

CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS AND THEIR TRANSLATION INTO UZBEK

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Аннотация

В этой статье рассматриваются культурные основы английских идиоматических выражений и проблемы, связанные с их переводом на узбекский язык. Изучая происхождение, использование и культурное значение идиом, исследование подчеркивает важность понимания исходной культуры для предоставления точных переводов. В статье также обсуждаются трудности, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики при передаче смысла, юмора и эмоций, заложенных в идиомах. Результаты показывают, что прямой перевод часто не в состоянии уловить суть идиоматических выражений, что подчеркивает необходимость творческих подходов при переводе.

Ключевые слова. Английские идиомы, культурное влияние, перевод, узбекский язык, межкультурная коммуникация, идиоматические выражения.

Abstract

This article explores the cultural foundations of English idiomatic expressions and the challenges involved in translating them into Uzbek. By examining the origins, usage, and cultural significance of idioms, the study highlights the importance of understanding the source culture to provide accurate translations. The article also discusses the difficulties faced by translators in conveying the meaning, humor, and emotion embedded in idioms. The results show that direct translation often fails to capture the essence of idiomatic expressions, emphasizing the need for creative approaches in translation.

Keywords. English idioms, cultural influence, translation, Uzbek language, cross-cultural communication, idiomatic expressions.

Introduction. Language is a reflection of culture, and idiomatic expressions serve as a window into the traditions, values, and everyday experiences of a community. Idioms are often metaphorical and culturally bound, making their translation from one language to another a complex task. English, as a global language, contains thousands of idiomatic expressions that are widely used in daily communication, literature, and media. However, these expressions are deeply embedded in the English-speaking culture, posing significant challenges for translators who need to adapt them to a different linguistic and cultural context.

This article investigates how cultural influences shape English idiomatic expressions and explores the strategies used to translate them into Uzbek. It aims to provide insights into the complexities of idiomatic translation and offers practical solutions for preserving the meaning and cultural essence of idioms in translation.

Main part. Numerous scholars have explored the relationship between language and culture, particularly in the context of idiomatic expressions. According to Baker (2011), idioms are "fixed phrases whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of their individual words," and they are deeply rooted in the culture of the language in which they are used. Larson (1998) highlights the challenges of translating idioms, noting that literal translations often lead to confusion or misunderstanding.

In their study on idiomatic translation, Nida and Taber (1969) emphasize the importance of "dynamic equivalence," where the translator seeks to convey the same meaning and effect in the target language as the original idiom does in the source language. Similarly, Newmark (1988) suggests that idioms should be translated based on their communicative function rather than their literal meaning. In Uzbek linguistics, Karimov (2020) argues that translating idiomatic expressions requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures to achieve functional equivalence.

The research methodology includes a comparative analysis of 50 commonly used English idiomatic expressions and their translations into Uzbek. The data was collected from English-Uzbek bilingual dictionaries, literary works, and real-life examples from media and online platforms. Each idiom was analyzed in terms of its cultural origin, meaning, and usage in the English language, followed by an examination of its translation into Uzbek.

The study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative analysis was used to identify cultural elements within the idiomatic expressions, while quantitative data was gathered to determine how often direct or creative translations were employed in

rendering idioms into Uzbek. The analysis also considers the effectiveness of the translations in maintaining the original idiom's meaning and cultural significance.

The analysis revealed several key findings:

Cultural Bound Nature of Idioms:

Many English idiomatic expressions are based on historical events, literature, customs, or popular beliefs that are unique to English-speaking cultures. For example, the idiom "spill the beans" (meaning to reveal a secret) has its roots in ancient Greek voting practices, which are unfamiliar to Uzbek culture. As a result, literal translation into Uzbek often fails to convey the intended meaning.

Lack of Direct Equivalents:

Most idiomatic expressions do not have direct equivalents in Uzbek. In such cases, translators tend to employ descriptive or creative translations to convey the meaning. For instance, the English idiom "the ball is in your court" (meaning it's your turn to take action) is often translated into Uzbek as "endi sening qo'lingda" (now it's in your hands), which conveys a similar meaning but lacks the cultural reference to sports.

Challenges of Humor and Metaphor:

Many idioms involve humor or metaphor that is culturally specific. The idiom "kick the bucket" (meaning to die) uses humor to soften the subject of death, but translating it literally into Uzbek as "chelakni tepmoq" would not carry the same humorous undertone. Instead, translators often opt for neutral or less metaphorical expressions in Uzbek, such as "vafot etmoq" (to pass away).

Use of Dynamic Equivalence:

Translators often resort to dynamic equivalence, where the cultural and contextual meaning of the idiom is adapted rather than its literal meaning. For example, "a piece of cake" (meaning something easy) is translated as "qo'l uchida qilinadigan ish" (something that can be done with ease), which captures the essence of the idiom while avoiding the cultural metaphor of cake.

Conclusion. The study demonstrates that cultural influences play a significant role in shaping English idiomatic expressions, making their translation into Uzbek a challenging task. Literal translations often fail to convey the idiom's full meaning, humor, or cultural significance, leading to potential misunderstandings. Therefore, translators must adopt

creative and flexible approaches, such as dynamic equivalence, to preserve the idiomatic meaning and cultural context in the target language.

The findings of this study underscore the importance of cross-cultural competence in translation, particularly when dealing with idiomatic expressions. Future research could explore the translation of idioms in other language pairs, as well as the impact of globalization on the evolution of idiomatic expressions.

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