



TRANSLATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROBLEMS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS RELATED TO THE “HOLIDAY” CONCEPT IN UZBEK, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

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Abstract

The present study examines translation problems and equivalence issues of phraseological and paremiological units related to the concept of “holiday” in Uzbek, English and Russian languages. Proverbs and phraseological units represent culturally marked linguistic structures that reflect the historical experience and worldview of a particular speech community. The concept of “holiday” occupies a special place in the linguistic worldview because it reflects collective celebration, social interaction and cultural traditions. However, culturally specific phraseological units often pose difficulties in translation due to differences in cultural background and symbolic imagery. The research employs comparative, semantic and linguocultural methods in order to analyze the ways in which holiday-related expressions function in different linguistic systems. Particular attention is given to translation equivalence, cultural lacuna and adaptation strategies. The analysis shows that most phraseological units related to the holiday concept possess partial or zero equivalence. Uzbek expressions frequently include culturally specific elements such as to‘y and hayit, which have no direct equivalents in English and Russian languages. The study demonstrates that effective translation of culturally marked expressions requires both linguistic competence and intercultural awareness. The findings contribute to the development of translation studies, linguoculturology and comparative paremiology.



Keywords: holiday concept, paremiology, phraseological units, translation equivalence, linguoculturology, proverbs, intercultural communication

Introduction

Phraseological units and proverbs constitute one of the most expressive and culturally rich layers of any language. They preserve the historical memory of a society and reflect the worldview, traditions and social norms of a particular linguistic community. Through proverbs and sayings, generations transmit practical knowledge, moral values and collective life experience in a concise and figurative form.

In Uzbek folklore, proverb and sayings occupy an important place among the genres of oral literature. These units serve as linguistic reflections of national identity and cultural values. Proverbs often express generalized judgments about life situations and social behavior, while sayings function as figurative expressions that enrich everyday speech and make communication more expressive.

Similar phenomena exist in many languages around the world. English and Russian linguistic traditions also contain numerous proverbs and phraseological units that convey social wisdom and cultural attitudes. Despite structural differences, paremiological units in various languages share the common function of expressing universal human experience in a condensed and metaphorical form. One of the conceptual domains frequently represented in proverbs and phraseological units is the concept of holiday. Holidays occupy an important place in the cultural life of every nation. They represent moments of collective celebration, social unity and emotional renewal. At the same time, holidays are closely connected with cultural traditions, religious practices and historical memory.

In Uzbek culture, holidays are associated with traditional events such as weddings (to‘y), religious celebrations (hayit), public festivities and communal gatherings. These cultural events play a significant role in social life and therefore appear frequently in Uzbek proverbs and phraseological expressions. However, when phraseological units containing culturally specific elements are translated into another language, translators often encounter difficulties. Such expressions may



include references to traditions, rituals or cultural symbols that do not exist in the target culture.

Therefore, the translation of phraseological units requires not only linguistic competence but also a deep understanding of cultural contexts.

Literature Review

The study of proverbs and phraseological units has attracted the attention of many linguists and cultural researchers. Scholars emphasize that proverbs represent a valuable source for understanding the cultural worldview of a particular society. According to Wolfgang Mieder (2004), proverbs function as condensed expressions of collective wisdom and cultural knowledge. They serve as important tools for transmitting social values and ethical norms across generations. Norrick (2014) notes that proverbs often contain metaphorical imagery that reflects cultural experiences and historical traditions. Such imagery may differ significantly across languages, which creates challenges in translation. Dobrovolskij and Piirainen (2005) highlight that phraseological units are closely connected with cultural symbols and national traditions. As a result, many phraseological expressions cannot be translated literally without losing their cultural meaning.

In translation studies, Eugene Nida (1964) introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, which emphasizes the importance of conveying the intended effect of the original message rather than preserving its exact linguistic form.

Newmark (1988) also emphasizes the role of cultural adaptation in translation, particularly when dealing with culturally specific expressions. These theoretical perspectives provide a useful framework for analyzing translation problems related to phraseological units containing culturally marked concepts such as holidays.

Methods

The present research is based on several linguistic research methods. The comparative method is used to examine similarities and differences between Uzbek, English and Russian phraseological units related to the concept “holiday”. Semantic analysis allows identification of conceptual meanings associated with holiday-related expressions, including celebration, hospitality, social unity and



ethical behaviour. Linguocultural analysis focuses on the relationship between language and culture. It helps reveal how cultural traditions influence the formation of phraseological units.

