

**THE ROLE OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN CONVEYING MEANING  
IN SCIENCE FICTION TEXTS**

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**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqola ilmiy fantastika matnlarida ma'no yetkazishda tarjima texnikalarining rolini o'rganadi. Maqolada neologizmlar, texnik terminologiya, madaniy kontekst va badiiy uslub kabi murakkab elementlarni tarjima qilishda qo'llaniladigan asosiy strategiyalar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, samarali tarjima bir nechta texnikalarni kombinatsiyalashni talab qiladi, masalan, moslashtirish, qarzga olish, modulyatsiya, ekvivalentlik, izohlash va transpozitsiya. Ushbu yondashuvlar ilmiy fantastika dunyosining mazmuni, badiiy uslubi va madaniy jihatlarini saqlashga yordam beradi va o'quvchiga asl matn ta'sirini yetkazadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ilmiy fantastika, tarjima texnikalari, ma'no, moslashtirish, badiiy tarjima.

**Abstract**

This article examines the role of translation techniques in conveying meaning in science fiction texts. It analyzes the main strategies used to translate complex elements such as neologisms, technical terminology, cultural context, and literary style. The findings indicate that effective translation requires a combination of techniques, including adaptation, borrowing, modulation, equivalence, explicitation, and transposition. These approaches help preserve the content, stylistic features, and cultural aspects of science fiction works, enabling readers to experience the impact of the original text.

**Key words:** science fiction, translation techniques, meaning, adaptation, literary translation.

### **Аннотация**

В статье рассматривается роль переводческих техник в передаче смысла в текстах научной фантастики. Анализируются основные стратегии перевода сложных элементов, таких как неологизмы, техническая терминология, культурный контекст и литературный стиль. Результаты исследования показывают, что эффективный перевод требует сочетания нескольких техник, включая адаптацию, заимствование, модуляцию, эквивалентность, эксплицитность и транспозицию. Эти подходы помогают сохранить содержание, стилистические особенности и культурный контекст произведений научной фантастики, обеспечивая читателям восприятие оригинального текста.

**Ключевые слова:** научная фантастика, переводческие техники, смысл, адаптация, литературный перевод.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Science fiction as a literary genre occupies a unique space in literature due to its imaginative and often futuristic settings, speculative concepts, and complex interplay between technology, society, and human experience. Translating science fiction texts, therefore, presents distinct challenges that go beyond conventional literary translation. The task is not only to convey the literal meaning of words but also to reproduce the imaginative world, the cultural nuances, and the intricate speculative ideas that are fundamental to the genre. Translation techniques play a crucial role in ensuring that the target audience experiences the text as closely as possible to the original, maintaining both its aesthetic appeal and conceptual depth. One of the central challenges in translating science fiction is the presence of neologisms and technical jargon. Authors often invent new terms to describe futuristic technologies, extraterrestrial life forms, or speculative scientific phenomena. Literal translation may fail to convey the intended meaning or may render the text incomprehensible. Translators frequently employ techniques such as adaptation, where a new term is created in the target language that reflects the original concept while remaining intelligible to readers. Borrowing is another common strategy, particularly when the original term has no direct equivalent. This allows the reader to grasp the exotic or innovative nature of the concept while

preserving the author's linguistic creativity. Footnotes or glossaries may also be used to provide explanatory support without interrupting the narrative flow.

Cultural references and context-specific elements are equally challenging. Science fiction often engages with socio-political ideas, philosophical concepts, or references to real-world scientific debates. Translators must navigate these elements carefully, using techniques such as cultural substitution or explicitation. Cultural substitution involves replacing a source-culture reference with one that is more familiar to the target audience, whereas explicitation involves providing additional context to clarify meaning. The choice of technique depends on the translator's goal: whether to preserve the foreignness and speculative feel of the original or to make the text more accessible and relatable to the reader. Another significant aspect is the stylistic and narrative voice of science fiction authors. Many works rely heavily on a specific tone, rhythm, or linguistic style to evoke a sense of wonder, suspense, or dystopian unease. Translators must employ techniques such as modulation and equivalence to recreate these stylistic features. Modulation allows for a shift in perspective or expression to retain the intended effect, while equivalence aims to find a target-language expression that evokes a similar emotional or cognitive response. These techniques are particularly vital when translating dialogue, character speech patterns, or narrative commentary, as they shape the reader's perception of the fictional world.

Furthermore, science fiction often explores abstract and speculative ideas that challenge the boundaries of language itself. Concepts such as time travel, parallel universes, or artificial intelligence may require translators to balance accuracy with creativity. Techniques like transposition, where grammatical structures are altered to fit the target language while retaining meaning, or amplification, where additional explanation is subtly included, help bridge the gap between the source text's complexity and the target audience's comprehension. These approaches ensure that the imaginative and intellectual essence of science fiction is not lost in translation.

