

## PROBLEMS OF EQUIVALENCE AND ADEQUACY IN THE TRANSLATION OF LITERARY TEXTS

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**Abstract:** *Translation is an intricate process that requires balancing equivalence and adequacy to preserve the communicative function, content, and structure of a source text in the target language. This paper investigates the theories of equivalence, focusing on pragmatic, semantic, and structural levels. Using examples from literary texts and the theoretical framework by V. Komissarov, it highlights the challenges translators face in preserving meaning across cultures while respecting linguistic constraints. Strategies are suggested to enhance translation practice and maintain the core of the target text.*

**Keywords:** *pragmatic, situational, lexical (semantic), grammatical, and structural.*

**Аннотация:** *Перевод - это сложный процесс, который требует балансировки эквивалентности и адекватности для сохранения коммуникативной функции, содержания и структуры исходного текста на целевом языке. В этой статье исследуются теории эквивалентности, сосредотачиваясь на прагматическом, семантическом и структурном уровнях. Используя примеры из литературных текстов и теоретическую основу V. Komissarov, он подчеркивает проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики в сохранении значения в разных культурах при уважении к лингвистическим ограничениям. Предлагаются стратегии для улучшения практики перевода и поддержания ядра целевого текста.*

**Ключевые слова:** *прагматические, ситуационные, лексические (семантические), грамматические и структурные.*

**Abstrakt:** *Tarjima - bu maqsadli vazifani, o`z ichiga olgan manbaning tarkibi, tarkibi va tuzilishini saqlab qolish uchun muvozanatni, maqsadli vazifani va tuzilishini talab qiladigan nozik jarayon. Ushbu hujjat pragmatik, semantik, semantik va tarkibiy darajalarga qaratilgan ekvivalentlik nazariyalarini tekshiradi. V.Rissarovning adabiy matnlaridan va nazariy asoslardan foydalanib, tarjimonlarning ma'naviy cheklovlarini hurmat qilayotganda, madaniyatlar orqali tarjimonlar bilan bog'liq bo'lgan muammolarni ta'kidlaydi. Tartiblanish amaliyotini kuchaytirish va maqsad matnining asosini saqlash uchun strategiyalar taklif etiladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *pragmatik, vaziyat, leksik (semantik), grammatik va tarkibiy qismlar.*

### INTRODUCTION

Equivalence does not necessarily mean the same replication but rather can be achieved by finding a point of balance in which the target text (TT) retains the quality and the communicative impact of the source text (ST). For literary translation, the difficulty is further

multiplied by the fact that artistic and cultural content is contained within the texts. This paper explores the theoretical and practical aspects of equivalence and adequacy in translation, aiming to provide insights and useful guidelines for translators.

### METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach, analyzing selected phrases, idiomatic expressions, and sentences categorized under pragmatic, semantic, and structural equivalence. Cases were taken from English literary works and theoretical versions thereof in Uzbek. The analysis is founded on V. Komissarov's model, with a focus on the tension between linguistic correctness and cultural transmutation.

### RESULTS

#### 1. Pragmatic Equivalence

Pragmatic equivalence guarantees that the translation preserves the communicative purpose in the original, such that it will also reverberate with the target audience in the same way. In this stage the expressions most critically need, are idiomatic and culturally loaded expressions.

Example: Example:

Source: "I am green with envy because of the success of my competitor."

Target (Uzbek): "Men raqibimning muvaffaqiyatidan juda hasad qilyapman."

While the direct translation retains the phrase's meaning, the idiomatic expression "green with envy" may require cultural adaptation to better resonate with Uzbek readers. The alternative would be the use of a culturally familiar pronoun such as "qovog'ı osilib qoldi" (jealousy).

Similarly:

Source: "Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you."

Target (Uzbek): "Muammo senu muammoga solmaguncha, sen muammoni muammo qilma."

In this text, the formal structure and semantic content of the proverb are left intact, thereby emphasizing the requirement of functional equivalence.

Source: "Could you do me a favor, please?"

Target (Uzbek): "Sizdan bir iltimosim bor edi." (Agar malol kelmasa...)

This translation captures the politeness and request function of the original.

Source: "How do you do?"

