

## CROSS-CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN TRANSLATING FIRE SAFETY TERMINOLOGY

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**Abstract.** *This article analyzes the impact of intercultural differences on the language and translation process, as well as the main errors occurring when translating terms. In the context of global communication, the correct expression of concepts belonging to different cultural contexts appears as an important task for the translator. The study examines the semantic, pragmatic, and cultural characteristics of terms based on a lingo culturological approach, identifying factors leading to incorrect translation such as the problem of equivalence, differences in cultural realities, insufficient consideration of context, and inconsistencies in terminological standards.*

**Key words:** *intercultural communication, translation theory, terminology, translation errors, lingo culturology, equivalence.*

**Annotatsiya.** *Ushbu maqolada madaniyatlararo tafovutlarning til va tarjima jarayoniga ta'siri hamda terminlarni tarjima qilishda yuzaga keladigan asosiy xatoliklar tahlil qilinadi. Global kommunikatsiya sharoitida turli madaniy kontekstlarga mansub tushunchalarni to'g'ri ifodalash tarjimon oldida muhim vazifa sifatida namoyon bo'ladi. Tadqiqotda lingvokulturologik yondashuv asosida terminlarning semantik, pragmatik va madaniy xususiyatlari o'rganilib, noto'g'ri tarjimaga olib keluvchi omillar — ekvivalentlik muammosi, madaniy realiyalar farqi, kontekstni yetarli hisobga olmaslik hamda terminologik standartlarning bir xil emasligi aniqlanadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *madaniyatlararo kommunikatsiya, tarjima nazariyasi, terminologiya, tarjima xatolari, lingvokulturologiya, ekvivalentlik.*

**Аннотация.** *В данной статье анализируется влияние межкультурных различий на языковой и переводческий процесс, а также основные ошибки, возникающие при переводе терминов. В условиях глобальной коммуникации правильное выражение понятий, относящихся к различным культурным контекстам, представляется переводчику важной задачей. В исследовании на основе лингво культурологического подхода изучаются семантические, прагматические и культурные особенности терминов, выявляются факторы, приводящие к неправильному переводу - проблема эквивалентности, различие культурных реалий, недостаточный учет контекста и неоднозначность терминологических стандартов.*

**Ключевые слова:** *межкультурная коммуникация, теория перевода, терминология, ошибки перевода, лингво культурология, эквивалентность.*

**Introduction.** Intercultural differences refer to changes in behavior, beliefs, values, customs, and communication styles between different cultures. These differences can affect social interactions, business practices, education, safety regulations, and even the use of language. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective intercultural communication and cooperation. Intercultural differences and distinctions also differ in aspects such as language and communication style, values and beliefs, and food and dining culture [5; p.45]. In particular, the field of fire safety has different approaches in different countries, which is reflected in such sections as terminology, legislation, practical training and technology. These differences are related to culture, historical experience, and local norms, and these differences must be taken into account in translation. Below, we will discuss in more detail the differences in fire safety terms across different countries and

cultures. Cross-cultural differences can be defined as variations in scores or outcomes between individuals of different cultural backgrounds, which may arise from factors such as social acceptability, translation problems, or mismatches in measurement tools when conducting research between different cultural groups.

In some cultures, strict adherence to fire safety rules is considered important, and failure to comply with them is seen as causing major problems. Compliance with fire safety regulations is very important in Japan, as earthquakes and fires occur frequently in this country. Or in the USA, where fire safety is of great importance, there are strict rules and standards in this area. In the USA, especially in the state of California, forest fires are a major problem due to the abundance of forests.

Risk assessment methods may vary across cultures. In some cultures, risk assessment focuses more on technical factors, while in others, social and cultural factors are also taken into account. The methods of responding to threats also depend on culture. In many cultures, more collective actions are considered important in responding to threats, while in other cultures, personal responsibility is more important.

