

LOSS AND GAIN IN TRANSLATING EMOTION-BEARING WORDS FROM UZBEK INTO ENGLISH

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Abstract. *The cultural, lexical, and pragmatic distinctions between languages make translating emotionally charged words extremely difficult. Lexical counterparts may not accurately capture cultural subtleties or emotional intensity when translating from Uzbek to English, which could result in either translation gain or loss.*

This study looks into how student translators deal with these difficulties and the techniques they use to maintain emotional meaning. The study used a mixed-method approach that included reflective questionnaires, lexical error analysis, and translation exercises.

The results show that while adaptive techniques like contextual modulation, explicitation, and cultural substitution preserve emotional meaning but occasionally bring small advantages, literal translations frequently lead to a partial loss of feeling.

The study highlights how crucial it is for translators to be cognizant of emotional complexity and cultural context in order to produce accurate and successful translations.

Keywords: *emotion-bearing words, translation strategies, lexical loss and gain, Uzbek-English translation, cultural nuances.*

Introduction

Words that provoke emotions, attitudes, or psychological reactions are said to have affective meaning. Due to linguistic variances, cultural distinctiveness, and differences in emotional intensity, translating such words from Uzbek into English is difficult. While some words have obvious lexical equivalents, many idiomatic phrases or culturally charged statements have no specific English equivalents.

In translation studies, "gain" refers to the addition of new nuances or the heightening of emotion in the target text, whereas "loss" refers to the weakening or absence of emotional content. Translators must be aware of these phenomena to preserve accuracy and produce the desired emotional effect.

This study looks at the benefits and drawbacks of translating emotionally charged Uzbek words into English and explores the methods translators use to strike a balance between emotional impact, cultural authenticity, and semantic accuracy.

Literature Review

Translation theory has extensively addressed the translation of emotionally charged words. The dynamic equivalency theory was first presented by Nida (1964), who prioritized effect over literal meaning.

Semantic and communicative translation are distinguished by Newmark (1988), who points out that communicative techniques frequently better retain emotional content.

Literal translations frequently result in diminished emotional intensity, according to a prior study on Uzbek–English translation (Turaeva, 2018).

Although they may result in little improvements, adaptive techniques, including modulation, explicitation, and cultural substitution, aid in preserving emotional integrity.

According to Katan (2014), translators need to take into account both language and cultural aspects, particularly when working with emotive terms.

According to Shuttleworth and Cowie (2014), good emotional translation goes beyond lexical equivalence and involves a thorough grasp of both source and destination cultures.

Few empirical studies systematically investigate loss and gain in the translation of emotionally charged words, despite these insights. To close this gap, our study provides both quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

A mixed-method approach was used, combining qualitative reflection with quantitative lexical analysis. A thorough grasp of lexical loss/gain and translator decision-making is made possible by this design.

3.2 Participants

Twenty undergraduate Translation Studies majors with intermediate to upper-intermediate English competence and prior literary translation experience participated in the study.

3.3 Research Instruments

- **Translation tasks:** Short literary passages from Uzbek that were full of expressive language were chosen to be translated into English.
- **Lexical analysis checklist:** Evaluated cases of lexical growth, loss, or emotional meaning preservation.
- **Reflective questionnaire:** Gathered information on decision-making, translation techniques, and cultural and emotional sensitivity.

3.4 Research Procedure

1. Text selection: Selected passages with emotionally charged language and idioms unique to a certain culture.
2. Translation tasks: Students were instructed to preserve emotional impact when translating literature into English.
3. Lexical analysis: Examined if emotional content had increased or decreased in the source and target texts.
4. Reflective questionnaire: Students explained the rationale behind their translation decisions
5. Data interpretation: Lexical gain, loss, and applied strategy patterns were found.

3.5 Data Analysis

The percentage of emotionally charged terms that were retained, eliminated, or improved in translation was determined by quantitative analysis.

To find strategies and cognitive processes, reflective questionnaire responses were subjected to qualitative thematic analysis.

Results

4.1 Lexical Preservation, Loss, and Gain

Table 1. Emotional Meaning Outcomes in Translation

| Word Type | Preserved (%) | Lost (%) | Gained (%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------|
| Positive emotion words | 62 | 28 | 10 |
| Negative emotion words | 57 | 33 | 10 |
| Culturally bound expressions | 45 | 50 | 5 |

4.2 Translation Strategies Applied

Table 2. Strategies for Translating Emotion-Bearing Words

| Strategy | Description | Effect on Emotion |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Literal translation | Word-for-word translation | May cause partial loss |
| Contextual modulation | Adjusting words to preserve emotional intensity | Maintains fidelity, minor gain possible |
| Explicitation | Adding words to clarify emotions | Preserves meaning, may introduce gain |
| Cultural substitution | Replacing culture-specific words with equivalents | Improves comprehension, may slightly alter nuance |

4.3 Reflective Questionnaire Findings

Students said they had trouble striking a balance between emotional impact and literal correctness. Many have pointed out that maintaining emotional meaning requires awareness of cultural context and empathy for target readers.

Discussion

The results verify that lexical, cultural, and emotional aspects must be carefully taken into account when translating words that convey emotion. Although literal translation guarantees lexical accuracy, it frequently lessens the emotional impact.

Although they can provide minor benefits that change interpretation, adaptive tactics including modulation, explicitation, and cultural substitution help retain emotions.

Translator awareness is crucial because culturally bound expressions are most susceptible to loss. The results support both Katan's (2014) emphasis on cross-cultural sensitivity and Newmark's (1988) argument that communicative translation better preserves emotional content.

The idea that comprehending cultural and emotional complexity is essential for good translation is supported by Shuttleworth and Cowie (2014).

Conclusion

It is a difficult procedure that involves both gain and loss when translating emotionally charged words from Uzbek into English. Although lexical precision is maintained, literal translation may lessen emotional impact.

Although they may result in slight improvements, adaptive techniques like contextual modulation and explicitation successfully preserve emotional significance. To produce high-quality translations, translator training should place a strong emphasis on cultural awareness, emotional sensitivity, and strategic adaptation.

Future studies could examine the methods used by professional translators and examine a variety of genres, such as journalism, literature, and audiovisual media.

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