

## DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION OF METAPHORS

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**Abstract.** Metaphors are ubiquitous in every nation, culture and language, which presents an influx of challenges for translators because of cultural nuances and abstract meaning. The main of the article is to delve into exploring complexities through examples in source and target languages and analyzing through translation. This article explains the types of metaphors, examples for them and how to make metaphor translation equivalently.

**Аннотация.** Метафоры повсеместно распространены в каждой нации, культуре и языке, что представляет собой массу проблем для переводчиков из-за культурных нюансов и абстрактного значения. Основная часть статьи — углубиться в изучение сложностей с помощью примеров на исходном и целевом языках, а также анализировать посредством перевода. В этой статье объясняются виды метафор, примеры к ним и способы эквивалентного перевода метафоры.

**Key words:** figurative expression, the figure of speech, cultural metaphors, puns and word plays, root metaphors, and cliché metaphors.

**Ключевые слова:** образное выражение, фигура речи, культурные метафоры, каламбуры и игры слов, корневые метафоры и метафоры-клише.

The Metaphor is a figure of speech that depicts an object, person, or situation by stating that it is something else. Metaphors usually assert a direct equivalence. For example, time is a thief suggests that time steals the precious moments of our lives.<sup>1</sup> Metaphors are widely used in literature, and daily speech to add depth, understanding, and emotion to our lives. However, metaphor translation is not as easy as it seems because of some difficulties that it results in.

Whilst the central problem of translation is the overall choice of translation method for a text, the most important particular dilemma is the translation of metaphor.

<sup>2</sup>By metaphor, any figurative expression can be represented: transferred sense of

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<sup>1</sup> Catford J. linguistic aspects of translation. London, 1965 – pp. 35-36

<sup>2</sup> A textbook of translation. Peter Newmark 1988, p.104.

physical words (bright future-porloq istiqbol; physical attribute of brightness is transferred to symbolise positive outlook and optimistic prospects), the personification of abstract feelings and nouns (opportunity knocks-omad o’z oyog’i bilan kelganda; opportunity is personised as if it were a person coming to the door) Dead metaphor which lost original meaning and is understood in literal sense: (heart of the city- shahar markazi; the metaphor likens the center of the city to the heart of the living being).

Translators often struggle to find equivalent of metaphors from source language in target language while dealing with translation process. Cultural metaphors, for example, are one of the challenging parts of the translation as it requires translators to possess not only competence in their sphere, but also cultural awareness about customs, traditions, and beliefs. Translating these metaphors demands finding appropriate linguistic equivalence as well as conveying cultural meaning that may not have a direct counterpart in target language. For example, it is raining cats and dogs – savalab yomg’ir quymoqda. In Uzbek language, this metaphor does not have direct equivalence because we are not capable of delivering this metaphor into uzbek by conveying: mushuk va kuchuklar yog’yapti. This becomes odd and rude to uzbek culture. Therefore, translators usually try to find suitable meanings for cultural metaphors by taking lexical resources, rules of grammar and audience familiarity into account.

Cultural metaphors often involve puns and word plays that are hard to translate effectively without sacrificing humor in the original text. For example, his singing voice is like a frog with a sore throat – u tomoq og’rig’iga duchor bo’lgan qurbaqaning vaqillashidek ijro qiladi. This metaphor implies judging someone’s singing ability, and voice openly by drawing vividly unflattering comparisons. This can be a good case in point for implied metaphors.

Another common type of metaphor is root metaphor. A root metaphor is a basic and fundamental metaphor that is often perceived in literary and sometimes in oral speech. As its name implies, root is important part of tree while root metaphor provides essential way of thinking that supports and influence other thoughts and ideas. These metaphors are pervasive and can shape entire worldwide and often rely on the specific nuances and connotations of words in particular language. For example,

Time is money, so you either spend it or waste it – Vaqt bu boylikdir, yo uni foydali narsalarga sarflaysan yoki isrof etasan. In other cultures the value of time is not equal to money, so we need to try to find different metaphors that convey time value in some target languages. In African countries, time is viewed through the lens of communal activities and natural events rather than material possessions in metaphors. Blood is thicker than water – et va tirnoq. In Uzbek it does not have direct equivalence, the lexical translation would be “qon suvdan qalin” which seems awkward and odd to uzbek culture. “et va tirnoq” can be suitable match in meaning as “blood is

thicker than water” refers to a deep relationship and connection between family members

“I define cliché metaphors as metaphors that have perhaps temporarily outlived their usefulness, that are used as a substitute for clear thought, often emotively, but without corresponding to the facts of the matter<sup>3</sup>” said Peter Newmark. Translating cliché metaphors is an uphill struggle due to its their deep root in cultural context and their idiomatic nature.

Kick the bucket- u dunyoga ravona qilmoq yoki bo'lmoq. If we translate this metaphor from word to word we cannot get the actual meaning. It is like chelakni tepib yubordi. The origin of this expression is uncertain, but it is believed to derive from a method of execution. In Spanish the equivalence can be “Estirar la pata” ( to stretch the leg). The meaning is similar while imagery is different.

Bite the bullet <sup>4</sup>- suv kelsa simirib, tosh kelsa kemirib yasha. Meaning is that accept and endure hardships and challenges in life.

To conclude, I outlined certain difficulties with clear examples that can arise possibly during translation process. Metaphors in particular is a diverse and unlimited topic that many translators still need some guidance or culture and language familiarity to produce the translation with the same meaning, although the structure can be unlike.

### Reference

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<sup>3</sup> A textbook of translation. Peter Newmark 1988, p.107.

<sup>4</sup> Tingcoach .com