



**The Translator as a Mediator of Pragmatic Meaning in English–Uzbek
Literary Translation**

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Abstract: This article investigates the role of the translator as a mediator of pragmatic meaning in English–Uzbek literary translation. Literary texts often contain culturally embedded expressions, speech acts, idioms, and context-dependent nuances that carry significant pragmatic value. Translators are tasked not only with transferring the literal meaning but also with conveying the intended communicative effect, preserving politeness, tone, and cultural subtleties. Through analysis of selected English literary excerpts and their Uzbek translations, this study identifies common challenges in maintaining pragmatic meaning and examines strategies used by translators, such as explicitation, adaptation, and compensation. The research underscores the importance of pragmatic awareness, cultural competence, and interpretive skill in producing accurate and culturally sensitive literary translations.

Keywords:

Literary translation, pragmatic meaning, English–Uzbek translation, translation strategies, speech acts, implicature, cultural adaptation, cross-linguistic communication.

Introduction: Literary translation is a complex process that involves more than simply converting words from a source language to a target language. Translators must navigate not only linguistic structures but also cultural, contextual, and pragmatic elements embedded in the text. Pragmatic meaning refers to the way language conveys speakers' intentions, social relationships, politeness, implicature, and other context-dependent nuances. In literary works, these pragmatic features are crucial for preserving the author's intended tone, style, and communicative effect.

In English–Uzbek literary translation, the translator faces unique challenges. English often relies on direct expression and explicit markers for tense, modality, and





politeness, while Uzbek frequently employs context-dependent, indirect, and culturally nuanced forms of communication. As a result, pragmatic meaning can be easily lost, misinterpreted, or altered if the translator does not carefully mediate between the two languages and cultures.

The translator acts as a mediator, interpreting the source text's pragmatic intentions and finding ways to reproduce them effectively in the target language. This requires not only a deep understanding of linguistic structures but also cultural competence, cognitive sensitivity, and strategic decision-making. Translators may employ strategies such as explicitation, adaptation, compensation, and cultural substitution to maintain pragmatic fidelity while ensuring naturalness in the target text.

This study aims to analyze the translator's role as a mediator of pragmatic meaning in English–Uzbek literary translation, examine the challenges involved, and explore the strategies used to convey context-dependent and culturally embedded expressions accurately.

Relevance of Work

In literary translation, conveying the pragmatic meaning of the source text is as important as preserving its literal content. English–Uzbek translation presents particular challenges due to differences in linguistic structures, cultural norms, and communicative conventions. English often uses explicit markers and direct expression, whereas Uzbek frequently relies on context-dependent and culturally nuanced communication. Misinterpretation or loss of pragmatic meaning can alter the author's intended tone, politeness, or subtle communicative effect, affecting readers' understanding and appreciation of the text.

Studying the translator's role as a mediator of pragmatic meaning is relevant for several reasons. It helps identify the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural challenges in literary translation, highlights effective translation strategies, and informs teaching practices for translator training. Furthermore, it contributes to the broader field of translation studies by emphasizing the significance of pragmatics in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural literary communication.





Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study is to investigate the role of the translator in mediating pragmatic meaning in English–Uzbek literary texts. The study aims to:

1. Identify the challenges translators face in preserving pragmatic meaning, including speech acts, idioms, implicature, and culturally specific expressions.
2. Examine the strategies employed by translators to convey pragmatic meaning effectively, such as explicitation, adaptation, and compensation.
3. Assess the impact of these strategies on the accuracy, readability, and cultural appropriateness of the translated text.
4. Provide insights and recommendations for translators and educators to enhance pragmatic awareness and translation quality in literary contexts.

Materials and Methods of Research

This study uses a qualitative research approach, focusing on comparative analysis of English literary texts and their Uzbek translations. The methodology is designed to examine how pragmatic meaning is mediated by translators.

Materials:

1. **Source Texts:** Selected English literary excerpts containing speech acts, idiomatic expressions, implicature, and culturally embedded elements.
2. **Target Texts:** Corresponding Uzbek translations of these excerpts by professional translators.
3. **Supporting Literature:** Studies on translation theory, pragmatics, cross-cultural communication, and literary translation strategies.

Methods:

1. **Comparative Textual Analysis:** Comparing source and target texts to identify changes in pragmatic meaning, such as shifts in politeness, indirectness, and context-dependent nuances.
2. **Pragmatic Analysis:** Evaluating how speech acts, implicature, and cultural references are conveyed in the target text.
3. **Strategy Identification:** Analyzing translation techniques such as explicitation, adaptation, compensation, and cultural substitution used to maintain pragmatic meaning.





4. **Case Study Examination:** Detailed analysis of selected literary excerpts to illustrate challenges and solutions in conveying pragmatic meaning.

This methodological framework allows a comprehensive understanding of translators' strategies and decision-making processes in English–Uzbek literary translation.

Results and Discussion

Challenges in Preserving Pragmatic Meaning: Translators face difficulties in conveying indirect speech acts, idioms, and culturally specific expressions. For example, English politeness strategies may rely on modal verbs (“could you...”) or hedges, which require adaptation in Uzbek to preserve equivalent social meaning and politeness.

Strategies for Mediation:

- **Explicitation:** Translators clarify implicit meanings to ensure comprehension. For instance, culturally implicit jokes or idioms may be expanded or explained.

- **Adaptation:** Cultural references are modified to be relevant for Uzbek readers without losing the original pragmatic intent.

- **Compensation:** If a pragmatic feature cannot be translated directly, translators introduce equivalent effects elsewhere in the text.

Effect on Tone and Style: The translation of pragmatic meaning significantly influences the text's tone, humor, and stylistic features. Effective mediation preserves the author's intended voice, while ineffective mediation can alter the perceived meaning, politeness, or emotional impact.

Discussion:

The findings demonstrate that translators serve as mediators between linguistic and cultural systems, balancing fidelity to the source text with comprehensibility and naturalness in the target language. Pragmatic awareness, cultural knowledge, and strategic decision-making are essential for successful literary translation. This study highlights that the translator's role is not merely linguistic but also interpretive and cultural, ensuring that pragmatic meaning is preserved and accessible to the target audience.





Conclusion: This study emphasizes the critical role of the translator as a mediator of pragmatic meaning in English–Uzbek literary translation. Translators face multiple challenges in conveying speech acts, idioms, implicature, and culturally specific expressions while preserving the author’s intended tone, style, and communicative effect. These challenges arise from linguistic, cognitive, and cultural differences between English and Uzbek.

Effective translation requires not only linguistic proficiency but also pragmatic awareness, cultural competence, and interpretive skill. Strategies such as explicitation, adaptation, and compensation allow translators to maintain pragmatic meaning while ensuring readability and naturalness in the target text. Failure to mediate pragmatic meaning can lead to misinterpretation, loss of nuance, or altered tone, affecting the overall impact of the literary work.

Ultimately, translators act as bridges between languages and cultures, ensuring that pragmatic meaning, stylistic features, and communicative intentions are preserved in translation. Developing translators’ pragmatic awareness and providing guidance on effective strategies are essential for producing accurate, culturally sensitive, and impactful literary translations in English–Uzbek contexts.

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