RESEARCH ARTICLE

Classification of Assessment in The Translation of Archaeological Texts

Nuraliyeva Gulasal

Researcher, Termez State University, Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article analyzes the criteria and classification of assessment in the process of translating archaeological texts from both theoretical and practical perspectives. It is substantiated that the terminological, cultural, and historical characteristics of archaeological texts require a special approach in evaluating translation quality. The study proposes adequacy, accuracy, terminological consistency, contextual correctness, and preservation of scientific style as the main criteria. In addition, both linguistic and extralinguistic factors of translation assessment are examined.

KEYWORDS

Archaeological text, translation, assessment criteria, adequacy, terminology, scientific style, context, cultural correspondence.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological texts are important scientific sources that reflect historical and cultural heritage. They provide information about ancient civilizations, material cultural monuments, excavation results, and historical evidence. Translating such texts is not merely a linguistic transfer but requires scientific accuracy, terminological consistency, and a deep understanding of the cultural context.

One of the most important issues in translating archaeological texts is determining the criteria for evaluating translation quality. The purpose of this article is to develop and justify a classification for assessing translations of archaeological texts.

1. Characteristics of Archaeological Texts

Archaeological texts are distinguished by the following features:

1.   Dominance of scientific style

2.   High terminological density

3.   Complexity of historical and cultural context

4.   Presence of specialized terminology

For example, terms such as "stratigraphy", "artifact", "excavation layer", "carbon dating" have precise scientific meanings.

2. Theoretical Foundations of Translation Quality Assessment

In translation theory, evaluation is based on the following approaches:

•   Equivalence theory

•   The principle of adequacy

•   Functional approach

•   Communicative approach

For archaeological texts, equivalence and adequacy are especially important because inaccuracies in terminology may

lead to scientific errors.

3. Classification of Assessment

The evaluation criteria for translating archaeological texts can be classified as follows:

3.1 Linguistic Criteria

- Grammatical correctness
- Lexical accuracy
- Syntactic consistency
- Terminological stability

3.2 Terminological Criteria

- Correct use of specialized terminology
- Consistency of terms
- Scientific precision

3.3 Contextual Criteria

- Correspondence to the historical period
- Correct interpretation of cultural realities
- Preservation of context

3.4 Functional Criteria

- Preservation of the scientific style of the text
- Accuracy of information
- Clarity for the reader

4. Levels of Assessment

The evaluation process can be divided into the following levels:

1. High level — complete terminological and semantic equivalence

2. Medium level — minor stylistic or lexical shortcomings

3. Low level — semantic errors or terminological inaccuracies

5. Extralinguistic Factors

In archaeological translation, the following factors play an important role:

- The translator's knowledge of the subject field
- Understanding of historical context
- Consideration of cultural differences

For example, incorrect interpretation of terms related to ancient religious rituals may distort historical information.

6. Practical Example

Source text:

"The artifact was discovered in the lower stratigraphic layer."

Correct translation:

"The artifact was discovered in the lower stratigraphic layer."

Incorrect translation:

"The object was found in the lower part of the ground."

The second version loses scientific precision.

7. Proposed Assessment Model

The following model is proposed for evaluating translations of archaeological texts:

Criteria	Score
Terminological accuracy	0–5
Grammatical correctness	0–5
Contextual consistency	0–5
Scientific style	0–5
Overall adequacy	0–5

Maximum score — 25 points.

CONCLUSION

The translation of archaeological texts is a complex scientific process that requires specific evaluation criteria. The proposed classification is based on linguistic, terminological, contextual, and functional criteria.

Proper assessment of translation quality ensures the accuracy of scientific information and contributes to the reliable transmission of historical heritage.

Challenges in Translating Archaeological Texts

The translation of archaeological texts often involves several linguistic and methodological challenges. One of the main difficulties is the presence of highly specialized terminology that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Archaeological concepts are frequently connected with specific historical and cultural contexts, which makes accurate translation particularly demanding.

Another challenge arises from the complexity of scientific discourse used in archaeological publications. These texts often contain long and structurally complex sentences that include multiple subordinate clauses and detailed descriptions of excavation processes, artifacts, and historical interpretations. Translators must carefully analyze sentence structure to maintain both accuracy and readability.

Furthermore, the issue of terminological consistency is critical. In archaeological research, the same term should be translated uniformly throughout the text. Inconsistent terminology may confuse readers and distort the meaning of scientific information. Therefore, translators often rely on specialized dictionaries, academic publications, and international terminology databases to ensure consistency.

Cultural and historical references also pose difficulties in translation. Archaeological texts frequently describe rituals, social structures, and material culture of ancient societies. Without sufficient knowledge of the historical background, a translator may misinterpret such references. Consequently, interdisciplinary competence, including knowledge of archaeology, history, and anthropology, is essential for translators working with archaeological materials.

Finally, the development of digital technologies has created new opportunities for improving the translation of scientific texts. Modern translation tools, terminology management systems, and electronic corpora help translators maintain terminological accuracy and consistency. However, despite technological support, the translator's expertise and subject knowledge remain the most important factors in ensuring high-quality translation.

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