

TYPES OF GRAMMATICAL TRANSFORMATION IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract: Translation is a complex linguistic and communicative process that involves not only the transfer of lexical meaning but also the reproduction of grammatical relationships and structural patterns of the source text. Due to significant grammatical differences between languages, literal translation is not always sufficient to achieve semantic accuracy, naturalness, and equivalence. In this context, grammatical transformations serve as an essential means of adapting the grammatical structure of the source language to the norms of the target language.

Key words: Grammatical transformation, translation, transposition, grammatical replacement, addition, omission, sentence restructuring, translation equivalence, English-Uzbek translation, source language, target language.

Introduction. Translation is widely regarded as a complex linguistic and communicative process that involves the transfer of meaning from a source language into a target language while maintaining the semantic, grammatical, stylistic, and communicative characteristics of the original. The process of translation is complicated by the fact that languages have different grammatical systems, syntactic structures, word-order patterns, and ways of expressing grammatical relations. As a result, a word-for-word or literal translation cannot always provide an accurate and natural representation of the source text. In such situations, translators employ various grammatical transformations that allow them to adapt the structure of the original expression to the grammatical norms of the target language while preserving its essential meaning.¹

The theoretical foundations of grammatical transformations have been studied by numerous scholars in the field of translation studies. J. P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet were among the researchers who systematically described translation procedures and emphasized the importance of transposition, which involves changing the grammatical category or structure of an expression without changing its basic meaning. Their approach demonstrated that structural differences between languages often require translators to modify grammatical forms in order to produce a natural target text. J. C. Catford further developed the theory of translation shifts in his work *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*, distinguishing between different types of shifts that occur when the formal structure of the source language does not correspond directly to that of the target language. His classification provided an important linguistic basis for the analysis of grammatical changes in translation.

The problem of grammatical transformation was also addressed by Peter Newmark, who considered transposition one of the important procedures used by translators to achieve

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

natural and acceptable translation. According to Newmark, grammatical changes may occur because of differences in grammatical categories, word order, or conventional patterns of expression between languages. His approach emphasizes that a grammatically possible literal translation may sometimes sound unnatural or inappropriate in the target language. Therefore, the translator needs to restructure the original expression according to the grammatical and stylistic norms of the target language. In this sense, grammatical transformation becomes not an arbitrary modification but a necessary strategy for achieving an adequate translation. The importance of grammatical adaptation can also be observed in the theoretical works of Eugene A. Nida, who emphasized the relationship between linguistic form, meaning, and the response of the target-language reader. From Nida's perspective, translation should reproduce the message of the original in a form that is understandable and natural for the receptor of the target language. Consequently, changes in grammatical structure may be necessary when the original grammatical form cannot perform the same communicative function in the target language.

Mona Baker also contributed significantly to the study of grammatical equivalence by examining differences between languages in categories such as number, tense, aspect, voice, person, and word order. Her approach demonstrates that grammatical differences may directly influence the strategies selected by translators. Grammatical transformations are particularly significant in English-Uzbek translation, since English and Uzbek demonstrate considerable differences in their grammatical and syntactic organization. English generally follows a Subject–Verb–Object word order, whereas Uzbek predominantly uses a Subject–Object–Verb structure.

Grammatical transformations occupy an important position in the theory and practice of translation because the grammatical structure of the source language cannot always be reproduced directly in the target language. As J. C. Catford notes, translation shifts occur when formal correspondence between two linguistic systems cannot be maintained, while J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet consider transposition one of the principal procedures through which a translator adapts grammatical form to the requirements of the target language. P. Newmark, in turn, emphasizes that grammatical changes are often necessary when literal translation produces an unnatural or stylistically inappropriate construction.

These theoretical approaches can be clearly demonstrated through examples from classical literary works, where complex syntactic structures frequently require considerable transformation in translation.² A representative example can be found in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The novel begins with the well-known statement: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." The sentence can be translated into Uzbek as: "Katta boylikka ega bo'lgan bo'ydoq erkak albatta xotin izlaydi, degan fikr umumiy e'tirof etilgan haqiqatdir." The English construction

² Newmark, P.A. A Textbook of Translation. 1988, P.32

“It is a truth universally acknowledged” contains an anticipatory *it* and a passive participial construction. In Uzbek, however, the same idea can be expressed through a nominal construction in which the main semantic proposition is placed more naturally before the predicative element. Thus, the translation involves structural transformation and transposition. The position of the subordinate clause is also adjusted in accordance with Uzbek syntactic norms. The transformation does not alter the proposition of the original but reorganizes its grammatical structure so that the sentence becomes natural for the Uzbek reader. This example confirms Catford’s observation that structural differences between languages may require a departure from formal correspondence.

