

**TRANSLATION METHODS IN LITERARY TEXTS: A COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF SCIENCE FICTION WORKS**

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Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada badiiy matnlar tarjimasida qoʻllaniladigan usullar, ayniqsa ilmiy-fantastik asarlar misolida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda qarz olish, kalka, moslashtirish, modulatsiya va ekvivalentlik kabi asosiy tarjima strategiyalarining oʻrni yoritiladi. Qiyosiy yondashuv asosida turli tarjimonlarning ilmiy-fantastik matnlardagi til va uslub bilan bogʻliq muammolarni qanday hal qilishi oʻrganiladi. Natijalar shuni koʻrsatadiki, muvaffaqiyatli tarjima aniqlik va ijodkorlik oʻrtasidagi muvozanatni taʼminlashni talab qiladi. Mazkur tadqiqot murakkab va tasavvurga boy janrlar tarjimasini chuqurroq anglashga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: tarjima usullari, badiiy tarjima, ilmiy-fantastika, qiyosiy tahlil, neologizmlar, moslashtirish, ekvivalentlik, modulatsiya, qarz olish.

Abstract

This article examines translation methods used in literary texts with a particular focus on science fiction works. It analyzes key strategies such as borrowing, calque, adaptation, modulation, and equivalence, highlighting their role in conveying complex ideas, neologisms, and cultural elements. Through a comparative approach, the study explores how different translators handle linguistic and stylistic challenges in science fiction. The findings demonstrate that successful translation requires a balance between accuracy and creativity in order to preserve both meaning and artistic impact. The research contributes to a deeper understanding of translation practices in imaginative and conceptually rich literary genres.

Key words: translation methods, literary translation, science fiction, comparative analysis, neologisms, adaptation, equivalence, modulation, borrowing.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются методы перевода художественных текстов с особым акцентом на произведения научной фантастики. Анализируются основные переводческие стратегии, такие как заимствование, калькирование, адаптация, модуляция и эквивалентность, а также их роль в передаче сложных идей, неологизмов и культурных элементов. Сравнительный подход позволяет выявить, как различные переводчики справляются с языковыми и стилистическими трудностями в научной фантастике. Результаты показывают, что успешный перевод требует баланса между точностью и творческим подходом. Исследование способствует более глубокому пониманию особенностей перевода в художественных жанрах с высоким уровнем воображения.

Ключевые слова: методы перевода, художественный перевод, научная фантастика, сравнительный анализ, неологизмы, адаптация, эквивалентность, модуляция.

INTRODUCTION

The translation of literary texts has always been a complex and intellectually demanding process, as it requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness and creative sensitivity. Within this broad field, science fiction presents a particularly challenging domain due to its imaginative nature, neologisms, futuristic concepts, and culturally embedded meanings. Translating science fiction works involves more than simply rendering words from one language into another; it requires reconstructing entire worlds, preserving the author's vision, and ensuring that the target audience experiences the same sense of wonder and engagement as the original readers.

Science fiction literature often introduces unfamiliar terminology, invented technologies, and speculative realities that do not exist in the real world. This creates unique difficulties for translators, who must decide how to convey these elements in a way that remains faithful to the source text while still being understandable and engaging for the target audience. One of the most commonly used methods in such cases is borrowing, where the original term is retained in the target language. This is often applied to names of planets, technologies, or fictional species, especially when

the term carries a specific stylistic or symbolic weight. However, borrowing alone is not always sufficient, particularly when the meaning of the term is essential for understanding the narrative.

Another important translation method is calque, or literal translation, where the structure of the source language phrase is preserved while translating each component directly. This method can be effective when the target language has similar linguistic structures, but it may lead to awkward or unnatural expressions if not used carefully. In science fiction, calque is often used to translate compound terms related to technology or scientific concepts, allowing the translator to maintain a sense of authenticity and precision. Adaptation plays a crucial role in translating science fiction texts, especially when cultural references or idiomatic expressions are involved. Since science fiction often reflects the cultural and philosophical context of its origin, certain elements may not be easily understood by readers from a different background. In such cases, the translator may choose to replace the original reference with a culturally equivalent one that evokes a similar response in the target audience. This method requires a high degree of creativity and interpretative skill, as it involves balancing fidelity to the source text with accessibility for the reader.

