

## LEXICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN ENGLISH–UZBEK TRANSLATION: SEMANTIC, FUNCTIONAL AND LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract.** This article investigates lexical transformations in English–Uzbek translation from semantic, functional, and linguocultural perspectives. Translation is viewed not as a mechanical replacement of lexical items, but as a complex interpretive process involving semantic equivalence, contextual adaptation, stylistic appropriateness, and cultural transfer. The study focuses on the classification of lexical units, the problem of equivalent and non-equivalent vocabulary, and the main types of lexical transformations used in translation practice. Special attention is paid to concretization, generalization, omission, antonymic translation, and compensation as mechanisms that help preserve meaning and communicative effect in the target text. The article argues that lexical transformations are indispensable in English–Uzbek translation because of structural, semantic, and cultural differences between the two languages. The scientific significance of the research lies in its attempt to systematize lexical transformations not only as technical operations but also as functionally and culturally motivated strategies. The practical value of the article is determined by its relevance for translator training, literary translation, and translation-oriented language instruction.

**Keywords:** translation, lexical transformation, lexical unit, equivalence, non-equivalent vocabulary, semantic adaptation, linguocultural analysis, English–Uzbek translation, translator training.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada ingliz–o‘zbek tarjimasida leksik transformatsiyalar semantik, funksional va lingvomadaniy nuqtai nazardan tadqiq etiladi. Tarjima leksik birliklarning mexanik almashtirilishi emas, balki semantik muvofiqlik, kontekstual moslashuv, uslubiy adekvatlik va madaniy transferni o‘z ichiga olgan murakkab interpretativ jarayon sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqot leksik birliklarning tasnifi, muqobil va nomuqobil leksika muammosi hamda tarjima amaliyotida qo‘llaniladigan asosiy leksik transformatsiyalar turlariga qaratilgan. Xususan, konkretlashtirish, umumlashtirish, tushirib qoldirish, antonimik tarjima va kompensatsiya kabi mexanizmlarga alohida e‘tibor beriladi, chunki ular tarjima matnida ma‘no va kommunikativ ta‘sirni saqlab qolishga xizmat qiladi. Maqolada leksik transformatsiyalar ingliz va o‘zbek tillari o‘rtasidagi strukturaviy, semantik hamda madaniy farqlar tufayli zarur ekanligi asoslab beriladi. Tadqiqotning ilmiy ahamiyati leksik transformatsiyalarni nafaqat texnik operatsiyalar, balki funksional va madaniy jihatdan asoslangan strategiyalar sifatida tizimlashtirishga qaratilganidadir. Maqolaning amaliy ahamiyati esa tarjimonlarni tayyorlash, badiiy tarjima va tarjimaga yo‘naltirilgan til o‘qitish jarayonlarida dolzarbli bilan belgilanadi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** tarjima, leksik transformatsiya, leksik birlik, ekvivalentlik, nomuqobil leksika, semantik moslashuv, lingvomadaniy tahlil, ingliz–o‘zbek tarjimasi, tarjimon tayyorlash.

**Аннотация.** В данной статье исследуются лексические трансформации в англо-узбекском переводе с семантической, функциональной и лингвокультурной точек зрения. Перевод рассматривается не как механическая замена лексических единиц, а как сложный интерпретативный процесс, включающий семантическую эквивалентность, контекстуальную адаптацию, стилистическую адекватность и культурный трансфер. Исследование сосредоточено на классификации лексических единиц, проблеме эквивалентной и безэквивалентной лексики, а также основных типах лексических трансформаций, применяемых в переводческой практике. Особое внимание уделяется таким механизмам, как конкретизация, генерализация, опущение, антонимический перевод и компенсация, которые способствуют сохранению смысла и коммуникативного эффекта в тексте перевода. В статье обосновывается, что лексические трансформации являются необходимыми в англо-узбекском переводе из-за

*структурных, семантических и культурных различий между языками. Научная значимость исследования заключается в попытке систематизировать лексические трансформации не только как технические операции, но и как функционально и культурно обусловленные стратегии. Практическая ценность статьи определяется её актуальностью для подготовки переводчиков, художественного перевода и обучения языку с ориентацией на перевод.*

**Ключевые слова:** перевод, лексическая трансформация, лексическая единица, эквивалентность, безэквивалентная лексика, семантическая адаптация, лингвокультурный анализ, англо-узбекский перевод, подготовка переводчиков.

