



## THE ROLE OF PROVERBS IN TEACHING TRANSLATION

*Madaminova Sevara Muxtarovna,  
Faculty of Translation, UzSWLU  
madaminovasevara2311@gmail.com  
Scientific supervisor: Khodjaeva S.S.*

**Abstract:** *This article examines the importance of proverbs for foreign language learners is considered, the factors that determine the special importance of knowing proverbs for a translator are analyzed in detail. The degree of representation of proverbs in the process of teaching foreign languages is analyzed and the conclusion is made about the need for purposeful inclusion of these language tools in the process of foreign language training of translators. Approaches to working with proverbs and the types of exercises that can be used are described.*

**Keywords:** *translation, the process of foreign language training of translators, proverbs, code switching.*

In language education, proverbs are generally seen as being crucial for the development of cultural knowledge, figurative comprehension, and communication abilities. There are proverbs in every language and culture. From antiquity till the present, proverbs have been used to disseminate wisdom, information, and life truth.

Proverbs, those pithy and often poetic expressions of wisdom and common sense, hold a unique place in translation education. While they may seem like simple sayings, proverbs offer a rich and nuanced window into the cultural fabric of a language, providing a powerful tool for understanding and navigating the intricacies of translation. They are not mere words, but cultural artifacts, carrying within them the accumulated knowledge, values, and beliefs of a society.

By studying proverbs, translators can gain a deeper appreciation for the subtle nuances of language and culture, learning to identify cultural assumptions, recognize the complexities of idiomatic expressions, and understand the different ways in which language is used to convey meaning. Proverbs are "an important element of language knowledge"<sup>68</sup>. In general, proverbs: a) expand the possibilities of expressing thoughts through more creative use of linguistic means, bring diversity to our speech and, according to A. Litovkina<sup>69</sup>, are an important tool for ensuring effective communication [3]; b) increase the fluency and naturalness of speech in a foreign language; c) provide a deeper understanding of authentic texts; d) make a positive impression on the interlocutor when used in speech. As noted by D. Dance, "a person who can argue his position using figurative expressions reflecting folk wisdom, receives additional points in his favor"; e) give "realism" to language proficiency and increase confidence in their language knowledge. Emphasizing the importance of knowing proverbs for a speaker of a foreign language, F. Nuessel suggests highlighting the so-called proverbial competence, which includes, in addition to proper knowledge of a

<sup>68</sup> <http://creativeproverbs.com/>

<sup>69</sup> Litovkina A. T. A Proverb a Day Keeps Boredom Away. Pécs-Szekszárd, IPFKönyvek, 2000. 386 p.



foreign language, proficiency in- words, as well as the rules and norms necessary for the competent use of phrases in speech. If for those who study a foreign language not for professional purposes, knowledge of proverbs is certainly desirable, but not essential, then for a translator the obligation and importance of knowing proverbs and sayings is beyond doubt. Taking into account the specifics of translation as a type of speech activity, as well as the specific nature of words and sayings as linguistic means, four factors can be identified that allow us to draw such a conclusion.

Proverbs must be distinguished from sayings. The main feature of the proverb is its completeness and content. The saying has incompleteness and the absence of an teaching nature. *For example:* When pigs can fly. - Когда рак на горе свиснет. Then call off the dogs. - Отозвать собак. – Сменить пластинку. Sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish a proverb from a saying or to make a clear distinction between these genres. In the case of adding one word or changing the word order a saying becomes a proverb. In oral speech sayings often become proverbs, and proverbs become sayings.

We should pay our attention to those expressive means, which ensure the strength or memorability of proverbs and sayings. One of them is an exact *rhyme*:

**Birds of a feather flock together.** - " Рыбак рыбака видит из далека "

**When the cats away the mice will play.** - " Кот из дома-мышь в пляс "

**It is enough to make a cat laugh.** - " Что живо, то и хитро."

A simple balanced form of proverbs and sayings is the most commonly used, *for example:* Nothing venture, nothing have. - Волков бояться - в лес не ходить. Once bitten, twice shy. - " Однажды укушенный – вдвойне пуглив ". Shortness is an essential aspect of memorable sayings. Only few proverbs and sayings have many words, most of them contains no more than five words: Curiosity killed the cat - Любопытство кошку губило.

