandable to the reader, but the degree of national specificity is reduced.

4. **Adaptation (cultural adjustment):** In some cases, the term is generalized (e.g., *diydor* → *meeting / reunion*). This strategy simplifies the text, but the deep emotional meaning is lost.

Discussion

The analysis shows that the main problem in the translation of national realia is the balance between equivalence and cultural identification. For example:

- “Supa” is not just a “platform,” but a place for social interaction;
- “Rayhon” is not just an ordinary plant, but has symbolic and aesthetic significance;
- “Fotiha” carries a broader meaning as an element of religious and social ritual.

Therefore, simple translation often leads to the following types of cultural loss:

- **Semantic loss:** The full meaning of the concept is not conveyed;
- **Emotional loss:** The national spirit is weakened;
- **Contextual loss:** The social function of the realia is lost.

A combined approach (transcription + explanation) is recommended as the most effective strategy. This method preserves national identity while remaining accessible to the reader.

Conclusion

Conveying national realia in the English translation of “Dunyoning ishlari” is a complex and multi-layered process. According to the research results:

- Each realia requires an individual approach;
- Cultural context is crucial when choosing a translation strategy;
- The combination of descriptive translation and transcription is the most effective method;
- Minimizing cultural loss is the translator's primary task.

The results of this study are of great importance for translation theory and practice and serve to promote national literature on a global scale.

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