A similar phenomenon can be observed in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, where the narrator uses a complex construction to express an intense psychological state: “Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.” A natural Uzbek rendering is: “Inson tafakkuri uchun hech narsa katta va kutilmagan o‘zgarishchalik og‘riqli emas.” The English sentence is organized according to the comparative construction “Nothing ... as ... as”. Uzbek does not normally reproduce this structure through exactly the same grammatical pattern. Instead, the negative pronoun *nothing* and the comparative construction are reorganized into an Uzbek negative-comparative structure. The transformation therefore concerns not only individual words but the syntactic organization of the whole sentence. The semantic relationship between the subject of comparison and the attribute of painfulness remains unchanged, while the grammatical form is adapted to the target language.

Another instructive example is provided by Charles Dickens’s *Great Expectations*. The opening sentence of the novel is: “My father’s family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip.” In Uzbek, the sentence may be rendered as: “Otamning familiyasi Pirrip, ismim esa Filip bo‘lgani uchun, bolalikdagi tilim bu ikki ismni Pipdan uzunroq yoki aniqroq talaffuz qila olmasdi.” The original contains a participial construction (“my father’s family name being...”) followed by the main clause. Uzbek generally expresses the same causal relationship through a finite subordinate clause with *bo‘lgani uchun*. Consequently, the English non-finite construction is replaced by a finite subordinate construction. This represents grammatical replacement and structural transformation. The example is particularly significant because the translator must recognize the logical relationship between the introductory construction and the main proposition rather than mechanically preserve its formal structure. A comparable transformation occurs in Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, in which complex subordinate structures are frequently used to convey the narrator’s psychological reflections. For example: “I have for the first time found what I can truly love—I have found you.” The Uzbek version may be expressed as: “Men hayotimda ilk bor chin dildan sevishim mumkin bo‘lgan insonni topdim — men sizni topdim.”

The English perfect construction “I have found” is naturally rendered by the Uzbek past-tense form “topdim”, because the temporal and experiential meaning is conveyed

differently in Uzbek. At the same time, the relative clause “what I can truly love” is transformed into a more natural Uzbek attributive construction. This demonstrates that grammatical replacement may involve changes in tense, clause structure, and the relationship between the main and subordinate parts of the sentence.

Grammatical transformation can also be observed in the works of Oscar Wilde, whose literary language frequently combines complex syntax with philosophical statements. In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Wilde writes: “The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame.” A possible Uzbek translation is: “Dunyo axloqsiz deb ataydigan kitoblar aslida dunyoning o‘z uyatini ko‘rsatadigan kitoblardir.” The sentence contains two relative constructions introduced by *that*. In Uzbek, these relations are expressed through participial and attributive constructions: “axloqsiz deb ataydigan” and “uyatini ko‘rsatadigan”. Thus, the English relative clauses are transformed into Uzbek participial constructions. This is an example of syntactic restructuring and grammatical replacement, since the subordinate relative-clause pattern of English is replaced by an attributive-participial pattern characteristic of Uzbek.

The same principle becomes particularly visible when a translator works with complex narrative sentences. In Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, unusual grammatical structures are sometimes employed to reproduce the protagonist’s emotional and cognitive state. The expression: “Curiouser and curiouser!” is intentionally non-standard in English. In Uzbek, it can be conveyed as “Borgan sari g‘alati bo‘lib boryapti!” or “Tobora g‘alatiroq bo‘lyapti!” Here, the English morphological form “curiouser” is not reproduced formally. Instead, the comparative meaning is expressed through the Uzbek adverbial construction “borgan sari” or “tobora”. The transformation therefore demonstrates how a grammatical form that is marked and expressive in the source language can require a completely different grammatical realization in the target language.

These examples demonstrate that grammatical transformations are closely connected with the principle of translation equivalence. E. A. Nida emphasizes that translation should reproduce the message in a form that is natural and meaningful for the receptor of the target language.