Translating proverbs presents a unique challenge. Often, a direct literal translation fails to capture the intended meaning or the cultural nuances embedded in the source proverb. This is where the role of the translator becomes crucial. They must go beyond the literal meaning and seek to convey the essence of the proverb, its underlying message and its impact on the target audience.

Teaching Translation through Proverbs: In translation classrooms, proverbs offer a valuable tool for fostering deeper understanding and critical thinking. They provide a platform for exploring:

➤ **Cultural Differences:** Comparing and contrasting proverbs from different cultures exposes students to the diversity of human experiences and perspectives. This exercise helps them understand how different societies perceive the world, value different things, and express themselves in unique ways. For example, comparing the English idiom "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise" with the Russian proverb Кто рано ложится и рано встает, здоровье, богатство и ум наживет. (The early bird gets the worm) reveals different cultural attitudes towards diligence and success.

➤ **Semantic Complexity:** Analyzing the literal and metaphorical meanings of proverbs sharpens students' awareness of the nuances of language and the potential



for ambiguity. This helps students develop critical thinking skills and learn to decipher the layers of meaning embedded within seemingly simple phrases. For instance, the English proverb "A stitch in time saves nine" can be interpreted literally, referring to mending a garment, but it also carries a metaphorical meaning about the importance of addressing problems promptly.

➤ **Translation Strategies:** Exploring various translation strategies, including adaptation, paraphrasing, and explicitation, helps students develop the skills to navigate the complexities of cultural translation. By analyzing different approaches to translating proverbs, students learn to make informed decisions about how to best convey the meaning and cultural context of the source proverb in the target language. For example, a proverb that relies heavily on a culturally specific image might require adaptation or paraphrasing to be understandable in a different cultural context.

➤ **Cultural Sensitivity:** Understanding the cultural implications of proverbs helps students cultivate sensitivity and avoid cultural blunders in their translations. By analyzing the underlying values and beliefs reflected in proverbs, students develop a deeper awareness of the importance of cultural context in translation and learn to avoid potentially offensive or inappropriate interpretations. This sensitivity is crucial for creating translations that are not only accurate but also culturally appropriate and respectful.

Proverbs can be incorporated into translation pedagogy in various ways:

➤ **Translation Exercises:** Students can be tasked with translating proverbs into their target language, analyzing different approaches and discussing the challenges they encounter. For example, they could be asked to translate the English proverb "Rome wasn't built in a day" into their target language, considering different options like literal translation, adaptation, or even using a completely different proverb that conveys the same message. This exercise helps students grapple with the nuances of translation and develop their own strategies for dealing with cultural differences.

➤ **Comparative Analysis:** Comparing and contrasting proverbs from different cultures can spark discussions about cultural differences and the role of translation in bridging them. This activity can be done through a variety of formats, such as group discussions, debates, or presentations. Students can compare proverbs that express similar concepts but use different imagery or metaphors, revealing underlying cultural values and beliefs.

➤ **Contextualization:** Examining the context in which proverbs are used, their social and cultural relevance, helps students understand their significance and how they should be translated. This could involve analyzing the historical context of a proverb, its use in different social groups, or its relationship to specific events or situations. By understanding the context, students can make informed decisions about the most appropriate translation strategy, ensuring the proverb's meaning is accurately conveyed in the target language.

Proverbs offer a unique and engaging lens through which to explore the complexities of translation. By incorporating them into translation education, we empower students to develop a deeper understanding of cultural nuances, refine their translation skills, and ultimately become more sensitive and effective translators. As the



saying goes, "A proverb is a short sentence drawn from long experience." These pithy sayings encapsulate cultural wisdom, often expressing universal truths in a culturally specific way.

By analyzing, comparing, and translating proverbs, students gain valuable insights into the interconnectedness of language, culture, and translation. This immersive experience not only enhances their linguistic skills but also cultivates their cultural awareness and sensitivity, preparing them to navigate the diverse world of translation with confidence and understanding.

### References:

1. <https://school-science.ru/2/3/30537>
2. <http://creativeproverbs.com/>
3. Baharian E., Rezai M. J. The effect of proverbs on learning vocabulary through visual organizers. *International Journal of English Language Teaching*, 2014, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 16–32.
4. Litovkina A. T. *A Proverb a Day Keeps Boredom Away*. Pécs-Szekszárd, IPFKönyvek, 2000. 386 p.
5. <https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=44795955>
6. <http://creativeproverbs.com/>
7. <http://www.deproverbio.com/>