The level of fire safety education also depends on culture. In some cultures, fire safety education is conducted in schools and other educational institutions, while in others, it is conducted within the family or community. Fire safety education methods also depend on culture. In some cultures, fire safety education provides more theoretical information, while in others, practical training is more important.

During the translation process, it is necessary to consider the influence of phraseological units on fire safety terminology. In the translation process, a translation based on semantic equivalents is preferred over a literal approach. Therefore, the cooperation of linguists and technical specialists in translation leads to the correct translation of phraseological units.

Phraseological expressions are stable expressions that cannot be translated literally and acquire cultural and contextual meaning. When translating them from one language to another, it is important to take into account cultural differences, as phrases often reflect concepts, traditions, and beliefs specific to a particular culture [1; 21]. Therefore, a literal translation of a phrase is often insufficient and may even be incorrect.

Cultural traditions and customs - every culture has its own traditions, and these traditions are reflected in expressions. For example: the phrase *olov bo'lib yonmoq* in Uzbek expresses illness, anger, or love depending on the situation, while in other languages, such a phrase may not exist. Cultural differences related to fire are very clearly felt in the translation of phraseological expressions. Since fire has different symbolic meanings in English, Russian and Uzbek cultures, it has different meanings in the translation process. Cultural differences arise due to differences in religious beliefs, geographical location, and historical events [3; 45-53b].

The following difficulties can be encountered when translating industry terms:

1) Finding an equivalent phrase when translating from one language to another is the most complex process. A particular phraseological unit may not always be available in the target language. For example, the English phrase to fight with fire may not have an appropriate equivalent in Uzbek and Russian, which can cause difficulties for the translator.

2) Understanding the meaning of a phrase can also be difficult in some cases. To understand the meaning of a phrase correctly, one must know the cultural context. Examples of cultural context include features such as historical origins, cultural customs, symbolic meanings, and social context.

Maintaining the style and function of the phrase during translation is also one of the key elements and is of great importance. For example, the phrase *o't bilan o'ynashmoq* (to play with fire, to play with fire) in all three languages means that people should refrain from dangerous actions.

Below, we discuss the differences between popular phraseological units related to fire and fire safety in English, Russian, and Uzbek. These phraseological units are similar in meaning and structure in all three languages, and the methods of use are also close to each other. This can be seen in the example in Table 1 below.

Table 1.

The meanings of common phraseological expressions in English, Russian and Uzbek languages

Ingliz tili	Rus tili	O'zbek tili
<i>to throw oneself into the the fire</i>	<i>броситься в огонь</i>	<i>o'zini o'tga tashlamoq</i>
<i>to play with fire</i>	<i>играть с огнём</i>	<i>o't bilan o'ynashmoq</i>
<i>to add fuel to the fire</i>	<i>подлить масла в огонь</i>	<i>olovga moy sepmoq</i>
<i>to go up in flames</i>	<i>сгореть дотла</i>	<i>olov ichida qolmoq</i>

Table 1. above presents common phraseological units in English, Russian, and Uzbek. In English:

- the phrase *to throw oneself into the fire* is used to mean to put oneself in a difficult situation, to sacrifice, and in Russian it has equivalents such as to throw oneself into the fire, and in Uzbek it is used to mean to put oneself in danger;

- the phrase *to play with fire* is used in the sense of taking on a dangerous task, and in Russian it has equivalents such as to play with fire, and in Uzbek it is used in the sense of doing a dangerous job or approaching danger;

- the phrase *to add fuel to the fire* is used in the sense of further aggravating the situation, and in Russian it has equivalents such as "to pour oil into the fire," and in Uzbek it is used in the sense of further exacerbating the problem, aggravating the situation;

- the phrase *to go up in flames* is used to mean to fail or to disappear completely, and in Russian it has equivalents such as *сгореть дотла* and in Uzbek it is used to mean to be completely destroyed, to fail.

**Results and discussion.** There are such phraseological expressions that the translator has difficulty or hesitation in translating them, because the phrase in one language may not

be in the other, and their literal translation can cause a problem in translation, that is, a different meaning (see Table 2).