Translation analysis is used to determine the degree of equivalence between expressions and to identify translation strategies used by translators.

The research material includes proverbs collected from Uzbek, English and Russian linguistic sources.

Results

The analysis shows that phraseological units related to the holiday concept often contain culturally specific elements that complicate translation. For example, the Uzbek proverb “Hayosizga har kun hayit” literally means “for the shameless every day is a holiday”. This expression criticizes immoral behaviour and lack of modesty. However, the word hayit refers to an Islamic religious festival, which has no direct equivalent in English or Russian culture.

Approximate equivalents may include: English: The shameless fear no shame. Russian: Бесстыжому всё нипочём. Another example is the Uzbek proverb “To‘ydan oldin nog‘ora qoqma”. Its functional equivalents include: English: Don’t count your chickens before they hatch. Russian: Не говори «гоп», пока не перепрыгнешь. Although these expressions convey similar meanings, their cultural imagery differs.

The analysis shows that the concept of holiday in proverbs is rarely represented solely as celebration. Instead, it often reflects moral lessons, social norms and practical wisdom. In Uzbek proverbs the concept of holiday is frequently expressed through culturally specific lexemes such as to‘y and hayit. These expressions emphasize hospitality, social interaction and ethical behaviour.

For example, the proverb: To‘yga borsang to‘yib bor, yomonliging qo‘yib bor – encourages respectful behaviour in social gatherings and emphasizes moral responsibility.

Another Uzbek proverb “Hayosizga har kun hayit” criticizes shameless behaviour through irony. In English proverbs the holiday concept often appears in connection with moderation and prudence. For example: Feast today and fast tomorrow – warns against excessive enjoyment that may lead to future difficulties. Similarly, the proverb “Eat at pleasure, drink by measure”



emphasizes moderation in enjoyment. In Russian paremiology the concept “holiday” frequently appears through temporal contrasts and social expectations. For example: *Сегодня густо, а завтра пусто* – illustrates the idea that abundance today may be followed by scarcity tomorrow. Another proverb “*Будет и на нашей улице праздник*” expresses hope that good fortune will eventually come.

Discussion

The results demonstrate that translation difficulties arise mainly from cultural differences between linguistic communities. Uzbek phraseological units frequently contain references to cultural traditions such as weddings (to‘y), religious festivals (hayit) and public celebrations (sayil). These cultural elements reflect social practices that are deeply rooted in Uzbek culture.

In English and Russian languages similar cultural references may not exist, which creates semantic gaps or lacuna. Translators therefore use several strategies to overcome these difficulties. The meaning of the expression is explained rather than translated literally. A culturally similar proverb in the target language replaces the original expression. An expression with similar pragmatic meaning is used.

However, cultural differences are also clearly visible. In Uzbek proverbs the holiday concept is strongly connected with communal traditions and hospitality. Weddings and religious celebrations are often used as symbolic representations of social unity. In English proverbs the concept frequently appears in metaphorical expressions related to moderation and practical wisdom. Russian proverbs tend to emphasize temporal contrasts and social expectations, often highlighting the relationship between work and celebration. These differences demonstrate how cultural traditions influence the linguistic representation of concepts. Proverbs therefore serve not only as linguistic units but also as important indicators of cultural identity.

Conclusion

The research demonstrates that phraseological units related to the concept “holiday” represent an important part of linguistic and cultural heritage. Comparative analysis of Uzbek, English and Russian expressions shows that most



phraseological units possess partial or zero equivalence due to cultural differences.

The translation of such expressions requires not only linguistic knowledge but also intercultural competence. Further research may explore additional cultural concepts and their representation in phraseological systems of different languages. Although universal semantic elements such as celebration and joy are present in all three languages, each culture interprets the concept differently. Uzbek proverbs emphasize hospitality, communal traditions and ethical behaviour. English proverbs highlight moderation and practical wisdom, while Russian proverbs often express temporal contrasts and social hope. The findings confirm that proverbs represent valuable linguistic material for studying cultural concepts and national worldview. Further research may explore additional conceptual domains in paremiology and examine broader cross-cultural comparisons.

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