

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Role of Lexical Units at The Semantic Level in Translation

Tursunov Elmurod Umrzoqovich

Senior Teacher, Department of Theoretical Aspects of The English Language No. 1, Uzbek State University of World Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

In translation, equivalence can be achieved at different levels of linguistic units. The most commonly used of these is the word, but asymmetric equivalence can occur due to semantic, grammatical and morphological differences between the languages involved in the translation process. This article discusses such asymmetric equivalence. The author classifies translation problems that occur in the translation of lexemes, word combinations and phraseological units in English and Uzbek, and suggests ways to overcome these problems by comparing them with examples.

KEYWORDS

Translation unit, equivalence (correspondence) in translation, transformation, compression, form and content, a lexical unit, a phraseme, a sememe.

INTRODUCTION

The translation process is one of the most complicated, delicate, and responsible activities, and the units utilized in it must be selected in such a way that the meaning and content expressed in the source language should be proportional to and of equal with the meaning in the target language. The famous theorist V.N. Krupnov, stating out of his professional experience about the great importance of the content aspect of the text, emphasizes that in order to achieve a full-fledged and high-quality translation, it is necessary to use a creative combination of specific (translation consistency at the level of words and word combinations) and general characteristics of translation (the ability to convey content at the level of sentences, taking into account the overall context). (Krupnov, 1976)

METHODS

The methods of classification, comparison, and linguistic and cultural analysis were used to cover the theme of the article.

RESEARCH

As the science of translation theory separated from comparative linguistics and developed as a separate discipline, improved, and developed in close connection with other fields of science, it was embellished with many new terms and expressions specifically related to translation activities. Examples of these include translation unit, equivalence in translation, adequacy issue, perevodema, translemma, lexical transformation, compression, and hundreds of other similar terms and phrases. Since this paragraph of the research paper is devoted to the methods of translation of lexical units and their significance at the semantic level, we will briefly touch upon lexical units before discussing this phenomenon in the language.

In linguistic literature, lexical units that are considered one of the important and central concepts of lexicology, which deals mainly with the system of vocabulary of a language, are said to consist of "all words and stable combinations in the vocabulary of a language." (Nurmonov A., Sobirov A., Yusupova Sh., 2002) Along with this term, the term a lexical

unit is also used.

“The level of a language that encompasses the unity of form and denotative meaning is called differently: lexical level, lexical-semantic level, lexical-phraseological level, etc. The lexical unit of linguistics is called a lexeme.” (Begimova, 2022) At the same time, “the object of lexicology is the vocabulary of a language.

This wealth (word-stock) is called lexicon in linguistics including all the words in a particular language and the stable constructions (phrases) with a figurative (connotative) meaning formed by the connection of these words. “A word is an important nominative (naming) unit of language, because it names things in existence, abstract concepts that can be imagined as objects, movement, characteristics such as color, taste, volume, quantity and quality. Such words in the vocabulary of a language are considered lexical units.” (Jamolxonov, 2005)

The expressive aspect of lexical units (the material part consisting of sounds) is called a lexeme, and the semantic content expressed by a morpheme or the core meaning component is called a sememe. Thus, a lexeme and a sememe are two mutually related aspects of a lexical unit (word). As can be seen from the above definitions, by a lexical unit we can understand a lexeme and a phraseme, and even a phraseological unit equivalent to one word. In this case, a phraseological unit consisting of two or more words must correspond to the meaning of one word. From a lexical point of view, the definition given to a lexical unit is appropriate, but from the prospectives of a translation theory, a lexical unit and a translation unit do not always coincide, given that they only in some cases coincide as elements of equal value in the

translation process. According to L. S. Barkhudarov, all units existing in a language (phoneme, morpheme, word, phrase, etc.) can be used as translation units. (Barkhudarov, 1975)

As in some other fields of science, such as comparative pedagogy, comparative typology, comparative literary studies, and so on, in translation studies, the translator or artist works in two languages, that is, without the original text (the text or work intended to be translated), it is impossible to create a translated text.

When it comes to the semantical, formal, lexical and grammatical properties of a lexical unit in translation, it is meant how the lexical (dictionary) units in the source language that are to be translated into a target language are expressed in the translation. “It is known that cases of one concept corresponding to one concept in translation are relatively rare. Experience shows that in translation, a word can correspond to a word, a phrase to a word, a sentence to a sentence. Therefore, by a lexical unit in translation, we can understand a word and a phrase, even a phraseological unit corresponding to one word. In this case, a phraseological unit consisting of two or more words must correspond to the meaning of one word.” (Gafurov I., Muminov O., Kambarov N., 2012)

As is clear from the above-mentioned statement, based on the artistic-stylistic, semantic-morphological, grammatical-syntactic features of both languages involved in the translation, it is necessary to “transfer” a certain concept from SL into TL using other linguistic means.