Table 2

Phraseological units that do not have an equivalent

Ingliz tili	Rus tili	O'zbek tili
<i>where there's smoke, there's fire.</i>	<i>нет дыма без огня</i>	<i>shamol bo'lmasa daraxtni uchi qimillamaydi</i>
<i>to fight fire with fire</i>	<i>клин клином вышибают</i>	<i>achchiqni achchiq kesadi</i>
<i>a baptism of fire</i>	<i>крещения огнём</i>	<i>qiyin imtihon</i>

Table 2. above shows phraseological units that do not have an equivalent. These expressions lose their meaning or are misunderstood when translated literally into other languages. Their content is understood only through cultural, historical, and national context. For example:

- The Russian equivalent of the phrase *where there's smoke, there's fire* is *нет дыма без огня* and since such an expression does not exist in the Uzbek language, it is literally translated as *where there is smoke, there will be fire*. However, in the same sense, the phrase *if there is no wind, the top of the tree does not move* is used in the Uzbek language;

- The Russian equivalent of the phrase *to fight fire with fire* is *клин клином вышибают*, and since such an expression is not in the Uzbek language, it literally translates to *to extinguish fire with fire*. In the Uzbek language, there is no term related to the word *fire* used in this sense, but it is closer to use the phrase *achchiqni achchiq kesadi* in the same sense;

- The Russian equivalent of the phrase *baptism of fire* is *крещение огнём* and since such a phrase does not exist in the Uzbek language, it literally translates to *qiyin imtihon* but since there is no such phrase in the Uzbek language, it is correct to translate this phrase as difficult exam.

Of course, errors in the translation of fire safety terms and phrases can be very dangerous or cause serious problems, as incorrect translation can cause damage to people's lives and property. Terminological inaccuracies, cultural differences and discrepancies, stylistic, grammatical, and spelling errors related to the fire-technical field can be encountered:

As mentioned above, terminological inaccuracies can cause translation errors. Some terms may convey an incorrect meaning when translated literally. For example in English:

Although it is correct to translate the word *fire extinguisher* into Russian as *огнетушитель* and into Uzbek as *o't o'chirgich* it may provide incorrect information to someone who does not understand its operating principle. The word eraser can resemble everyday objects (a pencil eraser) and this can reduce the importance of the device. It is correct and more formal to translate as *fire extinguishing device* or *fire extinguisher*;

If the phrase *fire alarm* is literally translated into Uzbek, it means *olov signalizatsiyasi*, and in Russian, it means *пожарная тревога*. The problem is that the word *alarm* has a broad meaning and may not only apply to fire. The translation *fire warning system* or *fire alarm* is both correct and official;

The phrase *fire door* is translated into Russian as *пожарная дверь* and into Uzbek as *olov eshigi* but the phrase *fire door* can lead to the misconception that the door is made of fire or covered with fire. It should be translated as *fire-resistant door* or *fire-protection door*, which is correct and understandable for specialists in the field;

- *smoke detector* literally translates to Russian as *детектор дыма* and in Uzbek it means *tutun detektori* However, since the word *detector* is not understood by everyone, it will be understandable for everyone to use it as a *smoke detector*;

The phrase *fire hose* is translated into Russian as *пожарный шланг*, and into Uzbek as *olov shlangi*. The word *hose* can resemble other hoses used in everyday life, and this can reduce the importance of the device. The translation of this term as *yong'in o'chirish yenglari* was accepted by representatives of the industry;

The phrase *combustible dust*, when translated from English into Russian, can mean *горючая пыль*, and when translated into Uzbek, it can mean *yonuvchi chang*; in translation, the word *chang* can mean ordinary dust, but *combustible dust* refers to small particles that pose an explosion hazard. Therefore, if this phrase is translated as a flammable powder, it can acquire a clear meaning;

