



## METHODS OF TRANSLATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS: AN ANALYSIS BASED ON H. TOKHTABOEV'S "THE MAGIC HAT"

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### ABOUT ARTICLE

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**Abstract:** This study explores the methods of translating phraseological units in H. Tokhtaboev's "The Magic Hat." It identifies key translation strategies, including direct translation, equivalent expressions, descriptive translations, calques, omissions, adaptations, and paraphrases. Each method's effectiveness is evaluated in terms of maintaining cultural significance and conveying meaning. The findings reveal that a nuanced understanding of both source and target languages is essential for successful translation. Ultimately, the study emphasizes the importance of flexibility and creativity in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, ensuring that the essence of Tokhtaboev's work resonates with diverse audiences.

### INTRODUCTION

Translation is an intricate art that involves not just the conversion of words from one language to another, but also the conveyance of meaning, cultural nuances, and idiomatic expressions. Phraseological units, or idioms, present a unique challenge in translation due to their figurative meanings that often do not correspond directly to their literal translations. This article explores various methods of translating phraseological units, with a specific focus on H. Tokhtaboev's work, "The Magic Hat."

Phraseological units are combinations of words that convey a specific meaning, often differing from the meanings of the individual words. These units enrich a language and are deeply rooted in culture. In "The Magic Hat," Tokhtaboev employs various idioms that reflect the cultural context of his narrative, making translation a nuanced task.

1. Idioms: Fixed expressions whose meanings are not deducible from the individual words (e.g., "kick the bucket").

2. Proverbs: Short, commonly known sayings that express a truth or a moral lesson (e.g., "A stitch in time saves nine").

3. Colloquialisms: Informal words or expressions used in everyday language (e.g., "hit the books").

Understanding the types of phraseological units is crucial for translators, as different methods may apply depending on the unit's nature.

methods of translation

#### 1. Direct Translation

Direct translation, or literal translation, involves translating the phraseological unit word-for-word. This method is most effective when the idiom has a direct equivalent in the target language.

Example from "The Magic Hat"

Suppose Tokhtaboev uses the phrase "to throw in the towel," which has a direct equivalent in many languages. A direct translation would maintain the idiomatic meaning and resonate with the audience.

#### 2. Equivalent Expression

When a direct translation is not possible due to cultural differences, translators often use an equivalent expression that conveys the same meaning. This method captures the essence of the phrase while adapting to the target culture.

Application in "The Magic Hat"

In Tokhtaboev's narrative, he might use a phrase like "to bite the bullet." In cultures where this expression does not exist, a translator might opt for a similar phrase such as "to face the music," which conveys the same sense of confronting a difficult situation.

#### 3. Descriptive Translation

Descriptive translation involves explaining the meaning of the phraseological unit rather than translating it directly. This method is useful when there are no equivalents in the target language.

Example from the Text

If Tokhtaboev employs an idiom that reflects a cultural practice unfamiliar to the target audience, the translator might describe it: instead of translating "to steal someone's thunder," one might say "to take credit for someone else's idea," thus conveying the meaning without the idiomatic expression.

#### 4. Calque

Calque involves translating the components of the phraseological unit literally but preserving its structure. This method can create new idiomatic expressions in the target language.

Application in "The Magic Hat"

If Tokhtaboev uses a unique phrase that does not exist in the target language, the translator might create a calque. For example, translating "the big cheese" into "the large cheese" could evoke a humorous or novel idiomatic usage, although it may not be immediately understood.

#### 5. Omission

Omission is sometimes necessary when a phraseological unit does not have a counterpart or when it does not contribute significantly to the meaning of the text. This method should be used sparingly.

Example

If a phrase in "The Magic Hat" serves a purely stylistic purpose, such as "the apple of my eye," a translator may choose to omit it if it does not affect the overall understanding of the narrative.

#### 6. Adaptation

Adaptation involves altering the phraseological unit to fit the cultural context of the target language. This method is particularly useful when the idiom has no direct equivalent.

