



STYLISTIC TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE UZBEK TRANSLATION OF JOHN STEINBECK'S OF MICE AND MEN

Murtazoyeva Azizabonu

1st year student, Bukhara state university, Uzbekistan

Abstract: Literary translation is a complex process that involves not only the transfer of semantic meaning but also the preservation of stylistic and artistic features of the original text. One of the main challenges in translating literary works lies in maintaining the author's narrative style, imagery, and emotional tone while adapting the text to the linguistic and cultural norms of the target language. The novella *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck represents a significant example of twentieth-century American literature characterized by simplicity of language, colloquial dialogue, and symbolic imagery. The Uzbek translation of the work, titled *Odamlar va sichqonlar*, provides an opportunity to analyze how stylistic features of the original text are transformed during translation. The purpose of this article is to examine stylistic transformations occurring in the translation of Steinbeck's novella from English into Uzbek. The research is based on a comparative analysis of selected passages from the original text *Of Mice and Men* and its Uzbek translation. The study identifies lexical, grammatical, and stylistic transformations applied by the translator in order to preserve the artistic integrity of the text. The results demonstrate that translation transformations are essential for achieving stylistic equivalence and ensuring the readability of the translated literary work.

Keywords: Literary translation, stylistic transformation, Steinbeck, Uzbek translation, comparative analysis, narrative style.

Introduction

Literary translation plays a crucial role in the transmission of cultural and artistic values across languages and societies. Through translation, readers gain access to works created in different cultural contexts, enabling intercultural dialogue and intellectual exchange.¹ However, translating literary texts presents numerous difficulties because language is closely connected to cultural and stylistic traditions. The works of John Steinbeck are widely known for their realistic portrayal of human relationships and social conditions. His novella *Of Mice and Men* is one of the most studied literary texts due to its emotional depth, symbolic structure, and simple yet expressive language. The story focuses on two migrant workers, George and Lennie, whose dream of owning a small farm reflects the broader aspirations of ordinary people during the Great Depression.

The Uzbek translation of the novella, titled "*Odamlar va sichqonlar*", allows Uzbek readers to experience Steinbeck's literary style. Nevertheless, the process of translation inevitably involves structural and stylistic transformations. Because English and Uzbek belong to different language families and possess different grammatical systems, the translator must apply various translation strategies to convey the meaning and stylistic features of the original text. The main objective of this study is to analyze stylistic transformations occurring in the Uzbek translation of Steinbeck's novella. The research aims to identify how linguistic and stylistic elements are adapted in translation and how these transformations influence the

¹ Baker, M. (2011). In *Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*



perception of the text. Theoretical research on translation has emphasized the importance of preserving both meaning and style in literary texts. According to Eugene Nida, translation should aim at achieving “dynamic equivalence,” meaning that the translated text should produce a similar effect on readers as the original text.

Peter Newmark also highlights that literary translation requires careful attention to stylistic features such as metaphor, imagery, and tone. According to Newmark, translators often apply transformations in order to reproduce stylistic equivalence when direct translation is not possible.

Modern translation scholars such as Mona Baker have further explored strategies used to solve linguistic and cultural differences between source and target languages. These strategies include lexical substitution, grammatical restructuring, and cultural adaptation.

Although Steinbeck’s works have been widely studied in literary criticism, fewer studies focus on stylistic transformations in their translations into Uzbek. Therefore, analyzing the Uzbek translation of *Of Mice and Men* contributes to the field of translation studies by demonstrating how stylistic elements are adapted between two structurally different languages.²

This study applies a comparative textual analysis method. Selected passages from the original English text and the Uzbek translation are examined in order to identify stylistic transformations.

The research focuses on three main aspects: 1) Lexical transformations, 2) Grammatical transformations, 3) Stylistic transformations

Examples from the original text are compared with their Uzbek equivalents to determine how the translator adapted linguistic structures and stylistic features. The narrative style of *Of Mice and Men* is characterized by several distinctive elements that contribute to the emotional power of the story. One of the defining features of Steinbeck’s style is the use of colloquial dialogue. The characters speak in a natural and informal manner that reflects their social background as migrant workers.³

Example: “Ain’t many guys travel around together.”

The use of the nonstandard form “ain’t” illustrates the informal speech typical of the characters. Such expressions create authenticity and help the reader understand the social environment of the story.

