Date: 9thFebruary-2026

TYPICAL ERRORS IN ENGLISH-UZBEK TRANSLATION: A SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS AND REMEDIAL FRAMEWORK

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Annotation: This article presents an original, systematic classification of the most frequent errors in English-to-Uzbek translation. It moves beyond basic grammar to analyze deep structural, semantic, and cultural-interpretive pitfalls that distort meaning and produce unnatural, "translationese" output. Built on a contrastive linguistic foundation, the study offers clear examples and practical strategies for achieving accurate and idiomatic translations. It serves as a unique guide for translators and linguists, aiming to elevate the standard of cross-linguistic communication.

Keywords: translation errors, contrastive linguistics, dynamic equivalence, Uzbek language, interference, translationese.

Ushbu maqola ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga tarjimada eng keng tarqalgan xatolarning o'ziga xos, tizimli tasnifini taqdim etadi. U oddiy grammatikadan tashqariga chiqib, ma'noni buzadigan va sun'iy, "tarjimonlik tili"ni yaratadigan chuqur tizimli, semantik va madaniy-tafsiriy tuzoqlarni tahliylaydi. Qiyosiy tilshunoslik asosida qurilgan bo'lib, tadqiqot aniq va idiomatik tarjimalarga erishish uchun aniq misollar va amaliy strategiyalarni taklif etadi. Bu tarjimonlar va tilshunoslar uchun nodir qo'llanma bo'lib, tillararo aloqa standartini oshirishga qaratilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima xatolari, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, dinamik tenglik, o'zbek tili, interferensiya, tarjimonlik tili.

В данной статье представлена оригинальная, систематическая классификация наиболее частых ошибок при переводе с английского на узбекский язык. Выходя за рамки базовой грамматики, она анализирует глубинные структурные, семантические и культурно-интерпретационные ловушки, искажающие смысл и порождающие неестественный, «переводческий» язык. Построенное на контрастивной лингвистической основе, исследование предлагает чёткие примеры и практические стратегии для достижения точного и идиоматичного перевода. Оно служит уникальным руководством для переводчиков и лингвистов, направленным на повышение стандартов межъязыковой коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: ошибки перевода, контрастивная лингвистика, динамическая эквивалентность, узбекский язык, интерференция, переводческий язык.

1. INTRODUCTION: THE JOURNEY FROM LITERALISM TO QUALITY MEANING

Translation between English and Uzbek is a complex negotiation between two linguistically distant worlds-one Germanic, the other Turkic, each embedded in distinct historical and cultural contexts. While direct lexical substitution might produce a superficially understandable text, it often yields results that feel foreign, awkward, or misleading to the native Uzbek speaker. These typical errors, recurring

across various levels of translation, stem from fundamental differences in grammatical architecture, semantic fields, pragmatic norms, and cultural cognition. This article aims to catalog and analyze these error patterns not as criticism, but as a constructive roadmap for fostering translation that is not only correct but also authentic and resonant in the target language.

2. GRAMMATICAL AND SYNTACTIC PITFALLS

2.1. Article Misapplication: English relies heavily on definite (the) and indefinite (a/an) articles, which have no direct equivalents in Uzbek. The automatic translation of "the" as -ni (accusative case) or "a" as bir is a primary error.

-Error: "He saw the man" U odamni ko'rdi. (This implies "He saw a specific, known man," which may not be intended.)

- Correction: Context dictates. Often, the article is simply omitted or specificity is conveyed through word order or context: U bir odamni ko'rdi (He saw a man) / U o'sha odamni ko'rdi (He saw that/particular man).

2.2. Prepositional Calques: English prepositions (in, on, at, for, by) are highly polysemous. Translating them mechanically into their most common Uzbek equivalents (da, bilan, uchun) creates nonsense.

Error: "I am interested in physics" → Men fizika ichida qiziqaman.

-Correction: The concept maps to a different syntactic structure: Men fizikaga qiziqaman (using the dative case-ga).

2.3. Tense and Aspect Mismatch: The English tense-aspect system (perfect, continuous) does not align perfectly with Uzbek. Overusing-ayotgan (continuous) or attempting to create a direct analog of the present perfect are common pitfalls.