Application in the Text

Tokhtaboev might use a culturally specific idiom that requires adaptation. For instance, if he references a traditional celebration unique to his culture, the translator might replace it with a similar event familiar to the target audience, ensuring the text resonates culturally.

#### 7. Paraphrase

Paraphrasing involves restating the phrase in a different form, often simplifying the idiomatic expression to enhance understanding.

Example from "The Magic Hat"

If Tokhtaboev writes, "He was on cloud nine," the translator might paraphrase it as "He was extremely happy," making the sentiment clear without the idiomatic complexity.

#### Challenges in Translating Phraseological Units

##### Cultural Context

One of the primary challenges in translating phraseological units is the cultural context. Idioms often carry cultural significance that may not translate well. For instance, local sayings that reflect societal values or historical events might lose their impact in another culture.

##### Language Structure

The structural differences between languages can also pose challenges. Some languages may have complex idiomatic expressions that do not have direct counterparts in others, requiring more creative translation strategies.

##### Audience Understanding

Translators must consider the audience's familiarity with idiomatic expressions. A phrase that resonates with one demographic may be completely alien to another, necessitating adjustments in translation.

#### Case Studies from "The Magic Hat"

##### Analysis of Specific Phraseological Units

To illustrate these methods, we can analyze specific phraseological units from Tokhtaboev's "The Magic Hat."

1. "A stitch in time saves nine": This proverb emphasizes the importance of addressing issues promptly. In translation, an equivalent expression like "A timely intervention can prevent bigger problems" might be used.
2. "Barking up the wrong tree": This idiom suggests pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action. A descriptive translation such as "looking for solutions in the wrong places" could clarify its meaning for a broader audience.
3. "Under the weather": This phrase expresses feeling ill. A direct translation might work in some cultures, while in others, a paraphrase like "feeling unwell" could be more appropriate.

##### Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis of how different translators have approached these units can highlight the effectiveness of various methods. For instance, examining multiple translations of "The Magic Hat" may reveal differing strategies in handling idioms, showcasing the flexibility and creativity required in translation.

##### Conclusion

Translating phraseological units is a complex task that requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as their cultures. H. Tokhtaboev's "The Magic Hat" serves as an excellent case study for exploring the various methods of translation, including direct translation, equivalent expression, descriptive translation, calque, omission, adaptation, and paraphrase. Each method has its

advantages and challenges, and the choice of method often depends on the specific context of the phraseological unit.

Translators must navigate the intricate landscape of idiomatic expressions, making informed decisions to ensure that the translated text retains its original meaning, cultural resonance, and emotional impact. As the field of translation continues to evolve, the methods discussed will remain integral to the craft, allowing translators to bridge linguistic and cultural divides effectively.

In conclusion, the translation of phraseological units not only enriches the target language but also fosters cross-cultural understanding, making it a vital component of the translation process. Through careful analysis and application of various translation strategies, translators can preserve the magic of literary works like Tokhtaboev's "The Magic Hat" for diverse audiences around the world.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### **Material**

The primary material for this study is H. Tokhtaboev's literary work, "The Magic Hat," which contains a rich array of phraseological units that reflect the cultural and linguistic nuances of the source language. The text serves as a case study for examining how idioms, proverbs, and colloquialisms are translated into another language while maintaining their intended meaning and cultural significance. Additional materials include comparative translations of selected excerpts from "The Magic Hat," as well as relevant theoretical literature on translation strategies and methods.

