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TRANSLATION CHALLENGES IN AZERBAIJANI AND ENGLISH PAIRS

Summary

In the modern world, there is a significant difference in the pace of scientific and technological progress in different countries. Combined with cultural traditions, this has led to the emergence of numerous non-equivalent scientific terms that require competent translation. The problems of translating non-equivalent vocabulary have been studied by linguists at various times, but the need to study non-equivalent, highly specialized terms remains. Terminological dictionaries exist to facilitate the translation of scientific and technical texts, but they cannot serve as reference material for translating non-equivalent terms. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to reveal the main challenges of translation between the language pairs of Azerbaijani and English, and specifically analyze the specifics of translating non-equivalent vocabulary.

Non-equivalent vocabulary refers to lexical units in the source language that have no direct equivalents in the vocabulary of the target language. Sometimes such lexical units are called untranslatable, but this is only true from the perspective of formal dictionary translation. In this case, non-equivalence is interpreted based on the very concept of “equivalent,” which, according to the definition of the explanatory translation dictionary, “is defined as a constant, equivalent correspondence between units of the source and target texts, independent of context.” Despite the lack of correlation with a specific word in the target language, non-equivalent vocabulary can be translated without loss of semantics.

This article is devoted to a topical issue in modern translation studies, focusing on the linguacultural aspects of translation. It examines the problem of conveying non-equivalent vocabulary in Azerbaijani and English. It reveals the specifics of the concept of “non-equivalent vocabulary.” A detailed classification of individual concepts and realia is presented, with examples from Azerbaijani and English. The primary research methods are transformational and comparative. The article presents

the main methods for conveying “untranslatable” lexical units in the language pair under study. The article examines translation operations used to convey vocabulary that has no equivalents, such as individual concepts (transcription and transliteration techniques); realia. Based on the studied material, it is proposed to conclude that none of the used options for transmitting non-equivalent elements of the source language can serve as a full-fledged replacement for the original text.

In addition, other problems and their causes that arise in the field of translation of the mentioned language pairs were investigated, and some suggestions were put forward.

Key words: translation, transliteration, transcription, technique, phonetics.

Every field has its challenges, and the translation industry is no exception. There are difficulties that translators face while working on a text. This thesis highlights the main problems of translation for Azerbaijani-English language pair from the point of the performer and offer some solutions.

In this thesis the main and general translation difficulties are identified as: Working with languages of different structures, differences in the culture of native and target language speakers, translation of compound words, translation of phrasal verbs, working with terminology, translation of multi-unit structures, working with highly specialized texts, time restrictions (deadlines), personal difficulties (working schedules), pricing (translation fee). Let's review these challenges, particularly for Azerbaijani-English language pair translators/interpreters, below:

Language structure. Sentence structure may differ in different languages (for example, English and Azerbaijani). For example, in English the adjective comes before the noun, and in French it comes after the noun. In Arabic and some other languages, the subject expressed by a pronoun is part of the verb, and in Azerbaijani, in some sentences, subject can be completely skipped.

The language is complex and constantly evolving. Thus, the translator/interpreter must know exactly the structure of each language and use appropriate constructions, as well as ensure that the translation maintains the meaning without distortion. Lack of guidelines/frameworks on translation practice at universities is the key problem in Azerbaijan. Here solution may be focusing on the language pair the translator/interpreter is already working with. He/she must use grammar checking tools, translation machines, and other methods to be sure that target language constructs are built correctly.

Cultural differences. The culture of speakers of different languages may also differ significantly. The larger the region in which a particular language is spoken, the more dialects it has and the greater the likelihood of interference between dialectal and colloquial units, as well as cultural features, with the exception of translations of technical, legal and medical documents.

For example, the British are known for their dry, biting sarcasm, but this kind of “humor” may not be appreciated by people from other cultures. A problem arises: how to correctly translate the text without hurting the feelings of the target audience? This is a huge obstacle for Azerbaijani students/translator, since they are not ready for these situations. The cause can be found in the lack of sufficient and efficient student exchange programs in translator/interpreter faculties. Nevertheless, in order not to be confused, the translator/interpreter must uninterruptedly study and explore. He/she must surf online sources to be aware of popular colloquialisms and most commonly used dialects. He/she must immerse in culture through films, podcasts, periodicals in the desired language [1, 2023].

