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## **COHESION SHIFTS IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO AZERBAIJANI ABSTRACT**

This article investigates cohesion shifts in the Azerbaijani translations of Somerset Maugham's "The Unconquered" – translated into Azerbaijani under two different titles, "Yolagəlməz qadın" by Akif Abbasov and "Qisas" by Zeydulla Ağayev. Using Halliday and Hasan's model of cohesion, the study examines how devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion are rendered across different translations. Through comparative-analytical methods, the paper identifies various translation shifts, including preservation, modification, and omission of cohesive ties. The findings reveal that cohesion is not always consistently maintained, leading to subtle changes in meaning and coherence. This research highlights the importance of cohesive devices in cross-linguistic literary translation.

**Keywords:** Cohesion, Translation Shifts, Azerbaijani, Literary Translation, Maugham, Twain

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## **XÜLASƏ**

Məqalədə Somerset Maughamın "The Unconquered" əsərinin Azərbaycan dilində iki fərqli tərcüməsi – Akif Abbasov tərəfindən "Yolagəlməz qadın" və Zeydulla Ağayev tərəfindən "Qisas" adı ilə araşdırılır. Halliday və Hasan tərəfindən irəli sürülən kohezion modeli əsasında istinad, substitusiya, ellipsis, bağlayıcılar və leksik kohezion vasitələrinin müxtəlif tərcümə variantlarında necə ifadə olunduğu təhlil edilir. Müqayisəli-analitik yanaşma ilə aparılan bu tədqiqatda kohezion vasitələrin qorunması, dəyişdirilməsi və ya buraxılması kimi tərcümə dəyişiklikləri müəyyənləşdirilmişdir. Tədqiqatın nəticələri göstərir ki, kohezion həmişə ardıcıl şəkildə saxlanılmır və bu da məndəki mənaya və mənə bütövlüyünə təsir göstərə bilər. Tədqiqat, bədii mətnlərin tərcüməsində kohezion vasitələrinin mühüm rolunu vurğulayır.

**Açar sözlər:** Kohezion, tərcümə dəyişiklikləri, Azərbaycan dili, bədii tərcümə, Maugham, Tven

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## РЕЗЮМЕ

В статье рассматриваются сдвиги когезии в азербайджанских переводах произведения «The Unconquered» Сомерсета Моэма — переведённого на азербайджанский язык под двумя разными названиями: «Yolagəlməz qadın» (перевод Акифа Аббасова) и «Qisas» (перевод Зейдуллы Агаева). На основе модели когезии Холидея и Хасана анализируется, как такие средства связности, как референция, субституция, эллипсис, союзы и лексическая когезия, передаются в различных переводах. Сравнительно-аналитический подход позволяет выявить случаи сохранения, изменения и опущения когезионных связей. Результаты показывают, что когезия не всегда сохраняется последовательно, что может приводить к изменению смысла и нарушению связности текста. Исследование подчёркивает важность средств когезии в межкультурном литературном переводе.

**Ключевые слова:** когезия, переводческие сдвиги, азербайджанский язык, литературный перевод, Моэм, Твен

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## INTRODUCTION

Cohesion in translation is a crucial aspect of ensuring the coherence and fluency of the target text. However, studies on this subject, especially in the context of Azerbaijani, remain limited. Despite the growing body of research on translation theories and strategies globally, the exploration of cohesion shifts in translation from English into Azerbaijani has not been sufficiently addressed. This gap in research inspired the decision to undertake a detailed analysis of cohesion shifts in the translation of two iconic English works, *The Unconquered* by Somerset Maugham and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

Azerbaijan's rich literary heritage has long been shaped by translation, yet the scholarly focus on the linguistic devices that ensure cohesion in translated texts has not received the attention it deserves. In this study, we aim to fill this gap by analyzing how cohesion devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunctions, and lexical cohesion are handled in the Azerbaijani translations of the selected texts. By comparing the translation strategies used in these works, we will explore the challenges and shifts in the rendering of cohesive elements, contributing to the broader understanding of translation studies in Azerbaijan.

### **Translation and Cohesion: Theoretical Background**

Cohesion refers to the connection between elements in a text, crucial for understanding structure and meaning. Initially used in physics, the term was later adapted to linguistics, where it became key to text analysis. Halliday and Hasan

(1976) systematized this concept, outlining cohesion types like reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Reference involves pronouns or elements pointing to earlier parts of the text, while substitution and ellipsis replace or omit words for efficiency. Conjunction connects ideas, and lexical cohesion uses related words or synonyms to link parts of a text.

In translation studies, Hatim and Mason (1990) emphasized cohesion's role in maintaining text integrity. They noted the challenges of preserving cohesion, especially when translating idiomatic or culturally specific expressions. Similarly, Newmark (1988) stressed that lack of cohesion could result in fragmented translations, hindering comprehension.

