
NON-EQUIVALENT WORDS EXPRESSING NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE NOVEL "DAYS GONE BY" BY ABDULLA QADIRI

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Abstract

This article provides information about non-equivalent lexicons and realities that represent the national color of the nation's cultural heritage, and effective methods of translating such non-equivalent linguistic units are researched. Especially, we will analyse the methods of rendering the words expressing nationality into English in Carol Ermakova's translation.

Key words

Non-equivalent words, realia, culture, national flavor, national colour, transliteration, transcription, calque, method.

Introduction.

Abdulla Qadiri was a prominent Uzbek writer, considered a pioneer of modern Uzbek literature. He was born in 1894 in the city of Tashkent, which was then part of the Russian Empire. Qadiri's literary works are highly regarded for their contribution to Uzbek national identity and culture.

Abdulla Qadiri's novel "Days gone by" holds a significant place in Uzbek literature, portraying the cultural and social landscape of Central Asia during the early 20th century. The novel's depiction of traditional Uzbek society, its customs, and the impact of Soviet rule on local traditions have contributed to its enduring popularity and cultural significance. Through its vivid characters and rich storytelling, "Days gone by" offers a compelling insight into the complexities of Uzbek culture and history, making it a valuable literary work that continues to resonate with readers both within and beyond Central Asia. Qadiri's masterful storytelling weaves together elements of folklore, religion, and history to paint a multifaceted portrait of Uzbek culture. The novel shows traditions such as weddings, holidays, and storytelling, highlighting their importance in shaping the identity of the Uzbek nation.

This novel was firstly translated by Carol Ermakova, first visited Russia as a student in the turbulent and later lived in St.Petersburg in Moscow. Ms.Ermakova has travelled widely through Central Asia, most notably Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand which helped her to learn the Uzbek culture and translate the novel "Days gone by" ("O'tkan kunlar") successfully in 2018.

The second translation was done by Mark E.Reese over a fifteen-year period and this version boasts 400 explanatory notes that provide historical, geographic, and cultural reference points to the readers. In both translations, translators tried to give clear view of cultural life of Uzbek nation.

Methods

When translating literary works, the translator is required to work on them deeply, in order to not to lose national colour and flavor of the nation expressing via non-equivalent words. They will have to understand lifestyle of a certain people and work in cooperation with them to preserve and give to readers national unity of non-equivalent lexical units as these non-equivalent words show cultural life of specific nation. When translating such lexical units, the translators should keep in mind that firstly, it is difficult to find equivalent word in translating language, secondly, the concept or meaning of one word in one specific language can't be coincided with the second one. Thus translation of these non-equivalent words is considered to be the most challenging task. There are some ways of translation such non-equivalent lexical units.

1. Transliteration.

This method of translation is similar to borrowing words from another language and introducing neologisms. Linguists S.Vlakhov and S.Florin also call this method translation through neologism. In this method of the translation, alternative of the non-equivalent lexicon in the original language is formed using the letters of the translating language. Words translated in this way are pronounced based on the phonetic rules of the translating language. Such a translation is often used in the translation of nominative nouns, names of geographical places, organizations, institutions, hotels, and printing houses. For example, in English, "grapefruit" is translated as "greyppfrut" in Uzbek, "Interpol" in English is "interpol" in Uzbek, "mahsi" in Uzbek is transliterated as "makhsi" in English.

2. Transcription.

In this method, the pronunciation of the non-equivalent lexical unit is given by the letters of the translated language. This method is used to translate the names of people and places. For example, in Uzbek "O'zbekiston", in English "Uzbekistan", or in Uzbek "Buxoro" - in English "Bukhara".

3. Calque.

In this method (semantic appropriation), the meaning of a word or phrase is conveyed through literal translation. For example, the English word "The Black sea" is "Черное море" in Russian, in Uzbek this word is literally translated as "Qora dengiz".

4. Descriptive method.

This method is used when a certain word or phrase cannot be translated either by transliteration or transcription and calque. In this way, instead of one word in the original language, a whole sentence, phrase or phraseological units can be expressed in the translating language. Especially, in this method, the translator describes the word when translating.

5. Replacement of non-equivalent lexicon with a word from the same thematic series.

During the translation, non-equivalent word can be changed by the word in the same thematic line in the original language. It should be noted that only one level of generalized words is included in the thematic series. In this line words are combined with a common hyperseme and there is not a dominant word. For example: the word "tube" in English is "metro" in Uzbek.

Results

Let's take a closer look for each type of translation in the examples taken from the novel "Days gone by".