Modern translation theory focuses on addressing issues related to the specifics of conveying the national and cultural specifics of the source language in a foreign text. The problem of rendering non-equivalent vocabulary, due to its distinct national connotations, occupies a special place among the linguacultural and cultural linguistic problems of translation studies. Various approaches exist to defining the boundaries of the concept of “non-equivalent vocabulary.” But the key factor in the “untranslatability” of a given lexical unit is the lack of an adequate correspondence, an equivalent, in the thesaurus of the target language.

Translation theorist V.N. Komissarov points out that non-equivalent vocabulary is found “among neologisms, among words denoting specific concepts and national realities, and among little-known names and titles for which occasional correspondences must be created during translation” [2, 1990].

The primary method for translating individual concepts is transcription and/or transliteration. However, when proper names in a text evoke certain associations in the reader, acquire a literary function, and become the subject of description themselves, as is the case with self-explanatory names and surnames, phonetic transcription or transliteration alone is certainly not enough. The translator's creation of metatext within the text itself or in notes will help reveal the inner meaning of the unit being translated. The translation of realia poses an important challenge in conveying the national flavor and historical identity inherent in the original text. All realia are subdivided according to their area of application into geographical, ethnographic, and socio-political.

We will list the main geographical realia with examples from Azerbaijani and English: names of physical geographic objects – Şamaxı - Shamakhi, including meteorology, names of geographical features associated with human activity; names of plants; names of animals. The following groups belong to ethnographic realia:

1. Everyday life: food, drinks: şəkərbura – shakarbura, dovğa - dovgha; clothing, footwear: çarıq - charig; housing, furniture, dishes, utensils: güyüm - guyum; household establishments: aşxana - ashkhana.

2. Transport: araba.

3. Labor: working people.

4. Arts and culture: literature (characters, aphorisms, catchphrases): - Məlikməmməd – Malikmammad, Koroğlu - Koroghlu; folklore; music and dance: yallı - yalli; musical instruments: tar; theatre; art and art objects; customs, rituals; holidays, games: Novruz – Novrooz; mythology: div; cults; calendar: xıdır ayı – Khidir month.

5. Ethnic objects: ethnonyms; nicknames; names of persons by place of residence.

6. Measures and money: units of measures: arşın - arshin; monetary units: manat;

Compound words. A compound word is a combination of two or three stems, often a combination of a noun and an adjective, two nouns, a verb and a noun, etc. In English, such units can be written in different ways, as together, e.g., notebook, with a hyphen, e.g., long-term, separately, e.g., personal computer. Some compound words have a direct meaning that is easy to understand from their constituents (e.g., afternoon); some store the value of only one component (e.g., bellboy); There are also units the meaning of which is not related to their components (for example, deadline). In such cases, it is recommended for a translator to choose his/her position - choosing one or two topics and becoming an expert in them. It is suggested to be familiarized with the compound words that are most commonly used in subject area. Translator/interpreter may take advantage of translation software to make work easier.

Phrasal verbs. English is rich for phrasal verbs, often consisting of verbs and prepositions. For example: to look at, to look through, to look up to, to look down on. The meaning of all the given units is different, although the basis of each of them is the verb to look: the preposition (in this case, the postposition) gives it a completely different meaning. However, they mustn't be translated literally, but delivered through a word or phrase in the target language to convey the meaning correctly.

Gaps in terminology. Gaps here refers to the lack of a unit in the language system for translating a concept and are a common translation problem. There are languages in which some terms are completely absent. It is also culturally related, as the items involved may not be used by native speakers, or such activities may be prohibited. To solve this problem the translator/interpreter should consult with the client before making a decision. He/she can suggest remaining a word from the original document, omitting part of the text, or creating a new term that is as close as possible to the actual meaning. Another problem in the translation of terminology is referring to other languages, particularly, to Turkish and Russian, which “pollutes” our Azerbaijani language [3, 2011].

Ambiguous words. In English, like any other language, there are words that have different meanings depending on the context. Sometimes such words are written and pronounced the same, but have different meanings, for example, break -

this can be a verb meaning “to break” or a noun meaning “break” (e.g., coffee break). There are also words with different spellings, but the same pronunciation: for example, air and heir, grate and great, etc. Solution to these two cases may vary depending on the type of translation, whether it is oral or written. Consequently, in case of oral translation, solution is to rely on the context of the conversation or speech, while in case of written translation it is to analyze the source text carefully to fully understand the meaning.

