TRANSLATION CHALLENGES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN LITERARY TEXTS

Kamola Aripova Yusupova
International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan
Senior Teacher (PhD), Department of Uzbek and Foreign Languages
E-mail: kamolakind@mail.ru

Abstract: *This article examines the stylistic and semantic peculiarities of phraseological units in literary translation and analyzes the major difficulties that arise during the process of translating them between Uzbek and English. The paper also discusses the most common translation strategies used for rendering phraseological expressions in literary texts.*

Keywords: *phraseological unit, literary translation, stylistics, analog translation, descriptive translation, idioms, semantic equivalence, stylistic device.*

Literary translation is considered one of the most difficult and responsible branches of translation studies. This is because literary texts contain not only meaning, but also stylistic coloring, national spirit, and the author's individual style. Phraseological units are among the main tools that enhance the emotional expressiveness of literary works. They reflect the culture, traditions, and worldview of a nation.

Phraseological units are stable expressions consisting of two or more components and carrying a figurative meaning. Translating the components separately may distort the overall meaning of the expression. Therefore,

translators must carefully analyze both the literal and contextual meanings of such units.

The Russian linguist V.V. Vinogradov classified phraseological units into three groups: phraseological fusions, phraseological unities, and phraseological combinations. This classification serves as an important theoretical basis for studying the translation of phraseological units.

The translation of phraseological units requires not only linguistic knowledge but also extra-linguistic competence. A translator should preserve the figurative and stylistic features of the original text while making the translated version understandable for readers of another language.

In translation practice, three main methods are commonly used: literal translation, analog translation, and descriptive translation. Each method has its own advantages and disadvantages depending on the context and cultural background.

Literal translation involves translating each component of the phraseological unit directly. For example, the English expression “a drop in the ocean” can be translated literally into Uzbek as “dengizdan bir tomchi.”

Analog translation is considered one of the most effective methods because it replaces a phraseological unit in one language with an equivalent expression in another language. For instance, the English idiom “to call a spade a spade” corresponds to the Uzbek expression “oqni oq, qorani qora demoq.”

In descriptive translation, the meaning of a phraseological unit is explained through a descriptive phrase when there is no direct equivalent in the target language. Although this method may reduce stylistic expressiveness, it helps preserve semantic clarity.

The national and cultural characteristics of phraseological units create one of the biggest challenges in translation. An image that seems natural in one culture may appear unfamiliar or incomprehensible in another.

For example, the Uzbek phraseological unit “Qordan qochib, yomg‘irga tutildi” is translated into English as “Out of the frying pan into the fire.” Although the imagery differs, the overall meaning remains preserved.

Connotative meaning is also highly important in the translation of phraseological units because the emotional and expressive impact of an idiom contributes significantly to the artistic value of a literary work.

The phraseological unit “Sanamay sakkiz demoq” has been translated into English as “Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched.” This serves as a successful example of analog translation.

Similarly, the Uzbek expression “Ko‘z-quloq bo‘lmoq” has been translated as “to be someone’s eyes and ears,” where both the figurative image and semantic meaning are preserved.

The phrase “o‘z tomiriga bolta chopmoq” has been rendered into English as “to take an axe to the branch on which one is sitting.” In this case, the translator successfully used a phraseological equivalent.

However, in some cases metaphorical expressions are replaced with simpler explanatory phrases during translation. This process is known as demetaphorization. Although the meaning may remain intact, the artistic imagery becomes weaker.

For example, the Uzbek sentence “burungi kular yuzini ham no‘qtalab oldi” was translated into English with a simpler expression. As a result, the semantic meaning was preserved, but the level of imagery decreased.

National and cultural differences play an important role in literary translation. Expressions reflecting Uzbek mentality and traditions are often difficult to reproduce directly in English.

The Uzbek phrase “Olma pish, og‘zimga tush” reflects criticism of achieving success without effort. In English, this meaning is conveyed through different figurative expressions.

Incorrect translation of phraseological units may reduce the artistic effect of a literary text. Therefore, translators must take into account not only the dictionary meaning of an expression but also its contextual and stylistic functions.

Among the existing methods, analog translation appears to be one of the most effective ways of translating phraseological units, as it helps preserve both stylistic and emotional features of the original text.

In conclusion, translating phraseological units from the novel “Night and Day” into English is a complex linguistic and cultural process that requires high professional competence, creativity, and deep cultural awareness from the translator.

REFERENCES

1. Yusupova, K. A. (2026). The Scientific-Theoretical Foundations of Literary Translation and Its Role in World Literature. International Scientific Journal of Biruni, 5(1), 17–24.

2. Aripova, K. Yu. (2021). The Distinctive Features of Translation of the Novel “Night and Day”. International Journal Art of the Word, 4(1–2).

3. Rahmatullaev, Sh. Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbek Phraseological Units. Tashkent: Gafur Ghulom Publishing House, 2022.

4. Beekman, J. Metonymy and Synecdoche. Notes on Translation, 1967, pp. 12–18.

5. Nerlich, B., Burkhardt, A. Tropical Truths: The Epistemology of Metaphor and Other Tropes. Walter de Gruyter & Co, 2010.

6. Mengliev, B.R. Modern Uzbek Language. Tashkent: Tafakkur Bustoni, 2018.

7. Lakoff, G., Johnson, M. Metaphors We Live By. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.

8. Radden, G., Kövecses, Z. Towards a Theory of Metonymy. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1999.

9. Qodiriy, A. Bygone Days. Tashkent: Sharq Publishing House, 2021.

10. Cholpon. Night and Day. Tashkent: Yangi Asr Avlodi, 2019.