Error: "I have lived here for 5 years" Men bu yerda 5 yil yashayapman. (This means "I am currently living here for 5 years," which is illogical.)

Correction: Use the simple past or present with time markers: Men bu yerda 5 yildan beri yashayman or Men bu yerda 5 yil yashadim (depending on context).

2.4. Word Order Rigidity: English adheres to a strict Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order. Uzbek uses SOV but is pragmatically flexible, using word order to highlight topic and focus. Preserving English SVO often yields a grammatically correct but pragmatically "flat" sentence.

Error (Pragmatically awkward): "Yesterday, John bought a new car at the big store."

Better Adaptation: Kecha katta do'konda Jon yangi mashina sotib oldi. (SOV, with adverbials placed naturally before the verb).

3. LEXICAL-SEMANTIC ERRORS

3.1. False Friends and Partial Equivalents: Words with common origins or borrowed terms often have diverged meanings.

Error: "Actual" translated as aktual (which means "topical, relevant" in Uzbek), not as haqiqiy or aslida.

Error: "Sympathy" translated as hamdardlik (compassion), while the intended meaning might be ahamiyat (understanding/agreement).

3.2. Overlooking Collocations and Phrasal Verbs: The meaning of English verbs changes completely with prepositions (give up, give in, give out). Translating the verb root alone fails.

Error: "The engine gave out" → Dvigatel berdi.

Correction: Requires finding the idiomatic equivalent: Dvigatel ishdan chiqdi /daf qildi.

3.3. Connotation and Register Mismatch: Choosing a linguistically correct word with the wrong stylistic level.

Error: Translating "The President stated..." as Prezident gapirdi... (too informal: "said/talked").

- Correction: Prezident bildirdi or deb ta'kidladi (more formal: "declared/emphasized").

4. CULTURAL-CONCEPTUAL AND PRAGMATIC TRANSFERS

4.1. Culturally-Specific Concepts: Translating terms like "individualism," "privacy," or "small talk" directly often requires explication or cultural adaptation, as the default Uzbek concept may differ.

4.2. Pragmatic Force of Utterances: A polite English request "Could you open the window?" translated literally (Derazani ocha olardingizmi?) can sound like a question about ability, not a request. A more pragmatically accurate translation might be Derazani ochib qo'yishingiz mumkinmi? or simply Iltimos, derazani oching.

4.3. Measurement, Date, and Address Format: Literal transfer creates confusion. "5'10" tall" or "02/07/2023" (MM/DD/YYYY) must be converted to the metric system (178 sm) and the DD/MM/YYYY format.

5. DISCOURSE-LEVEL AND TEXTUAL ERRORS

5.1. Overuse of Passive Voice: English uses passive constructions frequently. Uzbek actively avoids them, preferring active voice or indefinite personal constructions.

Error: "It is believed that..." → U... deb ishoniladi (clumsy).

Correction: Olimlarning fikricha... (Scientists believe...) or... deb hisoblanadi (is considered).

5.2. Cohesion and Linking: English relies on pronouns (he, she, it, they) and conjunctions (however, therefore, furthermore). Uzbek can use pronoun dropping and relies more on parataxis and context. Over-translating every pronoun and conjunction makes text redundant.

Awkward: U kelgach, u restoranga kirdi va u ovqatlanishni buyurdi.

Natural: Kelgach, restoranga kirib, ovqat buyurdi.

6. CONCLUSION: TOWARD A STRATEGY OF DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCE

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The chronic errors in English-Uzbek translation are not random but systematic, predictable outcomes of linguistic interference. Overcoming them requires a paradigm shift from code-switching (word-for-word substitution) to sense-transposing. The translator must:

1. Decode the full semantic and pragmatic meaning of the English source.

2. Dissociate from its specific syntactic form.

3. Re-encode that meaning using the natural lexical, grammatical, and stylistic resources of Uzbek

This process, known as seeking dynamic equivalence, prioritizes the reader's experience. It asks not "How do I say this word in Uzbek?" but "How is this idea, function, or emotion naturally expressed in Uzbek?" Mastery of this approach, guided by an awareness of the typical pitfalls outlined above, is the key to producing translations that are truly accurate, fluent, and culturally authentic-bridging the gap between languages not merely on the page, but in the mind of the reader.

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