



PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATION QUALITY

Khushvaktova Marjona

Student of Samarkand institute of economics and service

Kipchakova Sanobar

Docent of Samarkand institute of economics and service

Abstract. Translation plays a crucial role in cross-cultural communication by enabling the transfer of meaning between languages. However, achieving high translation quality remains a significant challenge due to linguistic, cultural, and contextual differences between the source and target languages. This article examines the main problems affecting translation quality, including lexical ambiguity, grammatical differences, cultural untranslatability, stylistic inconsistency, and the influence of machine translation. Special attention is given to the role of the translator's competence and background knowledge. The study emphasizes that translation quality depends not only on linguistic accuracy but also on pragmatic equivalence and cultural awareness.

Key words. translation quality, translation problems, equivalence, cultural differences, machine translation, translator competence.

Introduction. Translation is a complex process that requires more than simple word-for-word substitution. A high-quality translation must accurately convey the meaning, style, and communicative intent of the source text. Despite advances in translation studies and technology, various problems continue to affect translation quality. These problems arise from structural differences between languages, cultural diversity, and the subjective nature of interpretation. Understanding these challenges is essential for improving translation outcomes.

Lexical and Semantic Problems. One of the most common problems in translation quality is lexical ambiguity. Many words have multiple meanings depending on context, which can lead to incorrect interpretations. Additionally, some concepts in the source language may not have direct equivalents in the target language. In such cases, translators must choose between approximation, explanation, or adaptation, each of which may affect the accuracy of the translation.

Grammatical and Structural Differences. Languages differ significantly in their grammatical structures, word order, tense systems, and morphological features. These differences often create difficulties in maintaining both meaning and naturalness in translation.



Literal translation of grammatical structures can result in unnatural or incorrect target texts. Therefore, translators must restructure sentences while preserving the original message.

Cultural and Pragmatic Issues. Cultural differences represent a major challenge in achieving translation quality. Idioms, metaphors, humor, and culturally specific references often lose their meaning when translated directly. Failure to consider cultural context may result in misunderstanding or loss of communicative effect. Pragmatic aspects, such as politeness strategies and discourse conventions, also vary across languages and must be carefully adapted.

Stylistic and Register Problems. Maintaining the appropriate style and register of the source text is another critical aspect of translation quality. Academic, legal, literary, and technical texts each require different stylistic approaches. Inconsistent register or inappropriate tone can significantly reduce the effectiveness of the translation. Translators must be sensitive to genre conventions and audience expectations.

The Impact of Machine Translation. The increasing use of machine translation tools has introduced new challenges to translation quality. While such tools offer speed and convenience, they often fail to accurately convey context, idiomatic expressions, and cultural nuances. Overreliance on machine translation without proper human revision can result in errors and reduced text coherence.

Conclusion. Translation quality is influenced by multiple linguistic, cultural, and technological factors. Problems such as lexical ambiguity, grammatical differences, cultural untranslatability, and stylistic inconsistency continue to pose challenges for translators. To improve translation quality, translators must possess strong linguistic competence, cultural awareness, and critical thinking skills. Additionally, machine translation should be used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for human expertise.

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