

Extralinguistic aspects of translation

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Annotation: *This article aims to provide insight into the concept of extralinguistic factors in Linguistics and their role in the process of translation. It highlights the importance of factors that are not directly relevant to language in shaping the linguistic norms and regulations behind translation and discusses the scope of extralinguistic factors, the way they influence linguistic processes and lexical choices with real-life examples. The article also outlines all the possible non-linguistic factors that have a profound impact on linguistic production and perception, interpretation as well as verbal and non-verbal communication. Furthermore, this article sheds light on the role of extralinguistic factors in translation with a particular emphasis on specialized translation. It points out the challenges posed by extralinguistic factors during translation process, such as lack of equivalence, cultural and political barriers, and untranslatability. Having discussed these, article also provides numerous translation techniques, including adaptation, cultural substitution, descriptive translation which help the translation to be carried out successfully.*

Key words: *extralinguistics, equivalence, translation techniques, descriptive translation, pragmatic equivalence, dynamic equivalence, cultural substitution, adaptation, explicitation*

Экстралингвистические аспекты перевода

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Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается понятие экстралингвистических факторов в лингвистике и их роль в процессе перевода. Особое внимание уделяется важности внеязыковых факторов, которые, несмотря на свою непрямую связь с языком, оказывают значительное влияние на формирование языковых норм и регуляций в переводческой деятельности. В статье рассматриваются сфера охвата экстралингвистических факторов, их влияние на языковые процессы и лексический выбор на примере реальных ситуаций. Также освещаются все возможные внеязыковые факторы, оказывающие влияние на языковое восприятие, интерпретацию, а также на вербальную и невербальную коммуникацию. Особое внимание уделено роли экстралингвистических факторов в специализированных видах перевода. Статья отмечает трудности, возникающие в процессе перевода под влиянием этих факторов, и предлагаются возможные пути их преодоления. Отдельное внимание уделяется роли экстралингвистических факторов в специализированном переводе, где подчеркиваются такие трудности, как культурные различия, политические барьеры, отсутствие эквивалентов и проблемы непереводимости. В заключение в статье рассматриваются эффективные переводческие стратегии, включая адаптацию, культурную замену и описательный перевод, которые способствуют точному и культурно адекватному переводу.*

Ключевые слова: *экстралингвистика, эквивалентность, переводческие приёмы, описательный перевод, прагматическая эквивалентность, динамическая эквивалентность, культурная замена, адаптация, эксплицитация.*

Tarjima jarayonining ekstralingvistik omillari

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada tilshunoslikda ekstralingvistik omillar tushunchasi va ularning tarjima jarayonidagi o'rni haqida so'z boradi. Maqolada til bilan bevosita bog'liq bo'lmasa ham tarjima me'yorlari va qoidalarini shakllantirishda muhim ahamiyat kasb etuvchi omillar muhokama qilinadi. Shuningdek, maqolada ekstralingvistik omillarning ko'lami, ularning lisoniy jarayonlar va lug'aviy tanlovlarga bo'lgan ta'siri hayotiy misollar orqali ko'rsatib beriladi. Xususan, muayyan nutqning paydo bo'lishi va qabul qilinishiga, talqin etilishiga, shuningdek, og'zaki va noverbal kommunikatsiyaga ta'sir ko'rsatadigan barcha mumkin bo'lgan tilga daxldor bo'lmagan omillar ham yoritiladi. Maqolada ayniqsa maxsuma matnlarning tarjima jarayonida ekstralingvistik omillarning o'rni alohida ta'kidlanadi. Ushbu omillar tufayli tarjima jarayonida yuzaga keladigan muammolar va ularni bartaraf etish bo'yicha takliflar ham bayon etiladi. Tarjima jarayonidagi bir qator muammolar, xususan, madaniy va siyosiy tafovutlar, ekvivalentlarning mavjud emasligi kabi muammolar misollar bilan tahlil qilinib, tarjima jarayonining muvaffaqiyatli kechishida qo'l keluvchi bir qator moslashtirish, tavsifiy tarjima, madaniy ekvivalent bilan almashtirish kabi tarjima usullari ushbu muammolarga yechim sifatida talqin qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: ekstralingvistika, ekvivalentlik, tavsifiy tarjima, pragmatik ekvivalentlik, dinamik ekvivalentlik, madaniy almashtirish, moslashtirish