**Introduction.** Translation studies occupies an important place in modern linguistics because it explores how meaning is transferred from one language into another under specific semantic, stylistic, and cultural conditions. In the context of increasing global communication, translation has become not only an academic subject but also a practical necessity in literature, science, education, diplomacy, and intercultural interaction. For this reason, the study of translation mechanisms remains highly relevant.

One of the most difficult areas of translation is the rendering of lexical units. Lexical meaning is rarely fixed in an absolute way; it is shaped by context, collocation, stylistic coloring, pragmatic intention, and cultural background. Therefore, a translator must go beyond dictionary equivalents and interpret lexical units functionally. This problem becomes especially visible in English–Uzbek translation, where significant differences exist in lexical structure, semantic range, phraseological expression, and national-cultural specificity.

In previous studies devoted to literary translation and translation techniques, Hakima Botirova emphasized the importance of lexical transformations, translation methods, and the relationship between literary translation and culture. These works provide a useful foundation for the present article because they demonstrate that transformation is not an occasional device but a regular mechanism for preserving meaning and artistic effect in translation.

**Relevance of the study.** The relevance of this study is determined by several factors. First, lexical transformations remain one of the most frequently used mechanisms in practical translation. While many theoretical works describe them in general terms, their application in English–Uzbek translation still requires more systematic and context-sensitive analysis.

Second, the issue is important because English and Uzbek belong to different language families and represent different linguistic worldviews. English is an analytic language with flexible lexical distribution, whereas Uzbek is an agglutinative language with its own semantic and syntactic patterns. These differences make direct lexical equivalence insufficient in many cases.

Third, modern translation practice increasingly demands not only semantic accuracy but also stylistic adequacy and cultural intelligibility. This is particularly important in literary translation, where lexical items often carry emotional, symbolic, or culturally

marked meanings. In such contexts, lexical transformations become an essential tool for preserving both content and artistic effect.

Finally, the topic is relevant for translator education. A translator's competence depends not only on vocabulary size but also on the ability to make informed lexical decisions. Therefore, studying lexical transformations contributes to the methodological foundations of translator training.

**Aim and objectives of the research.** The aim of this article is to analyze lexical transformations in English–Uzbek translation and to determine their semantic, functional, and linguocultural role in achieving translation adequacy.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives were set:

1. to define the role of lexical units in translation;
2. to classify lexical units according to their degree of equivalence;
3. to examine the problem of non-equivalent vocabulary in translation;
4. to analyze the major types of lexical transformations;
5. to explain the functional significance of these transformations in English–Uzbek translation;
6. to reveal the scientific and practical value of lexical transformation analysis for translation theory and translator training.

**Object and subject of the research.** The object of the research is the process of English–Uzbek translation. The subject of the research is the semantic, functional, and linguocultural characteristics of lexical transformations used in the translation of lexical units from English into Uzbek.

**Research methodology.** The study is based on a combination of theoretical and analytical methods. The following methods were used: descriptive method, comparative method, contextual analysis, semantic analysis, functional analysis, and linguocultural analysis. This methodological combination makes it possible to approach lexical transformation not as an isolated formal procedure, but as a multidimensional phenomenon.

The descriptive method was used to define lexical units and transformation types. The comparative method made it possible to identify differences between English and Uzbek lexical systems. Contextual and semantic analysis were used to determine how meaning changes depending on usage and communicative purpose. Functional analysis helped to reveal the role of transformations in preserving naturalness and textual coherence, while linguocultural analysis was employed to examine culture-bound vocabulary and phraseological units.

