

Linguocultural Features In The English Translations Of Short Stories By Katherine Mansfield And Abdulla Qahhor

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Abstract

This article explores the linguocultural features reflected in the English translations of short stories by Katherine Mansfield and Abdulla Qahhor. As representatives of different national literatures and cultural environments, both writers vividly portray their societies through language, imagery, cultural symbols, and social realities. The study focuses on how culturally specific elements, national mentality, everyday life, traditions, and value systems are expressed and preserved in translation. Particular attention is given to the challenges of translating culture-bound expressions, realia, phraseological units, and implicit meanings. The research applies comparative, descriptive, and linguocultural analysis methods to examine the degree to which cultural identity is conveyed in translated texts. The findings reveal that successful translation requires not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural awareness, as linguocultural units often carry national worldviews and collective memory. The article emphasizes that translation serves as a bridge between cultures and plays a crucial role in intercultural communication.

Keywords: linguoculturology, translation studies, cultural identity, national mentality, short story, culture-bound words, realia, comparative analysis, Abdulla Qahhor, Katherine Mansfield

Introduction

Language and culture are inseparable phenomena. Every literary work reflects not only an individual author's worldview but also the collective mentality of a particular nation. In modern linguistics, the interrelation between language and culture is studied within the framework of linguoculturology, which investigates how cultural values, traditions, and social norms are embedded in linguistic units.

Short stories, as a concise yet expressive literary genre, often reveal deep cultural meanings through everyday situations, dialogues, symbolic details, and implicit connotations. Katherine Mansfield, a prominent modernist writer, portrays the psychological subtleties and social atmosphere of early 20th-century Western society. Abdulla Qahhor, one of the leading Uzbek prose writers, reflects Uzbek national character, traditions, humor, and social life in his works.

When these stories are translated into English, linguocultural elements face various transformations. The main objective of this article is to analyze how national and cultural features are preserved, adapted, or modified in English translations of selected short stories by Mansfield and Qahhor.

Theoretical Background

Linguoculturology studies language as a carrier of cultural information. According to this approach, linguistic units such as phraseological expressions, proverbs, metaphors, realia, and culture-specific concepts reflect national identity and worldview.

In translation studies, scholars emphasize the importance of equivalence, adequacy, and functional correspondence. However, absolute equivalence is rarely possible, especially when dealing with culturally marked elements. Translators often apply strategies such as:

- Cultural substitution
- Descriptive translation

- Transcription or transliteration
- Omission or generalization
- Adaptation

The choice of strategy directly affects how the target audience perceives the foreign culture.

Linguocultural Features in Katherine Mansfield's Short Stories

Katherine Mansfield's stories are deeply rooted in Western social life and modernist aesthetics. Her works such as *"The Garden Party"* and *"Miss Brill"* reflect:

1. Social hierarchy and class consciousness:

The distinction between upper and lower social classes is expressed through subtle linguistic markers, dialogue style, and descriptive details.

2. Psychological realism:

Mansfield uses symbolic imagery and interior monologue to reveal characters' inner worlds.

3. Cultural codes and social etiquette:

Western norms of politeness, individualism, and emotional restraint are embedded in the narrative.

In translation, these elements are usually preserved lexically but may lose some cultural connotations if the target audience lacks background knowledge. For example, references to garden parties, tea culture, or Edwardian social rituals carry implicit cultural meanings that require contextual explanation.

Linguocultural Features in Abdulla Qahhor's Short Stories

Abdulla Qahhor's stories such as *"O'g'ri"* ("The Thief") and *"Bemor"* ("The Patient") vividly depict Uzbek rural and urban life. His linguocultural characteristics include:

1. National realia and everyday life:

Words related to traditional clothing, food, household items, and customs reflect Uzbek material culture.

2. Proverbs and phraseological expressions:

Qahhor frequently uses idiomatic expressions that convey national wisdom and humor.

3. Collective mentality and social values:

Respect for elders, hospitality, community relationships, and moral judgment are central themes.

When translating Qahhor's stories into English, culture-specific words such as "mahalla," "doppi," or "palov" may either be transliterated or explained descriptively. However, phraseological expressions often present greater challenges. Literal translation may distort meaning, while adaptation risks losing national color.

A comparative analysis of Mansfield and Qahhor's translated works shows notable differences:

- Mansfield's texts require psychological and stylistic precision to maintain subtle emotional nuances.
- Qahhor's texts demand careful handling of culture-bound vocabulary and national imagery.

For instance, Uzbek proverbs embedded in dialogue may be translated into English equivalents. However, equivalent English proverbs do not always convey the same cultural resonance. As a result, translators must balance semantic accuracy and cultural authenticity.

Another significant issue is the translation of humor. Qahhor's irony and satire are deeply connected with Uzbek social context. Without cultural explanation, some humorous effects may weaken in translation.

The translator acts as a mediator between cultures. Beyond linguistic competence, the translator must possess:

- Cultural awareness
- Historical knowledge
- Sensitivity to national mentality
- Stylistic flexibility

Inadequate translation of linguocultural units can lead to cultural misunderstanding or misrepresentation. Therefore, preserving the national identity of literary texts requires a strategy that respects both the source

culture and the target audience's comprehension.

The analysis demonstrates that linguocultural elements function as carriers of collective memory and identity. In Mansfield's works, cultural codes are often implicit and psychologically nuanced. In Qahhor's prose, cultural markers are more explicit and lexically visible.

Translation inevitably involves some degree of transformation. However, careful selection of translation strategies can minimize cultural loss. Descriptive translation and commentary may help preserve authenticity, while adaptation may increase readability.

The interaction between global and national literature highlights the importance of intercultural dialogue. English translations of Uzbek literature, including Qahhor's stories, introduce international readers to Central Asian cultural realities. Similarly, the global recognition of Mansfield's works demonstrates how culturally specific narratives can achieve universal relevance.

Conclusion

The study confirms that linguocultural features play a crucial role in literary translation. Short stories by Katherine Mansfield and Abdulla Qahhor reflect distinct national worldviews shaped by historical, social, and cultural contexts.

English translations of these works reveal the complexity of transferring cultural meanings across languages. While linguistic structures can often be reproduced, cultural connotations require deeper interpretative strategies. The translator's role is therefore not only technical but also cultural and interpretative.

Ultimately, translation serves as a bridge between civilizations, enabling readers to access diverse mentalities and value systems. The preservation of linguocultural identity in translation contributes to mutual

understanding and enrichment of world literature.

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