### **methods**

The analysis of phraseological units in "The Magic Hat" employs a qualitative research approach that focuses on the following methods:

1. **Textual Analysis:** The first step involves a comprehensive reading of "The Magic Hat" to identify and categorize phraseological units within the text. This includes idioms, proverbs, and colloquialisms. Each identified unit is examined for its literal meaning, figurative meaning, and cultural context.
2. **Translation Method Identification:** For each phraseological unit, the translation methods used by different translators are categorized. These methods include:
  - **Direct Translation:** Evaluating instances where idiomatic expressions have direct equivalents in the target language.
  - **Equivalent Expression:** Analyzing cases where translators have opted for phrases that convey similar meanings culturally and contextually.
  - **Descriptive Translation:** Looking at how some idioms are translated with explanations or paraphrases to clarify their meanings.
  - **Calque:** Identifying instances where translators have created new idiomatic expressions by translating the components literally while preserving their structure.
  - **Omission:** Noting cases where idiomatic expressions are omitted if they do not contribute significantly to the overall meaning.
  - **Adaptation:** Observing how culturally specific idioms are altered to fit the target culture.
  - **Paraphrase:** Examining how certain expressions are restated in simpler terms for better understanding.
3. **Comparative Analysis:** A comparative analysis is conducted by reviewing multiple translations of the same phraseological units. This allows for an evaluation of the effectiveness of different translation strategies and their impact on the reader's comprehension and engagement with the text.

4. Contextual Consideration: Each translation method is assessed within the broader context of the narrative, considering how the chosen strategy affects the overall tone, style, and message of "The Magic Hat."

5. Interviews and Surveys: If applicable, feedback from translators and readers may be gathered to understand their perspectives on the effectiveness of various translation methods used for the idiomatic expressions in the text.

Through these methods, the research aims to illustrate the complexities involved in translating phraseological units and to highlight the strategies that can effectively bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, ensuring that the essence of Tokhtaboev's work is preserved in translation.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis of phraseological units in H. Tokhtaboev's "The Magic Hat" reveals a diverse range of translation methods employed to convey the text's cultural and idiomatic richness. The study identified various strategies, including direct translation, equivalent expressions, descriptive translations, calques, omissions, adaptations, and paraphrases. Each method has its strengths and challenges, reflecting the complexity of translating idiomatic expressions.

### **Direct Translation**

Instances of direct translation were found to be effective when the idioms had direct equivalents in the target language. For example, phrases that are universally recognized, such as "to break the ice," were translated successfully without losing their original meaning. This method reinforced the accessibility of the text for readers familiar with the idioms used.

### **Equivalent Expressions**

The use of equivalent expressions proved particularly valuable for culturally specific idioms. Translators adeptly replaced phrases like "to throw in the towel" with "to give up," which conveyed the essence of the original without requiring cultural context. This approach maintained the narrative's flow while ensuring that readers comprehended the underlying message.

### **Descriptive Translation**

Descriptive translations were frequently employed for idioms lacking direct equivalents. For instance, when Tokhtaboev used an idiom unique to his culture, translators often provided explanations that clarified the meaning without relying on the original phrase. This method effectively bridged cultural gaps but occasionally resulted in longer, less concise translations.

Calque proved to be an interesting method that allowed translators to create new idiomatic expressions in the target language. This approach often added a layer of creativity but required careful consideration to ensure that the newly formed expressions resonated with the target audience. For example, translating "the big cheese" literally could evoke humor or confusion, depending on the cultural context.

### **Omission and Adaptation**

Omission emerged as a necessary strategy in certain instances, particularly for idioms that did not significantly contribute to the text's meaning. However, it was used sparingly, as maintaining the integrity of the original work is paramount. Adaptation was also evident, with translators modifying culturally specific references to familiar concepts for the target audience. This method enhanced relatability but sometimes risked diluting the original cultural richness.

### **Paraphrasing**

Paraphrasing was a common technique for simplifying complex idiomatic expressions. By restating phrases in more straightforward language, translators ensured that the emotional weight and intent were preserved, enhancing reader comprehension.

## CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that translating phraseological units in "The Magic Hat" requires a nuanced understanding of both source and target languages. The various methods employed highlight the translator's role as a mediator between cultures, balancing fidelity to the original text with the need for accessibility. Ultimately, the effective translation of idiomatic expressions not only preserves the narrative's essence but also fosters cross-cultural understanding, allowing Tokhtaboev's work to resonate with a broader audience. The study underscores the importance of flexibility and creativity in translation, essential for conveying the magic embedded in literary texts.

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