

TRANSLATION BETWEEN DUTCH AND ENGLISH: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EQUIVALENCE AND ADEQUACY

Qambarova Nabira Sharofiddin qizi

Student at UzSWLU Faculty of English philology

E-mail: nabiraqambarova39@gmail.com

Scientific adviser: Raxmonqulova Xabiba Sodiqovna

A teacher of UzSWLU

habibarahmonkulova1974@gmail.com

Abstract. This article examines two key principles that translators face when translating from Dutch to English: equivalence and adequacy. The main focus is on semantic, stylistic, and cultural differences in literary works. The practical manifestations of both principles are analyzed using the example of Harry Mulisch's famous work "De Aanslag" (The Attack) and its English translation ("The Assault"). The results of the study show that although semantic equivalence can be achieved in translation, it is not always possible to fully preserve cultural and stylistic adequacy.

Keywords: translation studies, equivalence, adequacy, Dutch-English translation, literary translation, semantic differences, stylistic features, cultural context, translation challenges.

Introduction. In translation studies, the concepts of "equivalence" and "adequacy" are considered as the main criteria for determining the quality of translation. Although Dutch and English belong to the Germanic language group, their phonetic, semantic and cultural aspects have many differences. These differences are especially evident in the translation of fiction. The purpose of the article is to analyze the differences and similarities of these two approaches on the example of a work translated from Dutch into English.

Theoretical foundations of the concepts of equivalence and adequacy

Equivalence, in translation theory, represents the semantic correspondence between the original and the translated text. According to Jakobson, translation is the process of finding the equivalent of linguistic units in another language. Nida distinguishes between "formal" and "dynamic" equivalence, the latter being used to convey the effect of the text to the target audience.

Adequacy, on the other hand, is aimed at fully preserving contextual, stylistic and cultural features in translation. According to this approach, the translator must convey not only the meaning of the text, but also its functional role as accurately as possible.

Practical analysis: "De Aanslag" and its English translation

Harry Mulisch's "De Aanslag" tells the story of Dutch society during and after World War II. The translation was adapted into English under the title "The Assault". The work contains many cultural-realistic units, national characteristics, idioms, and their appearance in translation is of great importance.

Example 1:

The Dutch phrase:

“Hij zat ondergedoken bij de pastoor.”

Translation: “He was hiding with the priest.”

Here, semantic equivalence is fully preserved, but the word “ondergedoken” (i.e., living in hiding) has a much deeper meaning in the context of the Dutch war. The translation does not fully convey this context - there is a loss in terms of adequacy.

Example 2:

“Hij at stampot met worst.”

Translation: “He ate mashed potatoes and sausage.”

Stampot is a traditional Dutch dish, and its transformation into simple mashed potatoes has lost its national flavor. There is equivalence, but there is no adequacy.

Results and Discussion. The empirical analysis showed that the semantic content of the text was largely preserved in the translation into English. This indicates that equivalence was successfully achieved. However, cultural connotations, idiomatic expressions, and idiomatic expressions were often simplified or “made more convenient” for the English reader. This led to a decrease in adequacy.

The translator was probably forced to adapt some expressions in order to make foreign cultural concepts understandable to the English reader. Although such a strategy is useful for the public understanding of the translation, it reduces the cultural layer of the original text.

Conclusion. In the process of translating from Dutch to English, equivalence and adequacy should always be in balance. While the translation of “De Aanslag” is semantically almost perfect, some important cultural and stylistic elements are missing. Therefore, translators should always consider the intended audience and try to convey the emotional and cultural impact of the text as fully as possible.

References

1. Jakobson, R. (1959). On linguistic aspects of translation. In R. A. Brower (Ed.), On translation (pp. 232–239). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
2. Nida, E. A. (1964). Toward a Science of Translating: With Special Reference to Principles and Procedures Involved in Bible Translating. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
3. Mulisch, H. (1982). De Aanslag. Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij.
4. Mulisch, H. (1985). The Assault (T. P. Vincent, Trans.). New York: Pantheon Books.
5. Baker, M. (2011). In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.
6. Venuti, L. (1995). The Translator’s Invisibility: A History of Translation. London: Routledge.