We will examine this argument using the example of semantic imbalance that occurs when translating lexical units from Uzbek to English.

Table 1

Correspondences at the level of different linguistic units in the English and Uzbek languages

	In the Uzbek language	In the English language
The expression of a concept originally understood through a lexeme in translation by another lexeme (Lexeme to Lexeme correspondence)	silver ko’rfaz dushanba iyun besh aksioma	kumush gulf Monday June five axiom
	universitet (kollej yoki	campus

Word combination to Lexeme correspondence	maktab) hududi deraza rafi, deraza tokchasi shamol to'sgich (avtomobillarda)	windowsill windshield
Lexeme to Phraseme correspondence	hazillashmoq jerkimoq	to pull one's leg to snub someone into silence

Therefore, when it comes to the role of lexical units in translation, it becomes clear that the main focus of the research is the word. "The basis of translational research is, first of all, the word, but the word is studied not in isolation from its textual environment (from the micro and macro context of the work), but based on it, in a textual combination with other words, entering into various relationships, which is one of the means of realizing the writer's artistic and aesthetic goal." (Musayev, 2005)

In fact, analyzing a given word or any lexical unit out of context, dealing with all the linguistic features assigned to it, and examining in detail the meaning it conveys is like trying to form an idea of the entire structure of existence, the relationships between its constituent elements, the laws of its functioning, and the principles of its development through some organic or inorganic species existing in existence.

The semantic essence of a lexical unit (a lexeme or a phraseme) in SL must take into account the other units associated with it, the contextual environment in which it "exists", and the artistic and stylistic, ideological and emotional, linguistic and descriptive goal that the writer sets for himself through this word.

For example, the noun phrase a black eye in English is rendered into Uzbek as qora ko'z (literally, a black eye) out of context, but within the sentence it is expressed as uning bir ko'zi ko'kargan (he has a bruise or discoloration of the skin around the eye, usually caused by a blow, punch, or impact). It is worthy of note that the lexeme black ("qora" in Uzbek) was introduced into the Uzbek language in the form of ko'kargan (having a bruise because of the colour of the eye) in the form of an asymmetric dualism of linguistic signs.

Thus, the need to interpret the relationship between form and content in the language sets involved in the translation act

sets before the translator the task of choosing appropriate language and speech units that can creatively fulfill the functions of all linguistic and stylistic means that develop the artistic elegance and national specificity of the SL.

The main reason for the emergence of such inconsistency is not related to the concept, but to the form and content of the word expressing this concept, phraseological units whose meaning are equivalent to one word, and the form and content of the "symbols, signs" involved in such a translation. In the system of (linguistic) signs, the relationship between form and content is proportional, that is, one content can be expressed by only one form.

This is a law inherent in symbolic systems. "For example, in mathematics, the (+) sign represents addition, the (:) sign represents division, and (1), (2) represent the concepts of "one" and "two". They are not used in any other function. In language, the connection of form and content does not occur in this case. More precisely, there is an asymmetry (asymmetric dualism) of form and content in language." (Nematov, Rasulov, 1995)

For instance, the word sister is translated into Uzbek as opa or singil, depending on the context, and the word brother is rendered as aka or uka in Uzbek. Let us take another example, the compound verb is staying in the present continuous form in English in the clause He is staying at The Hilton can be expressed in Uzbek as vaqtincha yashab turibdi (living or lodging somewhere temporarily). It is impossible to translate this verb in Uzbek with a single word. Lexical coherence in translation refers to the fact that the units (symbols, signs) in both languages involved in translation correspond in content, acquire equal value, and the concept expressed with the help of these units is mutually consistent. Due to the semantic properties of the language, the meanings of words in both languages, their ability to combine with other words, the relationships they form with them, and their place in the lexical

system of the language often do not coincide. All situations that occur with the help of lexical units find their correspondence only in some cases.

Since it is impossible to cover all the semantic differences inherent in both languages involved in the translation process, we will focus on the most typical (most common) situations that arise behind them. Lexical equivalence between languages, in turn, is divided into three types: complete (full, total) lexical correspondence, partial lexical correspondence, and absence of correspondence. Complete correspondence of lexical units in two languages is rare.