<p>O'zbek tilida (A.Qodiriy)</p>	<p>Choyni ichib bo'lgandan so'ng <i>qutidor fotihani</i> o'qib o'rnidan turdi: -Men senga aytib qo'yay, Kumush,-dedi turar ekan <i>qutidor Oftob</i> oyimg'a, bu kunga bir mehmon aytkan edim. Cho'ringni chaqirib <i>mehmonxonangni</i> tozalat. Anavi yangi qoplangan ko'rpachalaringni ber, <i>tanchaga</i> o'shani yopsin. Katta gilamni ham chiqar, uyingda mevalaring bor edimi?¹²³</p>
<p>Ingliz tilida tarjimada berilishi (K.Ermakova)</p>	<p>Once they had finished drinking tea, <i>Kutidor</i> recited the <i>fatiha</i>. "I have invited guest today, Kumush bear in mind", he mentioned as he stood up. Then, turning to <i>Oftobayim</i>, he said: "Ask the servant to tidy up the <i>mehman khana</i>. Give her those <i>kurpach</i>, let her cover <i>sandal</i> with them. And lift out a large rug. Oh, by the way, is there any fruit in the house?"¹²⁴</p>

In the following translation, we can see that the translator used more transliteration method in translating the non-equivalent words. For example, the

¹²³ Abdulla Qodiriy "O'tkan kunlar", T. Navro'z,-2019.-34 b

¹²⁴ Abdulla Qadiri "Days gone by" translated by Carol Ermakova. Nouveau Monde editions, Paris, -2018. 33p

Uzbek words “*qutidor*”, “*fotiha*”, “*mehmonxona*” and “*ko’rpacha*” are translated into English as “*Kutidor*”, “*fatiha*”, “*Mehman khana*”, “*kurpach*” in English by using transliteration method. In addition, these non-equivalent words are considered linguistic units that show the culture of the Uzbek people, and the meaning of these non-equivalent words is explained to the reader. Because when using the transliteration method, sometimes an explanation is required from the translator. For instance, *Kutidor* “-” a money changer. Used as a post-nominal title to indicate an eminent or wealthy merchant”.¹²⁵ This word was used in Uzbekistan in the middle ages to indicate wealthy people. The words “*Mehman khana*” and “*kurpach*” are considered to linguistic realias that belong only culture and lifestyle of Uzbek nation. “*kurpach*” means “a traditional quilted mattress stuffed with felt or soft cotton generally covered in silk or cotton, wool, used not only on beds but also in seating areas”¹²⁶. In order to deliver its unique meaning the translator should know about Uzbek culture and history as the root of this word goes back to the history. And since the past, Uzbek people have been using this item for sitting. And the word “*Mehman khana*” means “a room for receiving guests in the male half of a private house”¹²⁷. In this explanation Carol Ermakova tried to give the cultural meaning of the word. We can’t change the word “*Mehman khana*” to the English word “*living room*” because its concept doesn’t coincide. In English culture “*Living room*” is used to describe the room for guests, while, in Uzbek culture “*Mehman khana*” means room for receiving only male guests. In this translation, translator could preserve national flavor of non-equivalent word.

What is more, in this translation, the word “*tancha*” is replaced by the word “*sandal*” using the method of replacing of non-equivalent lexicon with a word from the same thematic series. If we pay attention, both “*tancha*” and “*sandal*” belong to the same thematic group and means the same meaning as “a small, low table over an iron box with the coals recessed in the floor which serves to warm the feet and legs in the winter”.¹²⁸ In this translation, although the translator has changed the word, national colour has been preserved. Also, nominative noun “*Oftoboyim*” is also transferred by the method of transliteration into English language as “*Oftobayim*” However, pay attention to the translation of this sentence: “I have invited guest today, Kumush bear in mind.” Here, *Kutidor* is addressing his wife *Aftob* as *Kumush*, not his daughter *Kumush*, because since ancient times in Uzbek families, men have called women by the name of their first-born child, not by their

¹²⁵ Abdulla Qadiri “Days gone by” translated by Carol Ermakova. Nouveau Monde editions, Paris, -2018. 10p

¹²⁶ Abdulla Qadiri “Days gone by” translated by Carol Ermakova. Nouveau Monde editions, Paris, -2018. 11p

¹²⁷ Abdulla Qadiri “Days gone by” translated by Carol Ermakova. Nouveau Monde editions, Paris, -2018. 22p

¹²⁸ Abdulla Qadiri “Days gone by” translated by Carol Ermakova. Nouveau Monde editions, Paris, -2018. 12p

own name. Such a tradition is unique only to the Uzbek people, and in order to give its complete translation to the reader, the translator should be aware of Uzbek traditions too. In this case, the national flavor and characteristics of Uzbek culture has been lost in the translation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the non-equivalent words expressing national characteristics play a significant role in the translation of the novel "Days Gone By" by Abdulla Qadiri as it helps represent the cultural and social nuances of the Uzbek nation. The use of non-equivalent words allows for a more authentic portrayal of the characters and settings. Translators must carefully consider these non-equivalent words during the translation to ensure that they accurately convey the national characteristics while maintaining the essence and tone of the original work. Overall, recognizing and effectively translating these non-equivalent words is essential in preserving the authenticity and richness of literary narrative.

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