From this perspective, the translator’s task is not to preserve every grammatical feature mechanically but to reproduce the semantic and communicative function of the original. In English-Uzbek translation, this principle is especially important because the two languages differ considerably in word order and grammatical organization. English predominantly follows the Subject–Verb–Object pattern, whereas Uzbek generally follows Subject–Object–Verb. Furthermore, English makes extensive use of articles, auxiliary verbs, passive constructions, relative clauses, and non-finite forms, while Uzbek often expresses equivalent relationships through case forms, participles, postpositions, and subordinate constructions.

One of the most frequently observed transformations is transposition, which involves a change in the position or grammatical organization of linguistic elements. This phenomenon

can be illustrated by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."³ In the Uzbek translation, the introductory construction and the subordinate clause are reorganized according to Uzbek syntactic patterns. The English anticipatory construction "It is a truth universally acknowledged" is therefore not reproduced formally but transformed into a structure that is more natural for an Uzbek reader. This example demonstrates that transposition can operate beyond simple word-order changes and may involve the restructuring of an entire syntactic construction. A similar result can be observed in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*: "My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip."

The analysis also reveals the importance of grammatical replacement. In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the sentence "Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change" contains a comparative construction that does not have an identical structural equivalent in Uzbek. The translation "Inson tafakkuri uchun hech narsa katta va kutilmagan o'zgarishchalik og'riqli emas" reorganizes the comparative relationship while preserving the semantic opposition between "nothing" and "a great and sudden change." The English grammatical pattern is therefore replaced by a construction that performs the same semantic and communicative function in Uzbek.

Another significant result concerns structural transformation in complex sentences. Oscar Wilde's statement from *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, "The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame," contains two relative clauses introduced by *that*. In Uzbek, these structures can naturally be represented through participial constructions: "Dunyo axloqsiz deb ataydigan kitoblar dunyoning o'z uyatini ko'rsatadigan kitoblardir." The English relative-clause structures are transformed into Uzbek attributive-participial constructions. This example demonstrates that grammatical equivalence is achieved through functional correspondence rather than formal similarity.

Conversely, Uzbek may require additional grammatical or lexical elements to make a relationship expressed implicitly in English clear and natural. Therefore, addition and omission should not be interpreted as arbitrary changes or losses of information. They represent adaptive procedures through which the translator adjusts the grammatical structure of the source text to the norms of the target language. The findings correspond to the theoretical positions of J. C. Catford, J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet, P. Newmark, E. A. Nida, and M. Baker. Catford's theory of translation shifts explains the necessity of departing from formal correspondence when the grammatical systems of the source and target languages do not coincide. Vinay and Darbelnet's concept of transposition demonstrates how grammatical categories may be changed without altering the essential meaning. Newmark emphasizes the importance of grammatical adaptation in achieving natural translation, while Nida's theory highlights the necessity of reproducing the

³ Austen, J. *Pride and Prejudice*. London: T. Egerton, 1813

message in a form appropriate to the receptor language. Baker's approach to grammatical equivalence further demonstrates that differences in tense, number, person, voice, and word order may require significant structural adaptation.⁴

Conclusions. On the basis of the conducted analysis, it can be concluded that grammatical transformations represent an indispensable component of effective translation and play a particularly important role in English-Uzbek literary translation. The comparison of selected examples from famous literary works demonstrates that structural differences between English and Uzbek make literal reproduction of grammatical forms impossible in many cases. Consequently, translators employ transposition, grammatical replacement, addition, omission, and structural transformation to achieve an appropriate relationship between the source and target texts.

The findings also show that the effectiveness of grammatical transformation depends on the linguistic context, syntactic structure, semantic relations, and communicative purpose of the original sentence. A single complex literary sentence may require several transformations simultaneously, particularly when it contains participial constructions, relative clauses, passive structures, comparative constructions, or complex syntactic relationships. Therefore, the translator must consider not only individual grammatical forms but also the relationship between the elements of the entire sentence. Grammatical transformations provide translators with an effective means of overcoming the structural differences between English and Uzbek. Their appropriate application contributes to translation equivalence, grammatical accuracy, semantic clarity, stylistic naturalness, and readability. The study consequently confirms that successful literary translation depends not on mechanical preservation of the original grammatical form but on the ability to reproduce its meaning and communicative function through the grammatical resources of the target language.

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