Translation, by its nature, is not merely a process of converting words from one language into another. It is a complex intercultural communication act where the context, culture, and cognition play equally vital roles as language itself. Linguists and translation scholars emphasize the fact that linguistic equivalence alone is not sufficient to render a faithful and meaningful translation. Extralinguistic factors – those elements outside the language system – affect both the translator's choices and the audience's understanding of a text. These include cultural norms, social values, historical background, psychological context, professional knowledge, and even political and ideological climates. This article aims to explore the multifaceted nature of extralinguistic aspects in translation, underline their significance in various translation contexts, and offer suggestions for translators to effectively deal with these factors.

The evolution of translation studies has undergone numerous paradigm shifts, moving from a purely linguistic perspective to more communicative and functional approaches. Among these, the pragmatic approach has gained increasing relevance since the mid-20th century. This shift coincided with a broader awareness of the role of extralinguistic factors – such as culture, context, speaker intention, and situational variables – in shaping the meaning and effectiveness of translated texts.

Before the emergence of pragmatic and functional approaches, translation was mainly viewed through the lens of structural linguistics. In the early to mid-20th century, theorists such as Vinay and Darbelnet, Catford, and Nida focused primarily on equivalence at the grammatical and lexical levels. Translation was considered a mechanical act of substituting source language units with their target language equivalents. However, this approach soon revealed its limitations, especially in handling idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and texts where meaning was deeply embedded in context. Linguistic equivalence alone failed to account for how and why meaning changes across contexts and cultures.

The pragmatic approach to translation emerged as a response to the need for more context-sensitive translations and primarily due to the anthropocentric paradigm, which focused human as a spotlight of scientific research and concepts. This also served as a milestone for the development of

various branches of linguistics, such as pragmatics, sociolinguistics and cognitive linguistics. Eugene Nida (1964) laid the groundwork with his concepts about dynamic equivalence that emphasized the effect of translation on the target audience over strict linguistic correspondence. Following this, Julienne House, a German translator scholar, introduced the notion of pragmatic equivalence in her seminal work “A Model for Translation Quality Assessment”. House emphasized the need for translation to maintain pragmatic meaning, which includes elements such as illocutionary force (the speaker’s intention) and communicative function of the original text. Her model proposed that translations should be assessed not only on lexical or grammatical correspondence, but also on how well they preserve the original’s pragmatic meaning in the target language and culture.

These fundamental ideas were further developed by Mona Baker, who extensively researched various types of equivalence, in particular pragmatic equivalence, in her book “In other words: A coursebook on Translation”; by Christiane Nord, who placed extralinguistic factors at the center of translation analysis, such as text type, sender/receiver roles, situation, and purpose and discusses each of them in his book “Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis”. She also developed functional-pragmatic model of specialized translation which became the basis for translating special texts. She bridges theory and practice, making her model extremely useful for translators dealing with non-literary or specialized texts, where context and purpose are everything. Susan Bassnet also made a huge contribution to the recognition of the importance of culture, history, ideology and power structures in translation studies.

Despite such extensive research work, there are several problems still pending when it comes to the extralinguistic factors of language. Their scope and range is also a debatable issue. Notwithstanding the contrasting views, it is generally accepted that extralinguistic factors can cover, but not limited to the followings:

- **Cultural Context:** customs, traditions, religious beliefs, and historical background. Differences in traditions, beliefs, and customs often hinder direct translation. Culturally loaded words and expressions need to be replaced with their equivalents, or when faced with the lack of equivalence, translated with further descriptions, definitions and footnotes.

- **Social and Political Factors:** societal structures, ideologies, legal and institutional frameworks;

- **Historical background:** each nation carries its own unique history, historical events and traditions that have shaped their beliefs, values and way of life over time. One way or the other, they affect the process of translation.

- **Situational Context:** time, place, purpose of communication, relationship between participants. Codes of conduct and norms of social communication differ from culture to culture, resulting in certain changes in the way translation material is decoded in the target language.

- **Subject-specific Knowledge:** technical, scientific, or legal terminology requiring domain expertise.

