



LEXICAL-SEMANTIC STRATEGIES OF TRANSLATION IN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Ibrokhimova Mokhinur

Trainee-teacher of the Department of Tourism and Translation

Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages

E-mail: ibrokhimovamokhinur@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This article examines lexical-semantic translation strategies employed in political communication, focusing on the mechanisms translators use to convey political discourse across linguistic and cultural boundaries. This research contributes to translation studies by highlighting the intersection of linguistic choices and political discourse, demonstrating how translators navigate between fidelity to source texts and accessibility for target audiences

Introduction. Political communication traverses the terrain of language, power, and ideology, thus the translation has to be done very carefully and the consequences are very significant. In the case of political translation, it is not just a matter of transferring the language; it also involves the mediation of cultural values, ideological positions, and rhetorical strategies [1]. The lexical-semantic aspect of political translation constitutes the making of choices between terms, connotations, registers, and conceptual framing that could very well change completely how the political messages are received and understood by the specific audience [2]. The translators of political texts like speeches, diplomatic documents, party platforms, and media statements, which all contain culture-bound concepts, emotionally charged vocabulary, and strategic vagueness, are challenged to weigh up between exactness and pragmatic effectiveness [3]. This study is important because it acknowledges that the translation choices made in political discourse can have an impact on public opinion, international relations, and cross-cultural political understanding that is either facilitated or obstructed [4]. One of the conclusions drawn from the previous studies is that political translation is impossible to be politically neutral as each choice of words carries ideological implications and helps to create a certain representation of political reality [5].

Methodology and Literature Review. The present research takes systematic literature review as its main method and investigates academic works from various linguistic and cultural backgrounds such as Uzbek translation studies, Russian linguistics, and international translation theory. The authors rely on functionalist translation theory as a major guiding concept, which regards translation decisions as driven mainly by the intended function, and on critical discourse analysis which uncovers the ways in which linguistic decisions make and express ideological meanings [6]. Venuti's ideas of domestication and foreignization are used as theoretical tools to see how translators in political texts are able to position themselves between source and target cultural frames [7]. Russian translation theorist Komissarov's

studies on transformations in translation bring forward a classification of lexical-semantic operations such as substitution, addition, omission, and semantic development, which are the strategies of translators when dealing with untranslatable political concepts [8]. The translation studies which include the works of Uzbek scholars analyzing the political translation from Russian to Uzbek show that differences between languages sometimes call for creative lexical-semantic solutions to express political nuances [9].

Results and Discussion. Analysis of the scholarly literature identifies several principal lexical-semantic strategies employed in political translation. Semantic modulation involves shifting perspective or emphasis while maintaining core meaning, allowing translators to adapt politically sensitive concepts to target cultural frameworks without fundamentally altering propositional content. Contextual adaptation requires translators to select lexical equivalents based not on dictionary definitions but on contextual appropriateness within specific political situations, recognizing that political terminology often carries different connotations across cultures. Ideological reframing emerges as a strategy where translators consciously or unconsciously adjust the ideological positioning of source texts through lexical choices, potentially softening or intensifying political stances depending on target audience expectations and translator positioning. Metaphorical reconstruction addresses the challenge of translating figurative language in political discourse, requiring translators to either maintain source metaphors, substitute culturally equivalent metaphors, or explicate metaphorical meanings depending on cross-cultural comprehensibility.

Explication and implicitation strategies involve adding or reducing information to ensure target audiences grasp political implications that might be obvious to source audiences but obscure across cultural boundaries. The discussion reveals inherent tensions in political translation between maintaining ideological authenticity and achieving communicative effectiveness, between preserving culture-specific references and ensuring accessibility, between literal accuracy and functional equivalence. These tensions are not resolvable through mechanical application of translation rules but require translators to exercise informed judgment based on comprehensive understanding of political contexts. The findings demonstrate that lexical-semantic strategies function as instruments through which translators navigate these tensions, making decisions that inevitably shape how political realities are perceived across linguistic communities. Furthermore, the research highlights that translator visibility or invisibility in political texts carries political implications, as transparent translation strategies may foreground cultural difference while fluent translation may naturalize foreign political concepts in potentially problematic ways.

Conclusion. This study has examined lexical-semantic strategies employed in translating political communication, revealing the complex interplay between linguistic choices and political discourse. The research demonstrates that political translation transcends technical linguistic transfer to encompass cultural mediation, ideological negotiation, and strategic communication. Key lexical-semantic strategies including semantic modulation, contextual adaptation, ideological reframing, metaphorical reconstruction, and explication enable translators to navigate between fidelity to source texts and effectiveness for target audiences. The findings underscore that these strategies are not value-neutral techniques but rather consequential choices that shape how political messages are

understood across cultures and potentially influence political perceptions and actions. Successful political translation requires translators to possess not only linguistic expertise but also sophisticated political literacy, cultural awareness, and ethical consciousness regarding their role in mediating political discourse. The study contributes to translation studies by systematically analyzing how lexical-semantic decisions function at the intersection of language and politics, illuminating the translator's role as a political actor whose choices carry sociopolitical implications..

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