



ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN THEODORE DREISER'S AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

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Abstract: *The complex realm of phraseological units in literary translation is examined in this essay, with a focus on their important linguistic, cultural, and contextual significance. It examines the challenges translators have in capturing these units while remaining faithful to the original text, highlighting their distinctive structure and cultural value. The function of translators as guardians of meaning and creative expression is explored via methods such as literal translation, alteration, and the nuanced art of transcreation. Additionally, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of phraseological units in *An American Tragedy*, comparing and contrasting them across languages and examining their functional-pragmatic characteristics.*

Keywords: *Phraseology, phraseologism, fixed combination, etymology, semantics, phraseography, aphorism, idiom, proverb, metaphor.*

The study of translation is enhanced by the multifaceted and intricate function of phraseological units (PUs). These linguistic creations are more than just word combinations; they reflect a culture's beliefs, traditions, and collective consciousness. Encapsulating the cultural and contextual richness of the source language is an additional challenge in translating these units, in addition to determining semantic equivalence. With a focus on three primary approaches—literal translation, modification, and transcreation—this study attempts to explore the translation strategies pertinent to PUs. This study will investigate the difficulties of translating PUs and the influence of various methods on maintaining their original meaning and impact through a close analysis of PUs in Theodore Dreiser's *American Tragedy*.

According to Gutt (1991), "we must preserve the style of the original text when we translate a literary work." Gutt highlights the significance of maintaining the stylistic qualities of texts while focusing on the more expansive, expressive aspect of communication, which is especially relevant to literary studies. According to Baker (1998), the process of selecting a foreign text to translate and then formulating a plan based on a number of variables, such as political, economic, and cultural aspects, is known as the translation technique. In literary works, translators frequently come across culture-specific issues (CSIs) that provide serious difficulties. According to Baker (1992), certain CSIs are specific to a single language and might not have direct translations in other languages. The most challenging issue with translating CSIs in literary texts is finding exact equivalents that effectively convey these cultural concepts to the target language (TL).

A careful text study is necessary to find colloquialisms, idiomatic idioms, and culturally distinctive words in Theodore Dreiser's *American Tragedy*. The following are some instances of PUs that might be mentioned in the book:



Fast crowd: a group of people who engage in behaviors that are socially inappropriate, such sexual promiscuity and excessive drinking.

Translation Considerations:

Literal Translation: May not convey the same connotations in the target language

Adaptation: Using a culturally equivalent term that captures the essence of a rebellious or hedonistic group in the target culture.

Example Translation (Uzbek): The literal term "tez jamoa" would not be the best choice; "chiqishuvchan guruh," which describes a lively, enjoyable, and perhaps careless gathering, might be a better option.

Bells and whistles: Describes something with unnecessary features.

Translation Considerations:

Literal Translation: May lead to confusion if the idiom is not recognized in the target culture.

Adaptation: Using an equivalent idiom or descriptive phrase that conveys the idea of excess or superfluous features.

Example Translation (Uzbek): " qo'ng'iroq va hushtak " (literal) may not be clear; an adapted version could be " keraksiz hashamat," which means "unnecessary luxuries."

Make ends meet: To earn enough to cover one's basic expenses.

Translation Considerations:

Literal Translation: Might not be idiomatic in the target language.

Adaptation: Finding an equivalent phrase that conveys the struggle to cover basic expenses.

Example Translation (Uzbek): " kun kechirish " is a direct equivalent, conveying the same struggle to cover expenses.

Caught red-handed: To be caught in the act of doing something wrong.

Translation Considerations:

Literal Translation: Often has a direct equivalent in many languages but can vary in nuance.

Adaptation: ensuring that the term expresses guilt or being caught in the act right away.

Example Translation (Uzbek): " jinoyat ustida ushlangan " directly translates to "caught in the fresh act," preserving the idiomatic meaning.

Broke the ice: To initiate conversation and make people more comfortable.

Translation Considerations:

Literal Translation: Often an existing equivalent in other languages.

Adaptation: Using an idiomatic phrase that conveys breaking initial awkwardness.

Example Translation (Uzbek): "oradagi sovuqlikni yo'qotish" is a direct equivalent, maintaining the idiomatic sense of easing tension in a conversation.

This highlights how crucial it is to select the right translation strategy—whether literal, altered, or transcreated—in order to preserve the strength and significance of phraseological units. In certain circumstances, a more complex approach is needed,

whereas in others, there are direct parallels. It is important to keep in mind, nevertheless, that the recipient (addressee) of the translation also influences the translation process. In order to approach the translation of PU individually, from the perspective of their uniqueness and color, the translator must possess work experience, deep knowledge (in the broadest sense of the word), and the capacity to understand the essence of the use of a particular idiom in a given discourse.

Conclusion

In conclusion, translators have a challenging yet intriguing task when translating phraseological units seen in literary works like Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*. Because of their rich cultural and contextual relevance, these units need to be translated more than literally in order to retain their core meaning. Translators can handle these complexities by using techniques like adaptation and transcreation, which guarantee that the translated material maintains the resonance and impact of the original. By maintaining the creative integrity and meaning of the source text, translators play a crucial role as cultural mediators, as demonstrated by the comparison of PUs in the original and their translations. In order to accomplish accurate and successful literary translation, this research emphasizes the significance of comprehending both language subtleties and cultural backgrounds.

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