



CULTURAL COMPATIBILITY IN THE TRANSLATION OF IDIOMS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN LANGUAGES

Kadirov Maksudbek Uktamovich

**Doctoral researcher at the Department of Social and Humanitarian
Sciences of the Khorezm Ma'mun Academy**

kadirovmaksudbek@gmail.com, tel: +998914246684

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17980214>

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 16th December 2025

Accepted: 17th December 2025

Online: 18th December 2025

KEYWORDS

*idiom, cultural compatibility,
translation, linguoculturology,
intercultural communication,
equivalence.*

ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the issues of ensuring cultural compatibility in the translation of idiomatic units in Western (primarily English) and Eastern (primarily Uzbek) languages. Idioms are examined as linguistic representations of national culture, and the role of a linguocultural approach in their translation is substantiated. In addition, selected idioms from Uzbek and English are analyzed, and their semantically and culturally corresponding equivalents are identified.

Introduction

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of a people's culture, mentality, and worldview. Idioms, in particular, serve as a distinctive mirror of national thinking. They embody meanings shaped by a nation's historical experience, traditions, religious beliefs, and everyday way of life. Therefore, the process of translating idioms is not a simple linguistic task but rather a complex act of cultural mediation. In the translation of idiomatic units between Western and Eastern languages, the main challenge lies in cultural incompatibility, that is, differences arising from cultural divergence.

Main Body

1. Idioms and Their Cultural Characteristics

Idioms are fixed expressions whose overall meaning differs from the literal meanings of their individual components. For example, if the English idiom "to let the cat out of the bag" (to reveal a secret) is translated word for word, it becomes "to take the cat out of the bag," which is semantically unclear. In Uzbek, culturally appropriate equivalents such as "og'zidan chiqib ketmoq" or "tili sir saqlamaydi" can be used instead. In Eastern languages, particularly Uzbek, idioms are more closely rooted in social and moral values.

2. Problems of Cultural Compatibility in the Translation Process

When translating an idiom, a translator must take into account not only its semantic meaning but also its cultural connotation. Each idiom is used within a specific cultural context; therefore, direct translation often leads to incorrect or even humorous results. For example, the English idiom "When pigs fly" conveys the meaning of "never." In Uzbek, culturally appropriate equivalents such as "itning dumiga suyak chiqsa" or "osmonda tovuq uchsa" convey a similar meaning within the cultural framework.

3. Cultural Adaptation and the Role of the Translator

One of the most effective ways to ensure cultural compatibility is cultural adaptation. In this approach, the translator preserves the meaning of the original idiom while adapting it to the culture of the target language. For example, translating the English idiom *"the apple of one's eye"* (a beloved person) into Uzbek as *"ko'zining nuri"* is an excellent example of successful cultural adaptation.

Conclusion

Ensuring cultural compatibility in the translation of idioms between Western and Eastern languages is a complex yet essential process. Since idioms reflect the spirit and mentality of a people, their translation should be viewed more as a cultural phenomenon than merely a linguistic one. When translating idioms, the translator must preserve their meaning, stylistic tone, and, most importantly, their cultural foundation. Therefore, a linguocultural approach and the theory of intercultural communication play a crucial role in the study and translation of idioms.

References:

1. Komissarov, V.N. Teoriya perevoda (lingvisticheskiye aspekty). — Moskva: Vysshaya shkola, 1990.
2. Newmark, P. A Textbook of Translation. — New York: Prentice Hall, 1988.
3. Nida, E.A., Taber, C.R. The Theory and Practice of Translation. — Leiden: Brill, 1969.
4. Baker, M. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. — London: Routledge, 2018.
5. Larina, T.V. Lingvokul'turologiya i mezhkul'turnaya kommunikatsiya. — Moskva: Akademiya, 2017.
6. Karimov, A. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari. — Toshkent: O'zbekiston Milliy universiteti nashriyoti, 2020.
7. Yo'ldoshev, M. Til va madaniyat: lingvokulturologik yondashuv. — Toshkent: Fan, 2015.
8. Raxmonov, B. O'zbek tilidagi frazeologik birliklarning tarjimasida madaniy muvofiqlik masalalari. — "Filologiya masalalari", 2021, №2.
9. Hatim, B., Mason, I. Discourse and the Translator. — London: Longman, 1997.
10. Bozorov, M. O'zbek va ingliz tillarida idiomalar tarjimasining lingvokulturologik xususiyatlari. — Toshkent: TDPU ilmiy to'plami, 2022.