Target (Uzbek): "Assalomu alaykum"

Adapt a formal English greeting to an appropriate Uzbek phrase.

Source: "There, there, don't cry!"

Target (Uzbek): "Mana, mana, qo`y yig`lama."

Source: "Who shall I say is calling?"

Target (Uzbek): "Sizni kim deb aytay?"

Structural changes were made to reflect natural speech patterns in Uzbek.

Source: "Beware of the dog!"

Target (Uzbek): "Itga ehtiyot bo'ling!"

A simple restructuring aligns with the norms of the target language.

Source: "I meant no harm." (the situation on the bus)

Target (Uzbek): "Atay qilmadim"

Source: "What on earth do I need such a friend for?"

Target (Uzbek): "Bunaqa do'stning meng anima keragi bor?" (Boshimga uramanmi bunaqa do'stni?!)" / "Bunday do'stning boridan yo'g'i afzal"

## 2. Semantic Equivalence

Semantic equivalence deals with a respect to the source text meaning and imagery, and taking into account the cultural differences.

Example:

Source: She turned as thin as a toothpick" after she recovered.

Target (Uzbek): "Kasalligidan so'ng u cho'pdek ozib ketdi."

Here, the translator uses a culturally relatable metaphor, "cho'p" (stick), to convey the idea of extreme thinness while preserving the source text's intent.

Source: "Boris is in no mood for joking today."

Target (Uzbek): "Bugun Boris hazil ko'taradigan kayfiyatda emas."

This preserves the situational meaning and emotional tone of the original text.

Source: "She cried a river of tears."

Target (Uzbek): "U daryodek ko'z yoshi to'kdi."

A cultural adaptation uses a similar metaphor to convey the depth of sadness.

Another case:

Source: "He is my son."

Target (Uzbek): "Bu mening o'g'lim." (Tring to express the emphasis on whose son he is).

The translation itself is simple, though it highlights the importance of semantic accuracy, a key challenge when dealing with potentially subtle connotations in familial terms across languages.

Source: "He has a heart of stone."

Target (Uzbek): "Uning yuragi toshdan." (U bag'ritosh)

It preserves the metaphorical meaning of being unfeeling.

## 3. Structural Equivalence

Structural equivalence corresponds to the formal mapping between source and target texts.

Example:

Source: The port is only accessible to large vessels when the tide is up.

Target (Uzbek): "Portga katta kemalar faqat suv ko'tarilganda kira oladi."

Translating restructures the sentence with the same grammatical accuracy and meaning as the original.

Source: "Jane was heard playing the piano."

Target (Uzbek): "Janning qulog`iga pianino chalinyotgani eshitildi."

This structural change is in accordance with Uzbek grammatical rules, but the meaning is preserved in the English sentence.

### DISCUSSION

Results show that equivalence in translation is a multifaceted issue, and translators must strike a compromise between linguistic precision and cultural appropriateness.

**Pragmatic Challenges:** Idiomatic expressions often lose their effect in literal translations. It is also very important to adapt them to the target audience's cultural context, keeping the original meaning intact. For example, translating "How do you do!" as "Assalomu alaykum" captures the formal greeting without losing cultural relevance.

**Semantic Nuances:** Words and expressions can have multiple layers of meaning that might not be present in the TL. For example, if a sentence is translated into a culture where toothpicks are not an everyday metaphor, by analogy, the sentence lacks imagery unless a match to a simile from that culture is substituted.

**Structural Adaptations:** While some grammatical constructions translate directly, others require reorganization. In English, passive structures, for example, are usually expected to go into the active voice in Uzbek for natural fluency.

**Recommendations for Translators:** Recommendations for Translators:

1. Deeply study both the source and target languages' cultural environment.
2. Back-translation methods can be used to validate the fidelity of the target text.
3. Collaborate with native speakers to refine idiomatic expressions.
4. Semantic adaptation should be highlighted while ensuring the source text's artistic intention.

### CONCLUSION

Equivalence and adequacy are the very foundations of good translation, particularly for the literary texts. Translators must navigate linguistic, cultural, and structural differences to produce a target text that resonates with readers while remaining faithful to the original. Future studies need to investigate equivalence across a wider range of genres and languages in order to make translation theories more broadly applicable.

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