- **Receiver and Sender (Addressee and Addressor):** the producer of the translation material and the audience it is aimed at;

Culture is one of the most significant extralinguistic factors. A simple word or phrase can carry cultural connotations that may be lost in direct translation. For example, idioms, proverbs, or culturally specific references (such as holidays, cuisine, clothing) often do not have exact equivalents in other languages. For instance, a very common English idiom “*raining cats and dogs*” has a culturally loaded origins which makes it difficult to interpret it into Uzbek directly.

Cultural views and conceptions can also significantly influence the way we translate certain words and our lexical choices in the process of translation. For instance, the word “privacy” is relatively awkward to be translated and used in its direct meaning in Uzbek translations. The main reason for this is that the English concept of “privacy” emphasizes individual space and autonomy, especially in Western culture, while Uzbek society is more collectivist; personal boundaries are often

different, so there is no perfect equivalent. It is often translated as *shaxsiy hayot*, *shaxsiylik* or *yolg'izlik*, but these do not carry the full cultural weight of the word.

Political factors can also influence the process of translation in many ways. In contexts where political regimes maintain strict control over media or education, translations may be adjusted to align with official ideologies or avoid politically sensitive content. In some cases, they may face a social-political concept that is align to the target audience. such instance directly influence the lexical choices, terminology selection and translation techniques involved in the process. Differences between the legal systems of countries of the source and target language and differing socio-political beliefs makes it especially difficult to translate certain terms and jargons, as they may not have direct equivalents. For instance, terms *Habeas Corpus*, *Tort law* which has strong association with the legal history and the culture, legal system of the UK cannot be fully transferred into Uzbek without descriptive translation as there concepts do not exist in the legal code of Uzbekistan.

Social norms, cultural expectations, and the audience's values also greatly impact translation. What is acceptable in one culture may be considered inappropriate or offensive in another, requiring the translator to adapt, localize, or omit content to suit social sensibilities. The translator must constantly navigate between fidelity to the source text and acceptability in the target culture. Political neutrality may not always be possible, especially when working with state institutions, international organizations, or public media. Therefore, translators must not only be linguistically competent but also socially and politically aware.

Situational context helps the translator identify the tone, register and style, formality and informality of the translation material. It is important particularly when dealing with context-bound words that carry different meaning in different situations.

Wars, historical events and names of places and heroes associated with the history of the language usually move to the language use over time. Translating them directly would make the translation outcome incoherent for the translator. For instance, an expression "*This is our Vietnam*" is mainly used to describe longstanding political conflicts and crisis. However, translating it directly as "*Bu bizning Vyetnamimiz*" is not appropriate, because it would not create the same emotional and situational impact on the target audience as is intended by the author and make the text incoherent for the reader. Important historical figures are also frequently used metaphorically to express personality traits of people, causing a confusion for the reader, if not translated with further extensions or cultural substitution.

Communication includes not only words but also gestures, tone, facial expressions, and body language. While translating written texts, some of these non-verbal cues are embedded in the text structure or formatting (e.g., punctuation, capitalization, italics). In audiovisual translation, like dubbing or subtitling, recognizing these cues becomes even more crucial. For instance, a sarcastic tone in the original may not be explicitly marked. A translator must infer sarcasm from context and use suitable strategies to render the same effect in the target language. Interpreting (oral translation), extralinguistic factors like the speaker's tone, emphasis, body language, and immediate physical environment become vital to convey the message accurately.

As serious as these concerns are, there is always a way for the translator, as a mediator, to achieve a successful translation. One way is to use cultural substitution, especially with cultural concepts that are unfamiliar to target audience. Culturally unfamiliar concept can be substituted with rather familiar ones to the target audience. A good case in point is Christmas, a common celebration in England which is mainly associated with religion. In many occasions regards as "Merry Christmas" and the word itself is translated as "Yangi yil" in Uzbek language, because, although New Year's Eve and Christmas are two different occasions, New Year is more relevant and understandable to Uzbek culture. Explication and descriptive translation techniques are also widely used, because they clarify the word with further information, making it coherent for the target audience.

It can be said as a conclusion that translation is not merely a linguistic act but a deeply contextual and cultural endeavor. Extralinguistic factors such as history, politics, culture, professional

knowledge, and interpersonal dynamics shape the way meaning is constructed and conveyed across languages. Understanding and effectively navigating these factors is essential for translators who aim to deliver accurate, functional, and culturally sensitive translations. By integrating linguistic skills with extralinguistic awareness, translators become true mediators of meaning between cultures.

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