



## FEATURES IN THE TRANSLATION OF MARK TWAIN'S NOVEL "THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER"

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### ABOUT ARTICLE

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**Abstract:** This study examines the features of the translation of Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," which is a significant work of American literature of the 19th century. The work focuses on the linguistic picture of the world recreated by Twain, and culturally specific vocabulary reflecting the characteristics of provincial America at that time. Particular attention is paid to the intercultural aspects of translation caused by differences in languages and worldviews, as well as the need to adapt cultural and social realities for Russian-speaking audiences. Linguo-cultural adaptation strategies are explored, including tracing, the use of equivalents, annotations and adaptation, aimed at preserving the author's original style and cultural context.

### INTRODUCTION

The novel «The Adventures of Tom Sawyer» by Mark Twain is a seminal work of American literature that vividly portrays the linguistic and cultural landscape of 19th-century provincial America. Translating such a literary masterpiece requires an in-depth understanding of both the original text and the cultural context of the target language. This process involves linguistic transformations and adaptation of cultural and social realities intrinsic to the novel's time and place. Twain's language, filled with idiomatic expressions, dialect forms, and cultural references, captures the essence of his characters and setting, making accurate translation a complex task. This paper examines the challenges and strategies involved in translating «The Adventures of Tom Sawyer» into Russian, focusing on the interplay of language, culture, and audience perception.

### METHODS

#### Translation Challenges

Translating «The Adventures of Tom Sawyer» brings to light the complexities of intercultural influences, as the novel is deeply rooted in the culture, language, and worldview of 19th-century America. Many of the cultural allusions, historical details, and local traditions depicted in Twain's work may be unfamiliar to readers from different backgrounds. To bridge this gap, translators often need to employ strategies such as clarification, cultural annotation, or adaptive phrasing to preserve the intended meaning and emotional resonance of the original text.

For instance, references like “public square” carry social and cultural significance, as such spaces were central to communal activities and gatherings in Twain's America. In translation, this term may be rendered as «городская площадь» to convey the basic idea of a public meeting space while potentially requiring additional context to highlight its role as a vibrant social hub. Similarly, phrases like “military companies of boys,” which depict children mimicking soldiers in popular games of the time, may necessitate adaptation to ensure the target audience comprehends the playful yet culturally specific connotation of these games. Russian readers might associate such games with different historical or cultural contexts, making it essential to provide additional cues to preserve the imagery and spirit of the original scene [1, p.30].

Beyond specific terms, the translator must also grapple with broader challenges of rendering culturally marked language. Dialects, idiomatic expressions, and culturally specific humor require nuanced approaches to maintain their richness and authenticity. Successfully addressing these challenges ensures that the translated work resonates with the target audience while faithfully reflecting the cultural and linguistic tapestry of the original novel.

### **Translation Strategies**

Linguistic-cultural adaptation strategies are fundamental to the process of translating culturally rich works like *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. These strategies are designed to bridge the linguistic and cultural gaps between the original text and the target audience, ensuring that the essence of the narrative remains intact. Key techniques include tracing, equivalent substitution, adaptation, and cultural annotation, each of which plays a critical role in conveying both the lexical meaning and the cultural context of the original work.

Tracing involves preserving the original structure or phrasing while adapting it to fit the target language. This technique is particularly useful for maintaining the rhythm and tone of colloquial expressions. Equivalent substitution focuses on finding phrases or terms in the target language that carry similar meanings or cultural connotations. This is often necessary when dealing with idiomatic expressions or culturally specific vocabulary that may not have a direct translation.

These strategies are especially vital in retaining Twain's linguistic style, which is deeply rooted in the colloquial language and regional dialects of 19th-century America. For example, idiomatic expressions like “Holler 'nuff!” represent not just words but also the social and cultural atmosphere of childhood games in that era. Translators must find creative solutions to preserve both the emotional tone and the contextual relevance of such expressions. In this case, the phrase was adapted to “Проси пощады!” in Russian, effectively capturing the energetic demand to stop while preserving its playful undertones [2, p.12].

This study draws upon textual analysis to evaluate translations of key culturally marked vocabulary and idiomatic expressions.

This analysis is supported by a comparative review of previous research on literary translation strategies and cultural adaptation techniques. By evaluating translation decisions against established criteria, such as accuracy, accessibility, and cultural resonance, the study provides a comprehensive

understanding of how translators navigate the challenges of rendering culturally rich texts for different audiences.

Ultimately, this methodology aims to shed light on the intricate process of literary translation, emphasizing the importance of balancing linguistic fidelity with cultural sensitivity to enable readers to fully appreciate the nuances and atmosphere of Twain's work [3, p.43].

## RESULTS

### Examples of Adaptive Translation

#### 1. "He 'hooked' a donut"

Translated as "Тому удалось стянуть пряник," this adaptation replaces "donut" with "пряник," a familiar term in Russian culture, while preserving the original's humorous undertones and thematic relevance.

#### 2. "Holler 'nuff!"

Rendered as "Проси пощады!", the translation effectively conveys the energetic demand and playful context of children's games in the novel, aligning with Russian linguistic norms.

#### 3. "Bother! Well, go 'long with you"

Translated as "Ну хорошо, хорошо. Тебя ведь никогда не поймешь," the adaptation captures the implicit irritation and tone of concession, maintaining the emotional depth of the original dialogue.

### Cultural and Social Realities

Translation also involves bridging cultural gaps. For instance, architectural references such as "Sid just starting up the outside stairway" reflect structural details unfamiliar to Russian readers, requiring contextual elaboration. Similarly, culinary terms like "doughnut" symbolize American culinary traditions and demand careful adaptation to evoke similar associations for the target audience [4, p.21].

## CONCLUSION

Translating «The Adventures of Tom Sawyer» is not merely a process of linguistic substitution; it is an intricate task requiring a profound understanding of both cultural and social contexts. Mark Twain's novel is deeply embedded in the vernacular, idiomatic expressions, and cultural nuances of 19th-century America. To preserve the essence of this literary masterpiece, translators must employ adaptive strategies that maintain the unique linguistic style and cultural specificity of the original text. These strategies involve more than direct translations of words or phrases; they require creative decisions that balance fidelity to the source material with accessibility for the target audience. For example, Twain's use of colloquial language and dialect serves as a critical element in character development and storytelling. To retain this aspect, translators often adopt equivalent substitutions or cultural annotations that reflect the original tone while making it comprehensible for Russian readers. By bridging cultural gaps and staying true to the original narrative's tone and atmosphere, translators can immerse readers in the richly detailed world of Tom Sawyer. This process highlights the critical role of cultural competence, linguistic creativity, and problem-solving skills in literary translation. Ultimately, the goal is to offer a rendition that not only reflects the source text's authenticity but also resonates with the cultural and emotional sensibilities of the target audience, ensuring that Twain's work remains impactful and relatable across cultural boundaries.

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