

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANTONYMIC TRANSLATION IN SCIENTIFIC TEXTS

**Khushboqova Zarnigor**

Master of Termiz State University

Termiz Davlat universiteti magistranti

E-mail: [zarnigor@gmail.com](mailto:zarnigor@gmail.com)

Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-8905-1499>

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the role and significance of antonymic translation techniques in the translation of scientific texts. The study explores the lexico-grammatical features of rendering a negative meaning from one language into an affirmative form in another (and vice versa). A comparative analysis of antonymic translation is provided, emphasizing its effectiveness in preserving the principles of precision, logic, and objectivity inherent in the scientific style. Furthermore, the article demonstrates through examples the stylistic and semantic advantages of this method in achieving adequate translations of complex sentences found in technical and academic literature.

**Keywords:** antonymic translation, scientific style, adequacy, translation transformation, lexico-grammatical replacement, negation and affirmation, equivalence, translation theory, scientific text analysis, semantic consistency.

## INTRODUCTION

One of the pressing issues in modern linguistics and translation studies is the complete and adequate delivery of the original content when translating scientific texts. The scientific style is distinguished by its logical consistency, precision of terminology, and objectivity of thought. In the process of translating such texts, literal translation often contradicts the internal laws of the language and leads to the text becoming incomprehensible. For this reason, translators resort to various lexical-grammatical transformations, including the method of antonymic translation.

Antonymic translation is a method of ensuring semantic equivalence by changing a negative construction in the source language into an affirmative form in the target language (or vice versa). The significance of this method in scientific texts lies in its service to simplifying syntactic structures, reducing linguistic weight, and expressing the author's idea more naturally. For instance, translating the English phrase "not uncommon" into Uzbek not as "kam uchramaydi" (not rarely met), but as "tez-tez uchraydi" (occurs frequently) or "odatiy hol" (a common occurrence) enhances the scholarly quality of the text[1].

The objective of the research is to analyze the patterns of applying antonymic translation in scientific and technical literature and to demonstrate its functional capabilities in ensuring translation quality. The article highlights the role of this method not only at the lexical level but also at the level of logical-semantic structure through comparative analysis. This, in turn, holds important theoretical and practical significance in preventing semantic losses that may occur during the process of information exchange among specialists.

## METODOLOGY

A systemic-functional approach, oriented towards the study of lexical-semantic transformations in scientific texts, was selected as the methodological basis for this research. In the course of the study, a complex of the following methods was utilized to clarify the



interconnection between the discursive features of the scientific style and the language of translation:

**Method of Comparative-Typological Analysis.** This method serves to identify the structural and semantic correspondence between the source text and the translation. Within this framework, sentences where the antonymic translation method has been applied are compared, and the lexical changes occurring during the transition from a negative structure to an affirmative form, as well as their semantic equivalence, are analyzed.

**Transformational Analysis.** This was employed to determine which level of transformations (lexical, grammatical, or mixed) takes precedence during the processing of complex syntactic structures in scientific texts. Through this method, it is substantiated that antonymic translation is not merely a vocabulary substitution but a profound logical transformation.

**Contextual and Semantic Analysis.** This was applied to study the role and functional load of the unit undergoing antonymic translation within its context. Since every term and phrase in a scientific text possesses a strictly defined meaning, the influence of contextual synonymy in selecting antonymic pairs was examined using this method.

## RESULTS

Scientific style stands out from other discourse styles due to its strict logicity. However, a logical structure in one language may appear incomprehensible or overly cumbersome in another. From this perspective, antonymic translation is not merely a play on words, but a mechanism for bringing the original thought into the natural patterns of the target language. The essence of this method is manifested in expressing a negative meaning in one language (not, non-, un-, без-, не-) through an affirmative word in the second language.