Lack of highly specialized knowledge. Translators are, first and foremost, linguists. They are well experienced in certain topics, but sometimes this may not be sufficient for certain types of specialized translation, for example, if the documents are full of specific jargon. In this case, the translator/interpreter must consult with experts. If the question is very specific, he/she may need a lot of time (more than usual) to complete the task, or ask the client for advice. He/she also need to constantly read on the topic and study to gain deeper knowledge and keep up with new developments [4, 2024].

Time restrictions. Limited time is a common problem translators face. Most clients need a translation in very short time period; they don't have time to waste. If it's an easy document, it's easier to finish it even before the deadline. However, when it comes to technical or legal translation, which is rich in terminology, situation changes and more time may be needed. The translator/interpreter may use technology, such as automated translation tools, to speed up the process as much as possible. In any case, additional time can be requested before starting work.

Personal problems. There are many benefits of being a translator, but sometimes those benefits create problems. For example, the benefits involve a flexible work schedule, i.e., working at any time, including from home. In this case, the work must be submitted on time. In addition, the translator may face a number of other problems: access to the Internet (especially during a blackout), competition from colleagues and even machine translation, the dilemma of adequate pricing, etc. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for all these problems. The situation should be analyzed and a suitable work schedule set.

Pricing. This is the most common translation problem that customers face - the desire to find a balance between the cost of the service and its quality. This problem is closely related to the lack of practice/high quality interpreters. It is unlikely that errors can be made in medical or technical documents, as this can lead to misinterpretation and misuse of devices or drugs, and accordingly, harm to the user. Further, other serious consequences are possible, such as loss of reputation by the company, legal problems, etc. Therefore, the customer needs a very accurate translation. Customers, in such cases, prefer the proven professionals, and translators should strive to become such professionals.

Along with these general problems, in Azerbaijan, some other challenges as the problem of movie translations and the problem of book translation, and absolute use of translation machines, also occur. The first problem may be related to the lack of interest in mother tongue, which is explained with the abundancy of movies already and perfectly translated into other two commonly spoken languages in Azerbaijan (Turkish and Russian) [5, 2010]. Note that, translators/interpreters of these languages are very highly qualified and specialized in movie translations, and this is also explained with the absence of the widely spoken second language in the country which could negatively affect the use and purity of mother tongue. Even though, besides unprofessional movie dubbing, incorrect translation of subtitles also occurs, which is caused by the translation of the movie not from the original language, but from already translated texts, a Russian or Turkish. The same problems may refer to the book translation [6, 1999].

The difficulties are caused by the same challenges, however, in some cases lack of writer-translators and professional editors may lead to enormous complications in book translation.

This thesis reviewed the challenges existing when translating texts for Azerbaijani-English language pair and presented several options for solving them. Accordingly, the analysis of the problems existing in the translation of the Azerbaijani-English language pair may conclude that all general and specific problems related to the Azerbaijani translators/interpreters are interrelated and can be resolved through frameworks, guidelines, student/professional exchange programs, supervised practice, and etc.

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AZƏRBAYCAN VƏ İNGİLİS DİLLƏRİNİN TƏRCÜMƏ ÇƏTİNLİKLƏRİ

Xülasə

Müasir dünyada müxtəlif ölkələrdə elmi və texnoloji tərəqqinin tempində əhəmiyyətli fərqlər mövcuddur. Mədəni ənənələrlə birlikdə bu, savadlı tərcümə tələb edən çoxsaylı qeyri-ekvivalent elmi terminlərin ortaya çıxmasına səbəb olmuşdur. Qeyri-ekvivalent tərcümə lüğətinin problemləri müxtəlif dövrlərdə dilçilər tərəfindən araşdırılmışdır, lakin qeyri-ekvivalent, yüksək ixtisaslaşmış terminlərin öyrənilməsinə hələ də ehtiyac vardır. Elmi və texniki mətnlərin tərcüməsini asanlaşdırmaq üçün terminoloji lüğətlər mövcuddur, lakin onlar qeyri-ekvivalent terminlərin tərcüməsi üçün istinad materialı kimi xidmət edə bilməzlər. Buna görə də, bu məqalənin məqsədi Azərbaycan və ingilis dil cütlükləri arasında tərcümənin əsas çətinliklərini aşkar etmək və qeyri-ekvivalent lüğətin tərcüməsinin xüsusiyyətlərini xüsusi olaraq təhlil etməkdir.

