

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING ENGLISH IDIOMS INTO UZBEK

Iroda Alijon kizi Abdullayeva

Nasiba Nurkobil kizi Khushbakova

Denau Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy

ABSTRACT

This article defines the analysis in Uzbek translation of English idioms and it deals with some problems which readers can face to comprehend. In addition, in this article some recommendations are given in order to translate idioms from source languages to target language.

Keywords: idioms, translate, target language, idiomatic expressions, literal meaning

INTRODUCTION

Today, the use of idioms in everyday life is developing. We know that there are many idioms in English language and you can find such kind of idioms. However, it is very difficult to translate these idioms into our mother tongue. As well as, idioms are difficult to define or describe in exact terms. Richards et al. (2002) defined an idiom, as "An expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts." (p.246). Idioms cannot easily be translated word for word as the context does not transfer; we need to knowledge of the original language to understand it and knowledge of the target language to find the equivalent. Baker (2018) postulates that idioms are frozen strings of language whose meanings are not deducible from their single components.

METHODOLOGY

First of all, we should understand what is idioms before the translate English idioms into target languages.

An idiom is a phrase or expression that typically presents a figurative, non-literal meaning attached to the phrase; but some phrases become figurative idioms while retaining the literal meaning of the phrase. Categorized as formulaic language, an idiom's figurative meaning is different from the literal meaning. Idioms occur frequently in all languages; in English alone there are an estimated twenty-five million idiomatic expressions (Google). Cain et al. (2005) define idiom as a figurative expression that may be interpreted literally, but it takes a non-literal meaning when used in a specific context (p. 66). In a similar vein, Laval (2003) and Rowe (2004) define idioms as idiomatic expressions whose literal

meanings and interpretation are different from what they mean (i.e., idiomatic interpretation).

Idiomatic translation, firstly we should know what is a translation and we will analyze idiomatic translation.

Translation is the process of reworking text from one language into another to maintain the original message and communication. Translation, as a communicative act, involves interpretation made by the translator, which takes the context of the target text reader and his knowledge into consideration. The translator's interpretation is made in such a way which is deemed relevant to the target reader in the sense that the target reader can understand something from the utterance translated by the translator in accordance with relevance theory (Gutt, 2000, p. 116). Note that idiomatic translation refers to achieving a target text that sounds natural in the target language, while idiomatic expressions are idioms or fixed expressions in a given language. We will be discussing these in detail in Lesson Seven.

An idiomatic translation should:

Reflect the exact message of the source text as completely as possible

Be written in a way which reads naturally in the target language

Use idiomatic expressions when appropriate

Be as easy to read as if it were written in the target language.

The researcher examined the ST idioms and compared them to the translations in the TT. Guided by Baker's (2018) classification of idioms' translation strategies, the researcher identified the translation strategies employed in the TT. He also examined the extent the meaning intended in the ST was conveyed in the TT by employing some techniques such as back translation. Semantic loss, in this context, refers to "over-, under-, or mistranslation of a source text (ST)" (Abdelaal & Md Rashid: 2015, p.1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to provide some aspects and problems in the translation of idioms mentioned by science above, we provide some examples for further explanation and discussion.

Example:

English	Meaning	Uzbek
1. When pigs fly	Something that you think will never happen	Tuyani dumi yerga tekkanda

2. The apple never falls far from the tree	A child grows up to be similar to its parents both in behavior and in physical characteristics	Olmani tagiga olma tushadi
3. Shrinking violet	A person who is very shy or modest	Qo'y og'zidan cho'p olmagan
4. Someone 's heart sinks	You feel disappointed and discouraged	Tarvuzi qo'ltig'idan tushmoq
5. On top of the world	Happy because things are going well	Boshi osmonga yetmoq

1. **When pigs fly** – this idiom is adapted to the Uzbek language “**Tuyani dumi yerga tekkanda**”. In the translation of this idiom, we can see words related to linguoculture. For example, pig this animal is considered haram for Muslims, but not haram for other religions. Therefore, when this idiom was translated into Uzbek a camel was used instead of pig. We know that the people of Uzbekistan, that is Muslims do not eat pork and do not keep this animal in their homes. Now, let's talk about camel. Camel has been helper of people since ancient times. Also, this animal served as transport for trade in caravans passing through the Great Silk road in ancient times. It is clear from this that the camel is closer to the Uzbeks than the pig. So, this idiom is used when you want something will never happen.

2. **The apple never falls far from the tree** – this idiom is translated as “**Olmani tagiga olma tushadi**”. In this idiom, both countries used the same fruit, apple. And the meaning of this phrase is almost the same as in Uzbek. This expression is used when children and parents have the same character or behavior. In logically, a child brought up by his or her parents is almost identical to their parents and genetically so too.

3. **Shrinking violet** – this idiom - “**qo'y og'zidan cho'p olmagan**” is used for very shy and modest people. In this idiom, the color violet is likened to the color of a shy person. Because when a person is shy, his or her face becomes red and excited. In the next one, the sheep animal is used in the translation, we know that the sheep animal is likened to a shy and modest person, because sheep is very docile and unobtrusive.

4. **Someone's heart sinks** - this idiom “**tarvuzi qo'ltig'idan tushgan**” is used when a person is not feeling discouraged and disappointed. And used to say that someone suddenly lost hope and began to feel unhappy. In the translation of this idiom, the watermelon is chosen because the watermelon is big and it does not fall from the hand easily, it falls only when a person loses her or his sense of self. In the next translation, analysed that someone would be sad by someone or something.

5. On top of the world – this idiom “**Boshim osmonga yetdi**” is used to describe happy mood. In one of these idioms, the words “head “ and “world “ in the other are the same in meaning and logic, despite the fact that the words are different. The highest of the world may be considered equal to the sky. If a person is very happy about something, the person feels as flying to the sky. Therefore, the word sky is used in this phrase.

CONCLUSION

It is well known that in the field of translation, the translator must be very intelligent and thoughtful. It is especially difficult to translate an idioms, because if an idiom is translated word for word, its content may change or lose its meaning. Therefore, in order to preserve the meaning of idioms, the translator faces several difficulties in the process of translation. For this reason, we often encounter problems in the translation of idioms. We cannot even find the translations of the idioms in the dictionaries.

In Longman dictionary of English idioms (Longman Group Ltd: 1979) idioms are referred to as “a fixed group of words with a special different meaning from the meaning of the separate words”. So the first thing to mention here is that idioms cannot be translated literally because their meaning won't be predicted from the usual meaning of their constituents.

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