

**TRANSLATING PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE: NAVIGATING LINGUISTIC, CULTURAL,
AND PRAGMATIC CHALLENGES**

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Annotation: This article addresses the difficulties experienced in translating children's books in relation to linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic issues that arose during the process. Children's literature has an important role in the imagination and moral development of young readers, and in order to successfully translate this literature into another language, special attention must be paid to both language specialist aspects and cultural differences. The study investigates the difficulty of expressing idiomatic phrases, cultural references, and emotional tones in a way that the target audience can understand. It also highlights the complexities of translating names, titles, and comedy, providing valuable insights for translators working in the field of children's literature.

Keywords: Children's literature, translation, linguistic challenges, cultural adaptation, pragmatic translation, idiomatic expressions, emotional tone, humor, cultural references.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются трудности, возникающие при переводе детской литературы, в связи с лингвистическими, культурными и прагматическими проблемами, возникающими в процессе перевода. Детская литература играет жизненно важную роль в развитии воображения и нравственности юного читателя, и для успешного перевода этой литературы на другой язык необходимо уделять особое внимание особенностям языка, а также

каждой культуре. В исследовании рассматриваются проблемы передачи идиоматических терминов, культурных отсылок и эмоциональных оттенков таким образом, чтобы они были понятны целевой аудитории. Она также раскрывает тонкости перевода имен, названий и юмора и дает полезную информацию переводчикам, работающим в области детской литературы.

Ключевые слова: *Детская литература, перевод, лингвистические трудности, культурная адаптация, прагматический перевод, идиоматические выражения, эмоциональный тон, юмор, культурные ссылки.*

Introduction

Children's literature shapes children's minds while also teaching them essential moral lessons and introducing them to difficult subjects in a new and simple way. Stories allow children to explore their surroundings, develop their imaginations, and learn about cultural values and social standards. Pinocchio, Little Red Riding Hood, and The Three Little Pigs are classic children's stories that have endured throughout centuries and countries.

However, translating these popular stories presents some significant obstacles. Unlike ordinary adult reading, children's novels must be accessible, engaging, and culturally suitable for the young reader. Translators of children's literature face the combined task of expressing the original meaning while also keeping the emotional and cultural aspects of the original work. The goal of this paper is to examine the central linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic issues involved in the translation of children's literature in such a way that it illuminates the complexities that translators face as they try to maintain the spirit of the story while adapting it to a new audience.

Methods

This study takes a qualitative approach to the obstacles of translating children's literature, taking into account linguistic and cultural issues, as well as the emotions represented in the text. The key areas of analysis are:

Artistic translation: textual comparison a review of children's stories in different languages (such as English, Uzbek, and Russian) was conducted to uncover common translation concerns. Specific examples of popular children's literature were investigated, with an emphasis on: Idiomatic idioms and wordplay. Emotional tone, humor Cultural realia includes names, food, and items. Descriptive language and images

Pragmatic Analysis: The research examines how pragmatic characteristics like as emotional cues, humor, and tone are kept or adapted in translation. It investigates whether translated texts preserve the same amount of emotional involvement, humor, and moral themes delivered by the original text.

Case Studies: specific case studies were derived from children's books that have been translated into multiple languages, including Alice in Wonderland and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. In these case studies, we will highlight the special translation decisions made by translators and their impact on the reception of the text by young readers in varied cultural contexts.

Results

The investigation revealed some reoccurring language, cultural, and pragmatic concerns that present significant challenges when translating children's literature:

Linguistic challenges

- Language in children's literature is typically basic and easy to understand. Translating a serious notion or an abstract concept into simple terms that children understand can be difficult. This is especially true when dealing with works that make extensive use of complex wordplay or formal language.