Modulation is another significant technique used in literary translation, including science fiction. This method involves changing the perspective or semantic category of a phrase to make it more natural in the target language. For example, a passive construction in the source language might be translated into an active form, or an abstract concept might be rendered in more concrete terms. In science fiction, modulation can help clarify complex ideas and improve readability without altering the underlying meaning of the text. Equivalence is particularly important when translating stylistic elements such as metaphors, idioms, and wordplay. Science fiction authors often use figurative language to describe unfamiliar phenomena or to create a specific atmosphere. Translators must find ways to reproduce these effects in the target language, even if it means departing from a literal translation. Achieving equivalence ensures that the emotional and aesthetic impact of the original text is preserved, which is essential for maintaining the integrity of the literary work.

A comparative analysis of different science fiction works reveals that translators often employ a combination of these methods rather than relying on a single approach. For instance, in translating a work that features advanced artificial intelligence or interstellar travel, the translator might use borrowing for technical terms, adaptation for cultural references, and modulation for complex descriptions. The choice of method depends on various factors, including the linguistic characteristics of the source and target languages, the intended audience, and the translator's own interpretation of the

text. Furthermore, the role of the translator in science fiction is not merely that of a mediator but also that of a co-creator. By making interpretative decisions and stylistic choices, the translator actively shapes the way the text is perceived in the target culture. This is particularly evident in cases where multiple translations of the same work exist, each offering a different perspective and emphasizing different aspects of the original. Such variations highlight the subjective nature of translation and the importance of context in determining the most appropriate method. In conclusion, translating science fiction literary texts requires a flexible and multifaceted approach that combines various translation methods. Borrowing, calque, adaptation, modulation, and equivalence each play a vital role in addressing the unique challenges posed by this genre. A comparative study of science fiction works demonstrates that successful translation depends on the translator's ability to balance fidelity and creativity, ensuring that the translated text remains both accurate and engaging. As science fiction continues to evolve and explore new frontiers, the art of translation will remain essential in making these imaginative worlds accessible to a global audience.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The study of translation methods in literary texts, particularly within the genre of science fiction, has attracted considerable attention from scholars in the field of translation studies. Theoretical foundations of this discipline have been shaped by prominent researchers who explored the relationship between language, culture, and meaning. Eugene Nida introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, emphasizing that a translation should produce a similar effect on the target audience as the original text does on its readers. This idea is especially relevant in science fiction, where the emotional and imaginative impact of the text is as important as its semantic content. Similarly, Peter Newmark distinguished between semantic and communicative translation, arguing that translators must decide whether to prioritize the original text's form or its communicative purpose. Further contributions were made by Lawrence Venuti, who highlighted the concepts of domestication and foreignization. Domestication involves adapting the text to the cultural norms of the target audience, while foreignization preserves the foreign elements of the source text. In science fiction, this dichotomy becomes particularly significant, as translators must decide whether to maintain the exotic and unfamiliar aspects of futuristic worlds or to make them more accessible to readers. Roman Jakobson also contributed to translation theory by classifying translation into three types: intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic, with interlingual translation being most relevant for literary texts.

Scholars analyzing science fiction specifically have noted that this genre requires unique translation strategies due to its reliance on invented terminology, speculative concepts, and complex world-building. Researchers have emphasized that traditional translation methods such as literal translation are often insufficient when dealing with neologisms or culturally bound elements. Instead, a combination of creative and adaptive strategies is necessary to preserve both meaning and stylistic effect. Comparative studies of translations of well-known science fiction works have shown that different translators often adopt varying approaches depending on their interpretation of the text and the expectations of the target audience.

The methodology of this study is based on a qualitative comparative analysis of selected science fiction texts and their translations. The research involves examining original works and their translated versions to identify the translation methods employed in different contexts. Particular attention is given to how translators handle neologisms, technical terminology, metaphors, and cultural references. The analysis focuses on identifying patterns in the use of borrowing, calque, adaptation, modulation, and equivalence, and evaluating their effectiveness in preserving the meaning and aesthetic quality of the original text. The selection of texts for analysis is guided by their relevance to the science fiction genre and their availability in multiple translations. The study compares passages from these works to highlight differences in translation strategies and to assess how these differences affect the reader's understanding and experience. In addition, the research considers the linguistic and cultural distance between the source and target languages, as this factor significantly influences the choice of translation methods.