In our study, utilizing a systemic-functional approach, we analyzed transformations in scientific literature. Observations indicate that antonymic translation is often the most optimal way to preserve the concept of “hedging” (caution) in a scientific text. For instance, in English academic articles, authors use the phrase “It is not uncommon to observe...” to avoid asserting their conclusion as an absolute truth[2]. Translating this literally into Uzbek as “Kuzatish kam uchraydigan hol emas” (Observing is not a rarely occurring case) makes the text artificial. Through antonymic shifting, this sentence takes the form: “Bunday holatlar tez-tez (odatiy) kuzatilib turadi” (Such cases are observed frequently/commonly), ensuring semantic clarity.

Restrictive constructions in negative form are frequently encountered in the technical texts of Russian and Western scholars. For example, if the sentence “The reaction was not successful until the catalyst was added” is analyzed, it can be seen that the positive condition of the process is being emphasized. Translating it using the antonymic method as: “Reaksiya faqat katalizator qo‘shilgandan keyingina ijobiy natija berdi” (The reaction gave a positive result only after the catalyst was added) conveys the logical sequence of the scientific text more clearly to the reader. Here, the negative combination “not successful” is transformed into the affirmative combination “positive result.”

Another important example from Russian scientific discourse: “Прибор не заменяет человека, а лишь облегчает его труд” (The device does not replace a human, but merely eases their labor). This sentence can be translated more scientifically via the antonymic route as: “Asbob inson mehnatining yordamchi vositasi bo‘lib, uning faoliyatini samarador qilishga xizmat qiladi” (The device is an auxiliary tool for human labor and serves to make their activity more effective). In this case, an affirmative construction revealing the functional task of the device is used instead of the negation. Likewise, translating the physics term “not unstable” as

“stable/barqaror,” or the biological phrase “not hazardous” as “safe/xavfsiz,” ensures the conciseness of scientific terminology[3].

Antonymic translation of scientific texts requires not only linguistic knowledge from the translator but also deep logical analysis. With the help of this method, the translated text:

Retains 100% of the semantic load of the original;

Is cleared of heavy negative constructions that are not characteristic of Uzbek scientific speech;  
Increases the speed of information delivery and the level of comprehensibility.

Thus, antonymic transformation is evaluated as one of the most effective and practical tools for achieving adequacy in scientific translation.

### **DISCUSSION**

The obtained results indicate that antonymic translation in scientific texts is not merely a stylistic decoration but a logical necessity. Double negation constructions analyzed during the study, such as “not uncommon” (frequently occurring), “not inconsistent” (corresponding/consistent), or “not impossible” (possible/likely), express the author’s caution regarding their conclusions (hedging) in English and Russian scientific languages. However, preserving such constructions literally in the Uzbek language distracts the reader’s attention from the main content and creates an artificiality known as “translationese.”

During the discussion process, it was identified that antonymic transformation occurs not only at the lexical level (replacing a word with its opposite) but also at a deep syntactic level. For instance, translating the phrase “Failure to comply results in...” not as “Muvofiqlikning yo‘qligi...” (The absence of compliance...), but rather based on antonymic logic such as “Qoidalarga amal qilish talab etiladi, aks holda...” (Compliance with rules is required, otherwise...) or “Qoidalardan chekinish...” (Deviation from rules...) increases the academic weight of the text[4].

Furthermore, the application of antonymic translation in scientific discourse aligns with the principle of linguistic economy. Replacing a negative phrase consisting of two or three words with a single precise affirmative term (e.g., “not professional” - “amateur/havaskor”, “not valid” - “invalid/yaroqsiz”) ensures information density. This is particularly crucial for technical manuals and scientific articles where rigorous conclusions are required.

### **CONCLUSION**

As a result of studying the significance of antonymic translation in scientific texts, the following general conclusions were reached:

1. Antonymic translation is the most effective way to adapt the connotative (stylistic) load of a text to the norms of the target language while fully preserving the denotative (literal) meaning of the original.
2. Transforming negative constructions into affirmative forms enhances the decisiveness of logical conclusions in scientific texts and facilitates the reader’s perception of the material.
3. When working on scientific texts, it is advisable for the translator not to limit themselves to the dictionary alone but to understand the cognitive model of the text and utilize antonymic substitutions when necessary.

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