

TRANSLATION PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL SPEECHES: PRAGMATIC ADAPTATION FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi siyosiy nutqlarni o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilishda uchraydigan pragmatik muammolar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda siyosiy nutqlarda leksik tanlov, ritorik vositalar, madaniy birliklar va auditoriyaga ta'sir etuvchi elementlarning tarjimada qanday o'zgarishi ko'rib chiqiladi. Natijada pragmatik moslashtirish mazmun va ta'sirni saqlashda muhim omil ekani aniqlanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: siyosiy nutq, tarjima, pragmatika, pragmatik moslashtirish, siyosiy diskurs

Аннотация: В статье анализируются прагматические трудности, возникающие при переводе политических речей с английского языка на узбекский. В исследовании рассматривается, как в переводе изменяются лексический выбор, риторические средства, культурные единицы и элементы воздействия на аудиторию. В результате делается вывод о том, что прагматическая адаптация является важным фактором сохранения смысла и воздействия.

Ключевые слова: политическая речь, перевод, прагматика, прагматическая адаптация, политический дискурс

Abstract: This article investigates the pragmatic problems that arise in translating political speeches from English into Uzbek. The study focuses on lexical choice, rhetorical devices, culture-bound units, and audience-oriented elements that may shift in translation. The findings show that pragmatic adaptation is essential for preserving both meaning and persuasive effect in the target language.

Key words: political speech, translation, pragmatics, pragmatic adaptation, political discourse

Introduction

Political speeches represent one of the most sensitive and influential types of public discourse. Their purpose is not simply to inform but to persuade, inspire, justify, and shape public opinion. As a result, translating political speeches requires more than linguistic equivalence. A translator must preserve the communicative intention, emotional tone, ideological message, and pragmatic force of the original text.

This issue is especially important in English-Uzbek translation because political discourse often contains culture-specific references, rhetorical repetition, emotionally charged vocabulary, and audience-centered expressions. If such elements are translated literally, the target text may sound grammatically correct but pragmatically weak. Therefore, pragmatic adaptation becomes a necessary strategy in the translation process.

The aim of this article is to examine the main translation problems of political speeches and to identify the role of pragmatic adaptation in rendering them from English

into Uzbek. The study attempts to answer the following questions: what linguistic and pragmatic difficulties appear most frequently in political speech translation, and how can pragmatic adaptation help preserve the intended communicative effect?

Methods

This research is based on descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods. The descriptive method is used to define the main features of political discourse and pragmatic adaptation. The analytical method helps identify the common problems that appear in translating political speeches. The comparative method is applied to selected examples from English political speeches and their possible Uzbek renderings.

The material for the analysis includes typical phrases and fragments frequently found in English political speeches, such as appeals to national unity, promises of reform, expressions of responsibility, and rhetorical slogans. These examples were examined from the perspective of meaning, stylistic effect, and target-audience reception.

The study also relies on works in translation studies and political discourse analysis. In particular, the article draws on the communicative approach to translation, which emphasizes the importance of function, audience, and context in the translation process [1]. It also takes into account views that political texts are ideologically loaded and require pragmatic sensitivity.

Results

The analysis shows that the most common problems in translating political speeches from English into Uzbek can be grouped into four major categories.

The first category is **lexical difficulty**. Political speeches often use abstract and ideologically charged words such as *freedom*, *justice*, *security*, *change*, and *responsibility*. Although Uzbek equivalents exist, the translator must choose forms that match the context and emotional weight of the original. For example, the English word *change* may refer to reform, renewal, or political transformation. A direct equivalent may transmit the basic meaning but fail to reflect the intended political connotation.

The second category is **rhetorical structure**. Political speeches frequently rely on repetition, parallelism, contrast, and slogans. Expressions such as *We will act. We will lead. We will succeed* create rhythm and persuasive force. If such repetition is reduced in translation, the target text may lose emotional impact. However, if it is reproduced mechanically, the Uzbek version may sound heavy or unnatural. The findings show that translators need to preserve rhetorical effect while adapting the structure to Uzbek speech norms.

The third category is **culture-bound elements**. English political speeches may contain references to national history, institutions, or symbolic expressions that are familiar to the source audience but less transparent to Uzbek readers. Units such as *the American dream*, *our founding fathers*, or *Capitol Hill* are not always fully understandable through literal translation. In these cases, pragmatic adaptation through explanation, contextual substitution, or functional rendering becomes necessary.

The fourth category is **audience-oriented expressions**. Political leaders often address listeners directly through phrases like *my fellow citizens*, *my fellow Americans*, or *friends*. These expressions help create solidarity and trust. The study found that successful Uzbek translation depends on choosing forms of address that sound natural and appropriate

within Uzbek political discourse. The translator must preserve the interpersonal effect, not only the surface wording.

Overall, the results indicate that pragmatic adaptation is especially important when literal translation threatens the persuasive, emotional, or contextual effectiveness of the speech. In many cases, the translator must go beyond dictionary equivalence and consider how the utterance will function for Uzbek recipients.

Discussion

The findings confirm that political speech translation is a pragmatically complex task. A political speech is not a neutral text; it is designed to influence the audience. Therefore, semantic accuracy alone is not sufficient. A translation may preserve the denotative meaning of an utterance yet fail to reproduce its political function.

This supports the view that translation should be treated as a communicative act shaped by context and audience [2]. When a political leader says *We must stand together*, the real function of the statement is not simply to describe unity but to produce it rhetorically. In Uzbek translation, the wording must therefore preserve both collective meaning and persuasive tone. In this respect, pragmatic adaptation is not a departure from fidelity but a way of achieving communicative equivalence.

Another important point is that rhetoric in political speeches often carries ideological force. Repetition, metaphor, and emotionally marked vocabulary are used strategically. Translators must recognize these features and decide which ones should be retained directly and which ones should be adapted. This idea is consistent with the argument that political discourse is inseparable from power, ideology, and representation [3].

The discussion also shows that English and Uzbek political communication have different stylistic traditions. English speeches often use short rhythmic sentences and slogan-like structures, while Uzbek formal speech may prefer slightly more expanded or contextually explicit forms. Because of this, direct structural imitation is not always effective. Pragmatic adaptation helps the translator produce a text that remains faithful to the message while sounding convincing in the target language.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the translation of political speeches from English into Uzbek involves not only linguistic transfer but also pragmatic decision-making. The main problems arise in lexical choice, rhetorical devices, culture-bound references, and audience-oriented expressions. These features carry persuasive and ideological functions that cannot always be reproduced through literal translation.

The study demonstrates that pragmatic adaptation is essential for maintaining both meaning and communicative impact. A successful translation of political speech should sound natural, culturally understandable, and rhetorically effective for the Uzbek audience. Therefore, translators working with political discourse must pay close attention to context, intention, and audience expectations.

References

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