**Theoretical background of lexical units in translation.** A lexical unit is a meaningful unit of language that functions in speech as a bearer of nominative, semantic, and stylistic value. In translation, lexical units include isolated words, set expressions, idioms, terminological combinations, and context-dependent phrases. Their meaning is

often broader than dictionary definition alone because they are embedded in a communicative and cultural environment.

From the translation point of view, lexical units can be grouped into three categories: fully equivalent lexical units, partially equivalent lexical units, and non-equivalent lexical units.

Fully equivalent lexical units are relatively stable and usually do not present serious translation difficulties. They often include international terms, geographical names, months, numerals, and some institutional designations.

Partially equivalent lexical units are more problematic because their meaning varies according to context. A single word in English may correspond to several different lexical choices in Uzbek. In such cases, the translator must choose the meaning that matches the communicative purpose of the text.

Non-equivalent lexical units represent the highest level of difficulty. These units are usually tied to national culture, everyday life, historical background, social institutions, rituals, and other culture-specific realities. Their translation requires more than linguistic substitution; it requires interpretive mediation.

**Equivalence and its limitations.** Equivalence is a foundational concept in translation studies. However, equivalence should not be understood as complete lexical sameness. In real translation practice, absolute equivalence is rare. More often, translators work with functional or contextual equivalence.

The limitations of equivalence become visible when a lexical item contains multiple meanings, stylistic nuance, emotional coloring, cultural associations, or metaphorical value. A word may have a formal dictionary equivalent but still fail to produce the intended effect in the target language. In such cases, transformation becomes necessary. Thus, lexical transformations emerge precisely where equivalence reaches its limits.

**Non-equivalent vocabulary as a translation problem.** Non-equivalent vocabulary includes lexical items that have no ready-made counterpart in the target language. This type of vocabulary often includes realia, national foods and clothes, culturally specific customs, administrative institutions, historical references, ethnographic items, and phraseological expressions.

The translation of non-equivalent vocabulary is especially significant in literary texts because such words often carry atmosphere, local color, and cultural identity. If they are translated too literally, the text may become incomprehensible. If they are over-adapted, the national character of the original may be lost. Therefore, the translator must strike a balance between intelligibility and cultural preservation. This issue demonstrates that lexical transformation is not simply a linguistic necessity, but also a cultural strategy.

**Main types of lexical transformations.** The most common lexical transformations in English–Uzbek translation are concretization, generalization, omission, antonymic

translation, and compensation. Each of these performs a distinct semantic and functional role in preserving adequacy between source and target texts.

**Concretization.** Concretization is the replacement of a broader source-language unit with a more specific target-language expression. This transformation is used when the source word is semantically general, but the target language requires precision. In English–Uzbek translation, concretization is frequent because English often uses semantically wide verbs and nouns whose exact meaning becomes clear only in context. Uzbek translation tends to demand more explicit lexical specification. For example, the English verb “to get” may require different Uzbek renderings depending on whether it means “obtain,” “become,” “arrive,” or “understand.” The scientific value of concretization lies in showing how language-specific semantic structures influence translation choices.

**Generalization.** Generalization is the use of a broader target-language unit instead of a semantically narrower source-language item. It is useful when the source detail is not crucial or when an exact rendering would sound unnatural. Generalization helps preserve textual fluency and communicative clarity. However, excessive generalization may reduce imagery or stylistic intensity. Therefore, it must be used selectively.

**Omission.** Omission is the removal of a lexical item that is semantically redundant or pragmatically unnecessary in the target language. It is not the loss of meaning, but the elimination of elements that are already implied or structurally excessive. This transformation reflects the translator’s awareness that equivalence is achieved at the level of meaning, not at the level of the number of words. Nevertheless, omission must be applied cautiously so that no important semantic element disappears.

**Antonymic translation.** Antonymic translation is a restructuring process in which affirmation is rendered through negation, or negation through affirmation. Its purpose is to produce a more natural and idiomatic expression in the target language. This type of transformation is especially valuable for demonstrating that semantic equivalence can be preserved even when lexical form changes significantly.