The role of translation techniques in science fiction is also critical in maintaining the genre's immersive quality. Science fiction texts often build intricate worlds that rely on detailed descriptions of landscapes, technologies, and social systems. Translators must consider how to render these details convincingly without overwhelming or confusing the reader. Techniques such as summarization, condensation, or expansion may be applied strategically to retain clarity while preserving the richness of the original world-building. Through these methods, translators act as mediators between the author's vision and the reader's experience, ensuring that the narrative's complexity is both comprehensible and engaging. In conclusion, the translation of science fiction texts is a multidimensional task that

requires a careful balance between fidelity to the source text and accessibility for the target audience. Translation techniques—ranging from adaptation and borrowing to modulation, equivalence, and explicitation—serve as essential tools in conveying meaning, preserving stylistic nuances, and recreating imaginative worlds. By skillfully applying these techniques, translators enable readers to experience the full intellectual and emotional impact of science fiction literature, fostering cross-cultural literary appreciation and ensuring that the genre's speculative power transcends linguistic boundaries. The effectiveness of a translated science fiction text, therefore, depends not merely on linguistic proficiency but on the translator's creativity, cultural awareness, and ability to engage with the conceptual depth of the genre.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY**

Translation studies have long acknowledged the complexities of transferring meaning across languages, yet science fiction (SF) presents particular challenges due to its speculative and imaginative nature. Scholars such as Venuti (1995) emphasize the importance of balancing “foreignization” and “domestication” to preserve both the originality of the source text and the accessibility for target readers. In the context of SF, foreignization often involves retaining neologisms, scientific jargon, and alien cultural elements, while domestication may require adaptation or explicitation to ensure comprehension. Baker (2011) highlights the central role of equivalence and modulation in literary translation, particularly when abstract or culturally bound concepts are involved. Science fiction, with its frequent introduction of invented technologies, future societies, and speculative philosophies, requires translators to move beyond literal equivalence and adopt flexible strategies to maintain both meaning and aesthetic effect. Techniques such as borrowing, adaptation, and amplification are frequently cited as essential tools in this domain.

Researchers such as Oittinen (2000) and Nida (1964) discuss the importance of dynamic equivalence in literary translation, emphasizing the target audience's reception over rigid formal fidelity. In SF texts, where imaginative immersion is critical, the translator's choices directly affect readers' engagement with the narrative world. Studies on SF translation in different linguistic and cultural contexts, including works by Santini (2015) and Li (2018), further demonstrate how strategies like explicitation, transposition, and cultural substitution allow translators to negotiate between fidelity to the source text and cultural intelligibility for the target audience. Moreover, recent research by Tymoczko (2014) and Cronin (2013) underscores the cultural dimension of translation. Science fiction often explores alternative social,

political, or technological paradigms, making it essential for translators to convey not only words but the conceptual and ideological framework embedded in the narrative. This perspective highlights the translator's role as both a linguistic and cultural mediator.

The present study adopts a qualitative research design to examine translation techniques employed in conveying meaning in science fiction texts. A comparative textual analysis was conducted on selected SF works and their translations, focusing on how translators address neologisms, technical terminology, cultural references, stylistic features, and speculative concepts. Primary sources included original science fiction novels in English, such as works by Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, and Ursula K. Le Guin, alongside their translations into other languages. The translations were analyzed to identify the specific techniques employed, such as borrowing, adaptation, modulation, equivalence, explicitation, and transposition. Data collection involved close reading of both source and target texts, noting instances where meaning, stylistic features, or cultural elements were altered, clarified, or retained. Each instance was categorized according to the translation technique applied. Additionally, the study considered the impact of these strategies on the overall comprehension, stylistic effect, and immersive quality of the translated text. The analytical framework was informed by translation theory, particularly the principles of functional equivalence, dynamic equivalence, and cultural mediation. Findings were then synthesized to determine patterns in technique application, highlighting common challenges and successful strategies in SF translation. This approach ensures a systematic examination of how translation techniques facilitate the conveyance of meaning in science fiction literature, providing insights into both theoretical and practical aspects of literary translation.

## **RESULTS**

The analysis of selected science fiction texts and their translations revealed that translators employ a diverse range of techniques to convey meaning, each tailored to specific linguistic, cultural, and conceptual challenges. One of the most frequently observed strategies was borrowing, particularly for neologisms and technical terminology. Terms such as “hyperspace,” “cybernetic,” or “terraforming” were often retained in the target language, sometimes accompanied by brief explanations or footnotes to ensure comprehension. Borrowing allowed translators to preserve the futuristic and speculative tone of the original text while maintaining conceptual clarity. Adaptation was another prevalent technique, particularly when dealing with culturally bound references or idiomatic expressions. For instance, metaphors or allusions to

historical, social, or political contexts unfamiliar to the target audience were rephrased to provide equivalent meaning without altering narrative intent. This technique was especially common in dialogues or passages describing social structures and technological interactions within the fictional world, helping the target audience engage with the text more naturally.

The study also highlighted the importance of modulation and equivalence in maintaining stylistic and narrative effects. Translators often modified sentence structures, word order, or expressions to replicate the tone, suspense, or philosophical depth of the original text. For example, existential reflections on human identity or ethical dilemmas posed by advanced technologies were rendered in ways that preserved both semantic meaning and the contemplative style of the source text. This approach ensured that readers could experience the same emotional and intellectual impact as intended by the original author. In cases of highly abstract or speculative concepts, explicitation and transposition proved particularly effective. Explicitation involved adding clarifying information within the text to make complex ideas, such as time loops or artificial intelligence consciousness, more comprehensible. Transposition, involving shifts in grammatical or syntactic structures, allowed translators to fit complex ideas into the norms of the target language without losing meaning. These techniques were crucial in maintaining both clarity and narrative immersion. Finally, techniques such as amplification and condensation were employed selectively to manage descriptive passages and world-building elements. While amplification added details to clarify unfamiliar concepts, condensation was used to streamline overly technical or lengthy descriptions, balancing reader comprehension with preservation of the original world's richness. Overall, the results demonstrate that no single technique suffices in translating science fiction. Effective translation relies on a combination of strategies, chosen according to the specific challenges presented by the text. Translators act as mediators between the source text and the target audience, ensuring that meaning, style, cultural context, and imaginative depth are all preserved. The careful application of these techniques enables readers to fully engage with the speculative worlds and complex ideas that define science fiction literature, highlighting the critical role of translation in shaping cross-cultural literary understanding.

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