In translation, cohesion links text parts, ensuring comprehension. Translators must adapt cohesive devices to the target language's linguistic and cultural context.

### **Cohesive Devices in Translation**

Cohesion is vital for constructing meaning in texts and plays an essential role in both discourse analysis and translation. Originating from physics, the term was adapted to linguistics, with Halliday and Hasan (1976) offering the most influential approach. They defined cohesion as linguistic devices that create semantic links, contributing to a text's coherence.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) identified five categories of cohesion: reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Reference uses pronouns to point to previously mentioned entities, while substitution and ellipsis replace or omit elements to avoid repetition. Conjunctions express relationships between clauses, and lexical cohesion is achieved through repetition, synonymy, and collocation.

In translation, preserving cohesion is crucial for maintaining the communicative intent of the source text. As Baker (1992) notes, cohesive devices are language-specific, and translators must understand both linguistic and cultural contexts. For example, English pronouns might require clarification in Azerbaijani to avoid ambiguity due to structural differences.

Azerbaijani scholars such as Ş. Nağıyeva (2009, 2011) and F. Əsgərli (2009) have studied translation challenges between English and Azerbaijani, emphasizing the need for balance between stylistic integrity and fluency. Nağıyeva (2009) stresses that cohesion shifts often arise from typological differences, requiring adaptive translation strategies.

In conclusion, cohesion is a communicative function that structures meaning, and its accurate transfer in translation requires a deep understanding of both languages. Mismanagement of cohesive devices can lead to loss of meaning or stylistic deviation, making the study of cohesion in translation essential, especially between languages like English and Azerbaijani.

### **Cohesion Shifts in “The Unconquered”**

#### ***Original version***

*“The farmer's wife put a couple of bottles of wine on the table and Willi took twenty francs out of his pocket and gave it to her. She didn't even say thank you. Hans's French wasn't as good as Willi's, but he could make himself understood, and he and Willi spoke it together all the time. Willi corrected his mistakes. It was because Willi was so useful to him in this way that he had made him his friend, and he knew that Willi admired him. He admired him because he was so tall, slim, and broad-shouldered, because his curly hair was so fair and his eyes so blue. He never lost an opportunity to practise his French, and he tried to talk now, but those three French people wouldn't meet him half-way. He told them that he was a farmer's son himself and when the war was over was going back to the farm. He had been sent to school in Munich because his mother wanted him to go into business, but his heart wasn't in it, and so after matriculating he had gone to an agricultural college”.*

**Zeydulla Ağayev's version**

*“Qarı masa üstünə iki şüşə çaxır qoydu. Uilli cibindən iyirmi frank pul çıxarıb ona uzatdı. Qarı “sağ ol” da demədi. Hans fransızca sən deyən danışa bilmirdi, az-maz qırıldadırdı. Uilliyə həmişə o dildə danışmağa çalışır, Uilli tez-tez onun səhvlərini düzəldirdi. Elə Hansı Uilliyə yaxınlaşdıran da bu idi. Uilli tez-tez onun karına gəlirdi, üstəlik, Hans anlayırdı ki, Uilli ona həsəd aparır. Necə də aparmayırdı ki, Hans ucaboy, qamətli, enlikürək oğlandı; qıvrım saçları, mavi gözləri vardı. Əlinə girəvə keçən kimi Hans fransızca danışdı, indi də ev sahibləriylə mırt vurmaq istədi, ancaq onlar üçü də ağzına su alıb danışmırdı. Hans başa saldı ki, onun da atası fermerdir, dava qurtarandan sonra özü də fermaya qayıdacaq. Məktəbi Münhendə bitirmişdi, anası onu ticarətçi görmək istəyirdi, amma yox, Hansın ürəyi elə şeyə yatmırdı, odur ki, buraxılış imtahanlarından sonra kənd təsərrüfatı məktəbini seçmişdi”.*

**Akif Abbasov's version**

*“Fermer arvadı stolun üstünə iki şüşə çaxır qoydu. Villi cibindən iyirmi frank çıxarıb ona verdi. Qadın əvəzində təşəkkür belə etmədi.*

*Hans fransızca Villi kimi danışmasa da, dili az-maz bilirdi. Onlar öz aralarında fransızca danışdılar. Bu vaxt Villi onun səhvlərini düzəldirdi. Ona görə Hans dostunun xətrini istəyir və ona həsəd aparırdı.*

*Villi də öz növbəsində Hansa qibtə edirdi. Hans hündürboylu və şümşad qamətliydi. Qıvrım saçları elə sarışın, gözləri elə mavi idi ki, qızların ağlını başından oynadırdı.*