In Uzbek translation, the exact grammatical form cannot be reproduced because Uzbek grammar does not contain similar dialect markers. Therefore, the translator replaces the phrase with a natural Uzbek equivalent:

“Birga yuradigan odamlar unchalik ko‘p emas.”

Here the stylistic effect is preserved even though the grammatical form changes.

Symbolism plays an important role in the narrative structure of the novella. The title itself refers to a line from a poem by Robert Burns, which suggests that even the best plans often fail.

In the Uzbek translation, the title “*Odamlar va sichqonlar*” retains the literal imagery of the original phrase while preserving its symbolic meaning. The recurring motif of rabbits in the novel also symbolizes Lennie’s dream of a peaceful and independent life. Steinbeck frequently uses descriptive passages to create atmosphere and establish the setting.

Example:

² Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*.

³ Nida, E. (1964). *Toward a Science of Translating*.

“The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight.”⁴

In Uzbek translation, the sentence is slightly reorganized to match Uzbek syntactic patterns:

“Quyosh nuri ostida sariq qumlar ustidan jilvalanib oqib o‘tgan suv iliq edi.”⁵

This transformation demonstrates how grammatical restructuring helps maintain stylistic harmony in the target language.

The analysis of the translated text reveals several types of transformations used by the translator. Lexical transformation occurs when a word in the source language is replaced with a contextually appropriate equivalent in the target language.

Example: English: “guys”

Uzbek: “odamlar”

The translator chooses a neutral term that fits the stylistic tone of the narrative.

Grammatical transformations involve changes in sentence structure or grammatical categories.

Example: Original: “George looked sharply at him.”⁶

Uzbek translation: “Jorj unga keskin qaradi.”⁷

The structure becomes simpler while preserving the meaning.

Stylistic transformation occurs when the translator modifies linguistic elements to reproduce the emotional tone of the original text. For example, conversational expressions in English are often replaced with natural spoken Uzbek equivalents.

A comparison of the original English text and the Uzbek translation demonstrates how translation transformations operate in practice.

Example 1 – Repetition and Emotional Meaning

Original: “Tell me about the rabbits, George.”

Uzbek translation: “Aytib ber, Jorj, quyonlar haqida.”

The simplicity of the sentence is preserved in translation, which maintains the emotional significance of Lennie’s dream.

Example 2 – Expression of Loneliness

Original: “Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world.”

Uzbek translation: “Bizga o‘xshagan fermalarda ishlaydigan odamlar dunyodagi eng yolg‘iz insonlardir.” The translator expands the phrase “guys like us” in order to clarify the meaning for Uzbek readers.

The comparative analysis shows that translation transformations are unavoidable in literary translation. Steinbeck’s narrative style relies heavily on dialogue and symbolic imagery, which must be carefully adapted in another language. The Uzbek translation demonstrates the effective use of lexical substitution, grammatical restructuring, and stylistic adaptation. These transformations help maintain the readability and emotional depth of the original text. Furthermore, the analysis confirms that successful literary translation requires not only linguistic competence but also cultural and stylistic sensitivity.

Conclusion

⁴ Steinbeck, J. (1937). *Of Mice and Men*.

⁵ Steynbek, J. *Odamlar va sichqonlar*. Toshkent, 2000 y.

⁶ Steinbeck, J. (1937). *Of Mice and Men*.

⁷ Steynbek, J. *Odamlar va sichqonlar*. Toshkent, 2000 y.



The study of stylistic transformations in the Uzbek translation of *Of Mice and Men* highlights the complex nature of literary translation. By comparing the original English text with the Uzbek translation, this research identified several important translation strategies. Lexical, grammatical, and stylistic transformations enable translators to preserve the artistic qualities of the original work while adapting it to the linguistic norms of the target language. As a result, the translated text remains faithful to the author's narrative style and emotional message. Future research may extend this analysis to other works by Steinbeck in order to explore broader patterns of stylistic transformation in literary translation.

References

1. Baker, M. (2011). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*.
2. Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*.
3. Nida, E. (1964). *Toward a Science of Translating*.
4. Steinbeck, J. (1937). *Of Mice and Men*.
5. Steynbek, J. *Odamlar va sichqonlar*. Toshkent, 2000 y.