**Compensation.** Compensation is the reproduction of lost meaning, style, or expressiveness in another part of the target text through alternative means. It is especially important in literary translation, where not every lexical feature can be preserved directly. Compensation confirms that translation adequacy is not based solely on local correspondence; it may involve the redistribution of meaning across the text.

**Functional significance of lexical transformations.** Lexical transformations perform several key functions in translation. First, they ensure semantic precision by helping the translator choose the most contextually accurate equivalent. Second, they contribute to stylistic appropriateness by adapting lexical choices to the expressive norms of the target language. Third, they guarantee communicative naturalness, making the translated text sound readable and authentic. Fourth, they serve a cultural mediation

function, especially in the translation of non-equivalent vocabulary, realia, and phraseological units. Fifth, they support textual coherence because individual lexical decisions affect the unity and tone of the whole translated text.

Therefore, lexical transformations should be understood not as isolated operations but as functionally motivated strategies that connect semantics, style, and culture.

**Linguocultural dimension of lexical transformations.** A major scientific contribution of lexical transformation analysis lies in its linguocultural dimension. Translation is always a contact between cultures as well as between languages. Many lexical units reflect culturally specific categories of experience, and these cannot always be transferred directly. For instance, phraseological units, kinship terms, ritual vocabulary, and culturally marked objects often carry meanings that are transparent to native speakers but opaque to foreign readers. In such cases, lexical transformation becomes a mechanism of intercultural interpretation. This means that translation involves not only meaning transfer but also worldview negotiation. From this perspective, lexical transformations can be studied as indicators of how linguistic and cultural asymmetries are managed in translation.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** The scientific novelty of the article lies in the following aspects:

1. lexical transformations are examined not only as technical translation procedures, but also as semantic, functional, and linguocultural strategies;
2. the study systematizes the role of equivalence and non-equivalence in English–Uzbek lexical transfer;
3. the article emphasizes the interdependence of context, culture, and stylistic adequacy in lexical decision-making;
4. lexical transformation is interpreted as a mechanism for preserving communicative effect rather than only literal meaning. These points strengthen the research value of the article and distinguish it from purely descriptive discussions.

**Theoretical significance of the research.** The theoretical significance of the study lies in its contribution to translation theory, particularly to the study of lexical equivalence, transformation models, and linguocultural adaptation. The article expands the understanding of lexical transformation as a multidimensional process involving semantics, style, and culture. The results may also support future research in comparative linguistics, translation pedagogy, literary translation, and intercultural communication.

**Practical significance of the research.** The practical significance of the study is connected with its applicability in several areas: translator training courses, practical translation classes, literary translation workshops, comparative lexicology, and translation-oriented English and Uzbek language teaching. The materials and conclusions of the article may help students, translators, and young researchers better understand how lexical choices are made in actual translation practice.

**Discussion.** The analysis demonstrates that lexical transformations are inevitable in English–Uzbek translation because the two languages differ not only structurally but also culturally. These differences are reflected in lexical meaning, phraseological organization, stylistic preferences, and the degree of semantic explicitness required in communication.

The discussion also shows that translation adequacy depends on context-sensitive interpretation. A translator cannot rely exclusively on dictionary meaning. Instead, lexical decisions must be based on communicative intention, stylistic function, and cultural relevance. This confirms that lexical transformation is both a linguistic and an interpretive act. Its study, therefore, deserves a central place in modern translation research.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, lexical transformations are among the most essential mechanisms in English–Uzbek translation. They are used whenever direct lexical correspondence is insufficient for preserving meaning, style, or communicative effect. Transformations such as concretization, generalization, omission, antonymic translation, and compensation enable the translator to overcome semantic and cultural asymmetries between languages.

The research has shown that lexical transformation should be regarded as a semantic, functional, and linguocultural strategy. Its importance lies not only in ensuring adequacy at the lexical level, but also in maintaining the integrity of the whole translated text. For this reason, the study of lexical transformations remains a relevant and productive field for both theoretical inquiry and practical translator education.

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