Qeyri-ekvivalent lüğət hədəf dilin lüğətində birbaşa ekvivalenti olmayan leksik vahidlərə aiddir. Bəzən bu cür leksik vahidlərə tərcümə edilə bilməyən sözlər deyilir, lakin bu, yalnız formal lüğət tərcüməsi baxımından doğrudur. Bu halda, qeyri-ekvivalentlik “ekvivalent” anlayışına əsasən şərh olunur, bu isə izahlı tərcümə lüğətinin tərifinə görə, “kontekstdən asılı olmayaraq məxəz və hədəf mətnlərinin vahidləri arasında sabit, ekvivalent uyğunluq kimi müəyyən edilir”. Hədəf dilində müəyyən bir sözlə korrelyasiyanın olmamasına baxmayaraq, qeyri-ekvivalent lüğət semantikanı itirmədən tərcümə edilə bilər.

Təqdim edilən məqalə müasir tərcüməşünaslığın aktual məsələlərinə və tərcümənin linqvakultural aspektlərinə həsr olunmuşdur. Burada Azərbaycan və ingilis dillərində qeyri-ekvivalent lüğətin çatdırılması problemi araşdırılmışdır. Burada “qeyri-ekvivalent lüğət” anlayışının spesifik xüsusiyyətləri açıqlanmışdır. Azərbaycan və ingilis dillərindən nümunələrlə fərdi anlayışların və reallıqların ətraflı təsnifatı təqdim olunmuşdur. Əsas tədqiqat metodlarına transformativ və müqayisəli üsullar daxildir. Məqalədə tədqiq olunan dil cütlüyündə “tərcümə olunmayan” leksik vahidlərin oxuyuculara çatdırılmasının əsas metodları təqdim olunmuşdur. Bu məqsədlə istifadə edilən tərcümə əməliyyatları, məsələn, fərdi anlayışlar (transkripsiya və transliterasiya üsulları); realiya araşdırılmışdır.

Bundan əlavə qeyd edilən dil cütlüklərinin tərcüməsi sahəsində ortaya çıxan digər problemlər və onların səbəbləri araşdırılmış və bəzi təkliflər irəli sürülmüşdür.

Açar sözlər: tərcümə, transliterasiya, transkripsiya, texnika, fonetika.

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ПРОБЛЕМЫ ПЕРЕВОДА В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОМ И АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

Резюме

В современном мире наблюдается существенная разница в темпах научно-технического прогресса в разных странах. В сочетании с культурными традициями это привело к появлению множества безэквивалентных научных терминов, требующих грамотного перевода. Проблемы перевода безэквивалентной лексики изучались лингвистами в разное время, но потребность в изучении безэквивалентной узкоспециализированной лексики все еще существует. Терминологические словари существуют для облегчения перевода научно-технических текстов, но они не могут служить справочным материалом для перевода безэквивалентной лексики. Поэтому цель данной статьи — выявить основные проблемы перевода между азербайджанским и английским языками, а также проанализировать особенности перевода безэквивалентной лексики.

Безэквивалентная лексика — это лексические единицы исходного языка, не имеющие прямых эквивалентов в лексике целевого языка. Иногда такие лексические единицы называют непереводаемыми, но это справедливо только с точки зрения формального словарного перевода. В этом случае безэквивалентность трактуется исходя из самого понятия «эквивалент», которое, согласно определению толкового словаря перевода, «определяется как постоянное, эквивалентное соответствие между единицами исходного и целевого текстов, независимое от контекста». Несмотря на отсутствие корреляции с конкретным словом целевого языка, безэквивалентная лексика может быть переведена без потери семантики.

Настоящая статья посвящена актуальной теме современного перевода, уделяя особое внимание лингвокультурологическим аспектам перевода. В ней рассматривается проблема передачи безэквивалентной лексики в азербайджанском и английском языках.

Раскрывается специфика понятия «безэквивалентная лексика».

Представлена подробная классификация отдельных концептов и реалий с примерами из азербайджанского и английского языков. Основными методами исследования являются трансформационный и сопоставительный.

В статье представлены основные способы передачи «непереводимых» лексических единиц в рассматриваемой языковой паре. Рассматриваются переводческие операции, используемые для передачи лексики, не имеющей эквивалентов, такие как отдельные концепты (транскрипционные и транслитерационные приёмы); реалии. На основании изученного материала предлагается сделать вывод о том, что ни один из использованных вариантов передачи безэквивалентных элементов исходного языка не может служить полноценной заменой исходного текста.

Кроме того, были исследованы другие проблемы и их причины, возникающие при переводе рассматриваемых языковых пар, и выдвинуты некоторые предложения.

Ключевые слова: перевод, транслитерация, транскрипционный приём, фонетика.

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