



AN ANALYSIS OF PRAGMATIC SHIFTS IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF P. QODIROV'S "STARRY NIGHTS."

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Abstract. This article explores the role of pragmatics in translation, with a particular focus on the transfer of historical realia and culturally specific expressions from Uzbek into English. It examines how pragmatic meaning is conveyed or lost in translation through the analysis of examples from Pirmiqul Qodirov's novel "*Starry nights*." The study highlights the importance of preserving pragmatic, cultural, and historical nuances in translation, emphasizing the translator's competence in maintaining the communicative effect of the source text. The comparison of direct and indirect translation strategies demonstrates how different approaches influence the preservation of meaning, expressiveness, and cultural context.

Keywords: pragmatics, translation studies, historical realia, cultural context, communicative function, pragmatics in translation, linguistic competence

Introduction. Each academic discipline has its own specific orientation and a system of issues to be studied. Likewise, several problems exist within the field of translation, one of which is currently under consideration—the issue of pragmatics. The pragmatic problems of translation have not yet been fully explored, and this area continues to require in-depth scholarly investigation.

Translation studies, as an academic discipline, has long engaged with the complexities of conveying meaning across linguistic and cultural boundaries. While traditional approaches have primarily focused on the syntactic and semantic aspects of language, contemporary scholarship recognizes the crucial role of pragmatics in understanding the more nuanced dimensions of translation. Pragmatics functions as a "bridge" between the source text and the target text, with the translator acting as its "builder." The strength or fragility of this "bridge" depends largely on the translator's competence and expertise.

In this regard, when discussing pragmatics, it should be noted that pragmatics (from the Greek *pragma*, meaning "action") is a branch of semiotics concerned with the relationships between signs and their users. The term *pragmatics* was introduced into scholarly discourse in the 1930s by Ch. Morris. Today, pragmatics is understood as the study of how language users express their attitudes through specific lexical and semantic constructions and how interlocutors interpret these attitudes, that is, how meaning is shaped in accordance with a given communicative context.

Pragmatics encompasses a wide range of issues related to language use and the pragmatic knowledge of speakers, integrating insights from multiple disciplines such as rhetoric, stylistics, speech theory and typology, discourse studies, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. It occupies an interdisciplinary position at the intersection of speech, ethical and human behavior, and cognitive activity. At the same time, pragmatics maintains close connections with structural linguistics, stylistics, speech culture, poetics, linguopoetics,

psycholinguistics, ethics, aesthetics, and cultural studies, as it is inherently linked to both conscious and unconscious cultural and natural human behavior. However, none of these disciplines can fully substitute for the role of pragmatics.

Literature review. As with all features of pragmatics, there exist diverse viewpoints regarding its application in translation. In particular, according to Neubert (1978), the transfer of pragmatic meaning in translation can be realized through the following approaches:

1. a high degree of pragmatic transfer (e.g., in scientific and technical literature);
2. a restricted or partial transfer of pragmatics (e.g., in the preparation of informational and analytical materials for speakers of another language);
3. a near impossibility of transferring the original pragmatics (when the text is specifically addressed to representatives of a particular linguistic and cultural community).

Establishing pragmatic relations in accordance with the source text plays a crucial role in the process of translation. The translator must possess background knowledge of the source language, as successful translation requires familiarity with the culture, traditions, literature, and way of life associated with that language. The adequacy of translation, that is, its correspondence to the original, depends not only on lexical and semantic features but also on cultural and socio-linguistic factors.

In translation, the distinctive features of dialects and regional varieties also play a significant role, as each of them may exert a particular pragmatic effect. Deviations from standard language norms in the source text, including the use of dialects and linguistic contamination (non-standard or distorted speech), can create challenges in the translation process.

Dialects and regional varieties are rendered in translation in specific ways. If dialectal elements are employed in the text for stylistic purposes, they introduce particular features into the translation. However, such elements are not translated directly, as their meaning and function may possess a dual character. On the one hand, when a literary work is written in a specific dialect of a foreign language, the translation of dialect plays an important role in cross-linguistic communication. In such cases, the translator must have a thorough understanding of the characteristics of that dialect. On the other hand, dialectal expressions are often used to convey the individuality of characters, as well as their regional and social affiliations. In these instances, it is not always possible to fully reproduce the pragmatic features of the dialect in translation, since preserving such elements may not be essential for maintaining the integrity of the source text.

Translation pragmatics (the pragmatic aspect of translation) is defined as the set of pragmatic factors that influence both the process and the outcome of translation. It includes the following:

- the necessity of fully reflecting the potential of the source text;
- the need to ensure the intended impact on the recipient (receptor) of the translation.

According to **A. Neubert (1978)**, “preserving the pragmatics of the source text in translation,” constitutes one of the principal tasks in producing an adequate translation.