*Hans fransız dilini işlətmək imkanını heç vaxt əldən buraxmamışdı və indi də ev sahibləri ilə həmin dildə danışmağa cəhd göstərirdi. Amma onlar elə bil ağızlarına su almışdılar. Hans bildirdi ki, o da fermer oğludur. Müharibə qurtaranda fermaya qayıdacaq. O, Münhendə təhsil almışdır. Anası onun biznesmen olmasını istəyirmiş. Bu işə Hansın ürəyincə deyildi. Ona görə də buraxılış imtahanlarını verib kənd təsərrüfatı kollecinə daxil olmuşdur”.*

In the passage from *The Unconquered*, various cohesive devices such as reference, conjunction, substitution, and lexical chains contribute to the text's coherence. A comparative analysis of the two Azerbaijani translations by Zeydulla Ağayev and Akif Abbasov reveals significant cohesion shifts, mainly due to domestication and literal rendering.

The first issue arises with the sentence:

"The farmer's wife put a couple of bottles of wine on the table and Willi took twenty francs out of his pocket and gave it to her."

Both translators split the compound sentence into simpler ones, weakening the syntactic continuity. Zeydulla's use of "qarı" introduces a domesticated, emotionally charged register, while Abbasov's "fermer arvadı" is closer but deviates from the original's definite reference.

In the sentence:

"Hans's French wasn't as good as Willi's, but he could make himself understood, and he and Willi spoke it together all the time."

Both translations simplify and lose the communicative nuance. Zeydulla's "az-maz qırıldadırdı" and Abbasov's "dili az-maz bilirdi" oversimplify the original, and their handling of "and he and Willi spoke it together all the time" loses the habitual action. Zeydulla includes "həmişə" (always), while Abbasov omits it.

The sentence:

"It was because Willi was so useful to him in this way that he had made him his friend, and he knew that Willi admired him."

Both translations split the complex sentence, introducing non-equivalent terms like "xətrini istəyir" and "öz növbəsində," which distort the original cause-effect relationship. Abbasov's addition of "qızların aqlını başından oynadırdı" is an unnecessary elaboration that alters the narrative intention.

For the sentence:

"He never lost an opportunity to practise his French, and he tried to talk now, but those three French people wouldn't meet him half-way."

Zeydulla's use of "mırt vurmaq istədi" distorts the function, turning an attempt at communication into informal speech. Abbasov remains closer to the original but introduces local idioms like "ağızlarına su almışdılar," which lacks an equivalent in the source.

Finally, the sentence:

"He had been sent to school in Munich because his mother wanted him to go into business, but his heart wasn't in it, and so after matriculating he had gone to an agricultural college."

Both translations fragment the cause-consequence relationship by breaking up the original sentence, weakening the cohesive progression and narrative flow.

### **Conclusion**

Comparing the translations of Zeydulla Ağayev and Akif Abbasov reveals shifts that affect the original meaning. Unnecessary additions, domestication, and simplification of complex sentences can distort the message, leading to misunderstandings. Translators must preserve the original tone and cultural context to avoid altering the reader's perception. For instance, substituting specific terms like "farmer's wife" with general terms such as "qarı" or "qadın" can misrepresent the character's role. Simplifying complex sentences or adding informal expressions, like "qızların aqlını başından oynadırdı," can also change the text's meaning.

Translators should avoid domestication by imposing target-language norms that obscure the original cultural and linguistic context, as readers form impressions of the culture and characters while reading the translation. In conclusion, striking a balance between accuracy and cultural context is crucial to preserving the integrity of the original text.

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### **Evaluation of S. Mirzeyeva's article "Cohesion shifts in translation from English into Azerbaijani"**

The article deals with the contextual contribution of the cohesive devices to text organization in English as an SL and how they find their reflections in Azerbaijani as a TL.

The approach novelty of the research is due to not only its considering and synthesizing the grammatical and lexical aspects of the mentioned devices. Rather, the main attention is directed to the pragmatic behavior of these devices in different contexts, which, in turn, broadens the semantic configuration of the other conventionalized meaning types.

Proceeding from the theoretical gaps and their reflections in the existing translated literature, the article emphasizes how cohesion shifts can contribute to preserving or changing (narrowing or broadening) of the meaning and structure of the TL version (avoiding unnecessary repetition of the denotative meaning, and structure of the TL version (avoiding unnecessary repetition of the denotative meaning, changing of the meanings of the deictic elements, etc.).

The article demonstrates how ignorance of different contextualized types of cohesion shifts can damage not only structural balance of the two languages; it also highlights the unnecessary use of domestication in the TL, which, also, deviating the cultural and linguistic contexts, makes the SL and TL texts asymmetric "contributing" to the loss or weakening of coherence integrity.

The article potentially agrees with and realizes the assigned "duty" successfully. Henceforth, it can be submitted to proper publication.

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