Typically, this type of proportion includes lexical groups consisting of similar nouns, geographical terms, scientific and technical terms, months, days of the week, numbers, and similar monosemantic units, since lexemes belonging to the type are used only in their lexical (denotative, lexical) meaning. In this case, the focus is on the leading and central lexical meaning of the lexeme, rather than on its stylistic, descriptive, figurative and aesthetic coloring.

For example, in the English sentence Hydrogen is a colourless gas that is the lightest and commonest element in the universe, the Uzbek equivalent of the word hydrogen is vodород.

Thus, the lexeme 'hydrogen' is considered a chemical term and does not have any artistic or emotional coloring, it is mainly used only in its primary lexical meaning. A number of words in the language are considered polysemantic (multiple meanings) words, and in the process of restoring them in another language, partial equivalence is used. In this case, the word in the original text is accompanied by several alternative (synonymous) units in the translated text.

The reason for this is the polysemy of many words (units) in the SL. For example, in Uzbek, the word combinations stolning qirrasi, stakanning qirrasi, and qoyaning qirrasi (cheti) are translated into English as the edge of the table, the rim of the glass, the brink of the cliff. Let's consider another example.

The Uzbek verb to swim can be expressed in English with about ten verbs, such as to swim, to float, to drift, to navigate, to steam, to sail, to boat depending on the way the activity expressed by this verb is carried out in various ways. For example, to swim (to move through water by propelling oneself using arms, legs, fins, or tail, often for exercise, sport, or recreation), to float (to rest or move gently on the surface of a liquid (buoyancy) or in the air without sinking), to sail (to

travel across water in a boat or ship, either propelled by wind using sails or by mechanical power), to boat (to travel, to sail, or to cruise in a small water vessel), etc.

Each lexeme in a language affects the meaning of the object, event, thing, color and etc, it expresses. In most cases, the signs used to describe the same concept (denotation) in the languages involved in translation are selected. The creation of a "linguistic picture of the world" through each of them is called "different principles of dividing reality into parts".

Despite the inconsistency of the symbols exploited in translation, an attempt is made to fully convey the same concept in both languages, and this should be understood as a normal situation when translating lexical units of this type, since correspondence (any form or correspondence) can be achieved through different linguistic means.

For example, the word skin in the phrase hot milk with the skin on it in English corresponds to the word cream in Uzbek. The entire translation activity has a feature of one-sidedness, that is, when the translator expresses (translates) a unit of SL into TL, he first of all takes what is expressed in the source text into account. For him or her, the source language acts as a "beacon, a guiding star."

So, the translator first deciphers the meaning and content of the word, phrase (or any lexical unit) given in the original, searches in his or her memory (or with the help of dictionaries) for the "a part, an element or a unit" corresponding to this unit, and expresses it in the target language. As you can see, this is a step-by-step activity. On the other hand, it is also necessary to pay attention to the differences in the semantic structure of corresponding words in both languages. In this case, lexical units can be divided into the following three groups: 1) words with a differentiated (indistinguishable) meaning. For example, in English, the verb to swim (suzmoq) is used in relation to a person, to sail (suzmoq) is used in relation to vessels, and to float (suzmoq, qalqimoq) is used in relation to inanimate objects. On the contrary, the verb erimoq in Uzbek can be translated into English through a number of verbs (lexemes) such as to melt, to thaw, to liquefy, to defrost, to soften, to dissolve, to deliquesce, but these synonymous sets have different semantic meanings, and in some cases one cannot be utilized interchangeably instead of another.

Let us illustrate a further example, the verbs to melt and to thaw are used to refer to the transformation of a substance into a liquid state under the influence of heat, while the

lexeme to dissolve expresses the decomposition or dissolution of solid objects. Compare: a) The snow has melted. – Qor eridi (in Uzbek). b) Dissolve the salt in a little boiled water. – Tuzni biroz qaynatilgan suvda eriting (in Uzbek). 2) Verbs expressing state (for example, the verb to be), verbs related to sensory-perception and mental activity (for example, to feel (his qilmoq), to understand (tushunmoq)), verbs expressing action and speech activity (to come (kelmoq)) may also change their lexical (noun, lexical) meaning in translation or not be translated at all.