Furthermore, according to **V. Komissarov (2011)**, there are four main types of pragmatic adaptation of a text:

1. **Addition of information or omission of redundant details:**

In this type, the translator introduces additional elements (such as footnotes and explanatory comments) or omits details that are not essential to the meaning. The principal techniques involved are addition and omission.

2. Creation of emotional impact:

The translation is aimed at producing the same emotional effect on the reader as the source text. To achieve this, associative search and appropriate substitutions are employed to convey the emotional component.

3. Orientation toward the communicative situation and target audience:

This type involves adapting the text to a specific communicative context, with the translator emphasizing information considered important. Such adaptation often requires a significant departure from the source text and is therefore less typical of literary translation.

4. Transformation of the source text:

In this case, a new text is created, which may take the form of a philological translation (reflecting the formal features of the original) or an approximate translation (rendering elements of the source text in a relatively close form). It may also involve modernization, whereby the author's style, the temporal setting, and other details are modified. This method is widely used in the translation of literary works.

Discussion. The pragmatic features of a source text enable it to exert either a positive or negative impact on the recipient (reader or listener) and facilitate an accurate interpretation of the author's intended meaning. The successful reconstruction of these pragmatic features in translation largely depends on the translator's competence. However, in attempting to modernize the source text, the translator may unintentionally distort the author's original intent, thereby compromising the quality of the translation. Such modifications can lead to significant changes in both meaning and communicative effect.

Pirimmqul Qodirov's novel "*Yulduzli tunlar*" portrays the social, literary, and political environment of that period through the image of the historical figure Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, using various linguistic means, sometimes realistically and sometimes based on artistic fiction. The title of the first chapter of the first part of the novel has been selected for analysis.

In the process of communication, people enter into a relationship between the addresser (the sender of information) and the addressee (the receiver of information), and this speech inherently possesses a communicative function. The reception and comprehension of the transmitted information by the recipient give rise to pragmatic relations.

During the translation process, rendering historical realities and concepts from Uzbek into English causes numerous difficulties. Historical realia are notions specific to a particular period and culture, and when translating them into another language, it is necessary to consider not only linguistic approaches but also pragmatic factors. Since each language has its own historical, cultural, and social foundations, such translations must take into account intercultural differences, structural differences between languages, as well as the communicative purpose.

In the following passage taken from the novel "*Yulduzli tunlar*", the historical style is dominant, and the text is logically consistent and based on real events.

Original text: *Umarshayx mirzo qal'aning bir chetida, daryoning baland qirg'og'i ustida, jar labida turgan kabutarxonaga qarab yo'l oldi. Otliq choparlar dom-daraksiz ketganliklari uchun Mirzo endi qanotlik «chopar»larini ishga solmoqchi edi.*¹

¹ Qodirov P. *Yulduzli tunlar*:roman. – Toshkent:Adabiyot uchqunlari, 2018. – B.28.

Direct translation: *The horsemen made their way to the pigeon-house which was standing on the high bank with its terrace overhanging the steep. The heralds sent from Akhsi went to the winds and mirza made his mind to put messenger-pigeons to use.*²

Indirect translation: *The riders headed to the devocate that stood on the high riverbank overhanging the cliff. The messengers sent from Akhsi had disappeared without a trace, so the mirza decided to resort to homing pigeons.*³

In the original text, the traditional means of communication—pigeons—are expressed through the metaphorical phrase “*qanotlik choparlar*.” The original text preserves the historical context and pragmatically presents the pigeon house to the reader not merely as an ordinary building, but as a means of information exchange in the past. However, this pragmatic effect is simplified in the direct translation by the translator and rendered simply as “*messenger pigeons*” and “*pigeon house*,” which diminishes the historical context and expressiveness of the original text.

In contrast, the indirect translation, where *kabutarxona* is rendered as “the dovecote” and *qanotlik choparlar* as “homing pigeons,” clearly demonstrates the translator’s cultural competence and pragmatic adaptability. Through the sentence “*Otliq choparlar dom-daraksiz ketganliklari*,” the author conveys implicature meanings such as unrest and a sense of anxiety during wartime in the depicted historical period, successfully delivering a dramatic tone to the reader. Unfortunately, this pragmatic aspect has been omitted in both translation versions.

Conclusion. In conclusion, pragmatics plays a crucial role in ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of translation, especially when dealing with historical and culturally bound texts. The analysis of examples from “*Starry Nights*” shows that literal translation may lead to a loss of expressive and pragmatic meaning, while a more culturally sensitive and adaptive approach better preserves the original text’s intent. The translator must balance linguistic accuracy with pragmatic and cultural equivalence to maintain the communicative impact of the source text. Thus, successful translation requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of cultural context, pragmatic relations, and the author’s intended message.

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