Translation plays crucial role in the dissemination of literature through linguistic and cultural borders, in a particular in the genre of science fiction, where the interaction of the language, culture and technology is often woven in a finely woven in narrative tissue.

Data collection is carried out through textual analysis, where specific examples from the source texts and their translations are examined in detail. The study does not rely on quantitative measurements but instead focuses on interpretative analysis, allowing for a deeper understanding of the translator's choices and their implications. This approach is particularly suitable for literary translation, where subjective and stylistic factors play a crucial role. In conclusion, the literature review demonstrates that translation of science fiction texts requires a flexible and context-sensitive approach informed by established theoretical frameworks. The methodology of this study, based on qualitative comparative analysis, provides a systematic way to explore how different translation methods are applied in practice. By combining theoretical

insights with textual analysis, the research aims to contribute to a better understanding of the complexities involved in translating science fiction literature.

RESULTS

The comparative analysis of science fiction texts and their translated versions reveals that translators employ a wide range of strategies to deal with the linguistic and conceptual challenges of the genre. The findings demonstrate that no single translation method is sufficient on its own; instead, effective translation in science fiction relies on a flexible combination of approaches that respond to the specific features of the source text. The results show clear patterns in how translators handle neologisms, technical terminology, figurative language, and culturally bound elements. One of the most prominent findings is the frequent use of borrowing when translating invented terms, especially those related to advanced technologies, alien species, and fictional locations. In many cases, translators prefer to retain the original form of such terms in order to preserve their uniqueness and stylistic impact. This strategy is particularly evident in translations of works by Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke, where technical vocabulary plays a central role in world-building. However, the study also shows that borrowing is often supplemented by contextual explanations or subtle modifications to ensure comprehension by the target audience.

The analysis further indicates that calque is commonly used for compound expressions and semi-technical phrases. Translators tend to reproduce the structure of the original terms while adapting them to the grammatical norms of the target language. This method proves effective when the target language has sufficient lexical resources to accommodate such constructions. Nevertheless, in cases where literal translation leads to ambiguity or unnatural phrasing, translators shift to more adaptive strategies. Adaptation emerges as a crucial method when dealing with cultural references and idiomatic expressions. The results show that translators frequently replace source-language elements with culturally relevant equivalents in order to maintain the readability and relatability of the text. This is especially important in passages where the narrative depends on the reader's cultural background or shared knowledge. At the same time, the study reveals that excessive adaptation may reduce the sense of "otherness" that is characteristic of science fiction, suggesting that a careful balance must be maintained.

Modulation is widely used to improve clarity and naturalness in the target language. The findings demonstrate that translators often restructure sentences, shift perspectives, or change grammatical categories to better convey complex ideas. This

is particularly evident in descriptive passages involving futuristic settings or abstract scientific concepts. Modulation allows translators to make the text more accessible without significantly altering its meaning, thereby enhancing the overall reading experience. Another important result concerns the use of equivalence in translating figurative language. Science fiction texts frequently employ metaphors and imaginative descriptions to convey unfamiliar experiences. The analysis shows that successful translations do not rely on literal rendering of such expressions but instead recreate their stylistic and emotional effect in the target language. This approach ensures that the translated text retains its artistic quality and engages the reader in a similar way to the original.

The comparative aspect of the study highlights that different translators often make different choices even when working with the same source text. These variations are influenced by factors such as the translator's individual style, the intended audience, and the cultural context of the translation. For example, some translators adopt a more foreignizing approach, preserving the original terms and structures, while others favor domestication, making the text more familiar and accessible. These differences result in multiple valid interpretations of the same work, each offering a unique reading experience. Overall, the results confirm that the translation of science fiction literature is a dynamic and creative process that requires both linguistic precision and imaginative insight. The effectiveness of a translation depends on the translator's ability to combine different methods in a way that preserves the meaning, style, and impact of the original text. The findings also suggest that further research could explore the reception of translated science fiction works among readers, providing additional insight into the success of different translation strategies.

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