The phrase *flash point* is directly translated into Russian as *точка вспышки*, and in Uzbek as *chaqnash nuqtasi*, the word *вспышка* can mean ordinary light, but at the same time, *flash point* refers to the lowest temperature at which the liquid emits flammable vapors. Therefore, it is also correct to translate the phrase *flash point* as the ignition temperature;

Choosing the wrong term often causes problems. If there are several terms in a particular language, it is a mistake to choose one that does not correspond to the context [4;25]. This situation can cause problems with translation, as they can express a completely different meaning or lead to incorrect actions. For example in English:

There have been cases of using the term *fire-resistant* (*olovga chidamli*) instead of the term *fireproof* (*yong'inga chidamli*). When studying the etymology of the terms, *fireproof* material means that it is completely fireproof, there is no such material at all. A *fire-resistant* material is a term used to refer to a material that can resist fire for a certain period of time. As a result, if the term *fireproof* is used incorrectly in the construction of a building, people may live with an incorrect sense of safety and lead to serious consequences in the event of a fire.

The absence of a term also causes similar problems. In some languages, a specific fire safety term may not have a direct equivalent [2;25]. In this case, the translator will

have to find a creative approach and a solution that fits the situation, define the term or use another term with a closer meaning. For example in English:

- the phrase *passive fire protection* can also be a bit difficult to explain. The meaning of this term refers to the materials and methods used in the construction of a building to slow the spread of a fire. There is no direct equivalent for this term, so a short definition is given as passive fire protection;

- the phrase *means of egress* also has no equivalent in the Uzbek language, the meaning of the term refers to a system of ways used to exit a building to a safe place, including doors, corridors, stairs, etc. This term is very common in the field of fire safety, but there is no exact equivalent in the Uzbek language. Therefore, if this term is defined as a system of exits from a building to a safe place or evacuation routes, the concept is conveyed correctly;

- the phrase *flashover* may cause some problems when translating. The meaning of this term is the simultaneous ignition of all combustible materials as a result of a sharp increase in temperature during a fire in an enclosed space. The problem is that there is no direct equivalent for the term flashover in the Uzbek language. In the translation process, defining this term as a sudden outbreak of fire is an acceptable solution;

As can be seen from these examples, a translator must possess sufficient knowledge in the field of fire safety, correctly understand the meaning of terms, and be able to find a solution that suits the target audience. When explaining such terms, it is sometimes necessary to define, sometimes to calque and explain, and sometimes to use and explain the scientific term. During the translation process, the translator must find the phrase that expresses the closest meaning in the target language and provide an explanation.

A certain degree of caution is also required when using standards and rules. Fire safety standards and regulations may vary from country to country. Therefore, when translating any text, it is necessary to take into account the standards and rules of the country of the language being translated. For example: the concept of fire resistance rating (degree of fire resistance) may vary from country to country.

**Conclusion.** Fire safety regulations in Uzbekistan are primarily based on Russian standards, and the equivalent of this term is the term *extreme fire resistance*. But now the new rules are being adapted to European standards. In the United States, *fire resistance rating* (FRR) is used in hours (Example: 1-hour fire resistance rating). In Russia, the fire resistance limit is also used in hours (for example: fire resistance limit 1 hour). The problem is that the standards that correspond to the term vary from country to country. In Uzbek, the fire resistance rating can be directly translated as the level of fire resistance, but it is also important to indicate which standard it is based on. If the Russian standard is used, it is necessary to use the term "sub-fire resistance limit" and provide an additional explanation.

The above mistakes can lead people to misunderstand fire safety instructions, take wrong actions when a fire occurs, cause property damage, and even lead to injuries and death. Therefore, it is advisable for the translation to be performed by a specialist with experience in fire safety, to use a standard dictionary of fire safety terms, to have the translation verified by a native-speaking specialist, to adapt the translated information to the target culture, to use clear and understandable language in the translation process, and to perform the translation with high quality. Translating fire safety terms and phrases is a very responsible task. Taking the above steps and consulting with experts may also help prevent errors.

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