The present continuous form of the verb to be in the English sentence Physicists claim that the universe is expanding is not translated into Uzbek. 3) Words belonging to this group include stable compound verbs that express action and state at the same time, having a semantic content. For example, the past continuous form of the verb 'to whistle' (was whistling) in the wind was whistling down the chimney whistled combines with the following preposition down (down), giving a new emotional and figurative coloring to the meaning understood from the verb. This sentence can be translated into Uzbek as shamol mo'ri ichida uvillar edi.

In addition, translating international words that are spelled the same in both languages but have different meanings requires special attention. As a prominent Uzbek writer Asqad Mukhtar puts it, "translation is a complex art." (Mukhtar, 1980)

The similarities in spelling and, in some cases, pronunciation of such words, as well as the closeness of the word formation systems in both languages, create a number of complications in the translation process. The expression false friends of a translator (faux amis) is used in the literature on translation studies in relation to such words.

"One of the linguistic problems of translation studies is called false friends in Uzbek translation studies. In translation studies, this concept is called "false words", "deceptive words", "false friends of a translator", and in some sources, other terms are used to express this linguistic phenomenon: "interlingual homonyms", "interlingual analogisms", "rhythmic words", and others." (Isajonova, 2022)

Below are provided a number of examples. The English word magazine is translated into Uzbek as jurnal (journal), not a store or a warehouse. In addition, air port – ventilyatsiya kanali, artist – rassom, benzene – benzol, brilliant – ajoyib, conductor – dirijyor, lunatic – savdoyi, telba, speaker – dinamik, ovoz ko'targich and many other similar examples can

be given.

Each language has its own uniqueness and specificity. In a particular language, there are generally accepted traditional methods associated with the long history of development of this language that do not correspond to lexical units in other languages.

In particular, a number of difficulties arise in the translation process when translating adjectives that mainly serve as determiners. Based on their semantic structure and valence, the lexical unit expressed by the same adjective in English is translated into Uzbek through other lexical means. For example, noun phrases such as a bad mistake, a bad headache in English are translated into Uzbek as qattiq bosh og'rig'i, qo'pol xato.

Due to the numerous studies conducted in the translation of lexical units and in the field of translation studies in general, the constant appeal to the field, and the continuous literary, scientific-methodological and social developments related to translation, this field has been enriched with new terms. One of such terms is the term transformation. Based on the linguistic-stylistic peculiarities of both languages, the way in which lexical units or any other speech construction units used in the context are manifested in different meanings in the same language, and the structural-grammatical, linguocultural-extralinguistic features of the sentence, the translator is forced to use various translation methods in addition to traditional translation tools. Transformation is one of such methods. "Transformation is one of the main translation methods." (Litsisina, Artunyov, 2014)

Transformation means replacement. Therefore, this translation method is considered a special tool that is used in certain cases and serves to secure correspondence. This phenomenon, which is used in translation studies, has been studied in detail by many foreign translation scholars, such as V. N. Nemchenko, L. S. Barkhudarov, I. S. Toroptsev, O. A. Akhmanova, N. V. Vasilyeva, V. N. Yartseva, R. K. Minyar-Beloruhev, Ya. I. Retsker, A. D. Schweitzer, B. Y. Shetinkin, L. K. Latishev, T. A. Kazakova, Z. G. Proshina, V. N. Komissarov, V. G. Gak, N. K. Garbovsky, V. G. Steiner, O. Pryimachok, A. S. Mostovaya, Noam Chomsky (USA) and others.

L. S. Barkhudarov understands by "transformation" a specific connection between two linguistic or speech units, one of which is an original, and the other is created on the basis of

this original. (Barkhudarov, 2005)

The main types of transformation are grammatical and lexical, which, in turn, are divided into additional types. This paragraph will discuss lexical transformations. "Lexical transformations are also referred to in translation theory as the replacement of words in context. There are five types of such transformations." (Gafurov I., Muminov O., Kambarov N., 2012)

CONCLUSION

Even if the translator knows the semantic content of a word, that is, all the complex of meanings it represents by heart or determines it through a dictionary, only the context determines which meaning is intended in the translation. L.K. Latyshev uses the phrase "deviation from lexical proportionality" in relation to lexical transformation. In most cases, lexical transformations are studied in a general manner, so it is not possible to clearly classify them. 8 main types of lexical transformations can be distinguished. These are concretization, generalization, the method of lexical addition, the method of omission, the method of semantic development, the antonymic (translation through lexical units with opposite meanings) method, the method of integral change, and the method of compensation.

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