- Children's novels sometimes include idiomatic terms like 'raining cats and dogs' and 'the apple of my eye', which may not have a translation in the target language. These idioms can be quite difficult to translate without losing their intended meaning and emotion.
- Children's literature relies heavily on descriptive language and imagery to engage readers' imaginations. Descriptive terms like 'the extremely hungry caterpillar' or 'the huge evil wolf' might be culturally distinctive, making it difficult to maintain the same impact across languages.
- Children's novels often have a casual, welcoming, and conversational tone. Translators must use caution to avoid becoming overly formal, as this may alienate young readers. For example, if a comedic tone is utilized, it may need to be modified if the language does not permit such informality.

Cultural Challenges

Cultural Realia: a lot of children's books contain a lot of cultural allusions that the intended readership might not be familiar with, such as food, traditions, and historical occurrences. To make sense to the children of the other culture, things like sumalak, a classic Uzbek meal, or “do’ppi”, a kind of cap, may need to be explained or culturally modified.

Translating names in children's literature, names can carry significant cultural or descriptive connotations. There are a number of strategies in translating names, including:

- Leaving them untranslated for cultural integrity reasons (e.g. Mowgli, Pinocchio),
- Altering their spelling in order to be easier to pronounce,
- Translating descriptive names (Big Bad Wolf).

For instance the name Zumrad in Uzbek language (meaning emerald) has a symbolic meaning that may be lost if the name is directly translated.

Moral and pedagogical lessons: often, childrens books will teach lessons about morality such as about respect, kindness, or bravery. These lessons are sometimes based on cultural norms, and may need to be adapted to a different cultural context. For example, in children's literature from the West, family values are central while in books from collectivist cultures, the emphasis may be on the community or respect for older people. Pragmatic challenges include:

- emotional and tone-related elements. The warmth, compassion, or playfulness of a story is sometimes portrayed by subtle emotional clues or diminutives (for example, *bolajon* in Uzbek, which means 'dear child'). These linguistic nuances are often difficult to convey through translation without losing emotional depth.

- Wordplay, rhyming, and phonetic resemblance are frequently used in children's books to create humor, which can be difficult to translate into another language. Puns in *Alice in Wonderland*, for example ("I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date"), rely on the sound of words, making it difficult to keep the humour in translation. Similarly, humor based on cultural references or local idioms typically requires creative adaptation.

Discussion

The findings highlight the fact that translating children's literature is a difficult process that entails more than simply translating words. Translators must strike a delicate balance between meticulously keeping the original meaning and making the text engaging and understandable to young readers in the target culture.

Linguistic considerations: the difficulty of portraying idiomatic language and characteristics of imagery unique to a given culture emphasizes the importance of tailoring the message to its environment. In some circumstances, a literal translation is impossible or would be awkward, thus the translator must hunt for an analogous expression or be creative in order to paraphrase the text.

Cultural Sensitivity: cultural realities such as food, traditional clothes, or distinct customs necessitate special consideration. Translators may need to substitute or add to these references to make them more understandable to the target audience while maintaining the story's integrity. For example, a story set in a traditional Uzbek hamlet may need to alter specific cultural customs (such as hosting a large communal supper) for an audience unfamiliar with such practices while maintaining the spirit of the story. Tone and humor's pragmatic factor: maintaining the mood of a story is critical in children's literature. Humor, warmth, and affection are typically conveyed well through amusing language and character interplay, which can be easily lost in translation. For example, the use of diminutives in some languages, such as Uzbek, can show love and sensitivity, and it may be essential to seek analogs in the target language or use additional context to convey the same emotional value.

Conclusion

Translating children's literature is a difficult and nearly impossible endeavor that demands imagination, cultural reflection, and a tongue tied. Translators must handle language, culture, and pragmatic concerns while ensuring that the story is accessible and engaging to the target language's young readers. The outcomes of this study highlight the necessity of having a thorough awareness of the complexity of children's literature, which is more than just the transmission of words and necessitates a keen sensitivity to the subtleties of both language and culture. Despite the challenges, translating children's books has many benefits. A well-done translation can help introduce the next generation to beloved stories, expand their worldview, and foster a love of reading stories that cut beyond national boundaries. Translators are crucial in making stories come to life across cultural boundaries, enhancing children's reading experiences, and fostering their imaginations.

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