IMPLICIT MEANING: TRANSLATION CHALLENGES AND RENDERING STRATEGIES IN UZBEK PRESS MATERIALS

Shamsieva Aziza Ashraf kizi
Master of Linguistics, Samarkand State Foreign Languages Institute (SamSFLI)
Scientific Supervisor: **Shermatov Akram Abdukhakimovich**

Annotation. The thesis examines the problem of conveying implicit meaning in the translation of English-language news materials into Uzbek. Drawing on pragmatic and relevance-theoretic approaches, it identifies the main sources of implicitness in press texts, such as metonymy, presupposition, idiomatic imagery, understatement and evaluative connotation, and analyses the strategies that Uzbek translators employ to render them: explicitation, functional substitution, compensation and retention with contextual support.

Keywords: implicit meaning, implicature, presupposition, press translation, explicitation, compensation, pragmatic equivalence, Uzbek media discourse.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur tezisda ingliz tilidagi matbuot materiallarini o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilishda yashirin (implitsit) ma'noni ifodalash muammosi tahlil qilinadi. Pragmatik va relevantlik nazariyasi yondashuvlari asosida gazeta matnlaridagi implitsitlik manbalari – metonimiya, presuppozitsiya, frazeologik obrazlilik, litota va baholovchi konnotatsiya aniqlanib, o'zbek tarjimonlari qo'llaydigan eksplitsitlashtirish, funksional almashtirish, kompensatsiya va kontekstual izoh bilan saqlash strategiyalari yoritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: implitsit ma'no, implikatura, presuppozitsiya, matbuot tarjimasi, eksplitsitlashtirish, kompensatsiya, pragmatik ekvivalentlik, o'zbek media diskursi.

Аннотация. В тезисе рассматривается проблема передачи имплицитного смысла при переводе англоязычных газетных материалов на узбекский язык. На основе прагматического подхода и теории релевантности выявляются источники имплицитности в публицистических текстах – метонимия, пресуппозиция, фразеологическая образность, литота и оценочная коннотация, – а также анализируются стратегии их передачи: экспликация, функциональная замена, компенсация и сохранение с контекстуальной опорой.

Ключевые слова: имплицитный смысл, импликатура, пресуппозиция, газетный перевод, экспликация, компенсация, прагматическая эквивалентность, узбекский медиадискурс.

Introduction. In contemporary journalism a considerable part of the message is never stated directly. Headlines, leads and commentaries rely on shared background knowledge, allusion and inference, so that the reader is expected to reconstruct what the author means rather than merely what the author says. H. P. Grice described this phenomenon as conversational implicature, arising when a speaker deliberately exploits the maxims of quantity, quality, relation and manner[1]. Later, D. Sperber and D. Wilson reinterpreted implicitness in cognitive terms, arguing that the hearer derives implicatures in search of optimal relevance, balancing contextual effects against processing effort[2].

For the translator of press materials, implicit meaning becomes a central difficulty. Since the independence of Uzbekistan, and especially with the rapid growth of online outlets such as Kun.uz,

[1] Grice H. P. Logic and Conversation // Syntax and Semantics. Vol. 3: Speech Acts. – New York: Academic Press, 1975. – P. 45–47.

[2] Sperber D., Wilson D. Relevance: Communication and Cognition. 2nd ed. – Oxford: Blackwell, 1995. – Ch. 4.

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Gazeta.uz and Daryo.uz, a large volume of international news is translated from English into Uzbek within very short deadlines. The cognitive environment of the Uzbek reader differs substantially from that of the British or American reader, and inferences that are effortless in the source culture may be inaccessible or even misleading in the target culture. The aim of this thesis is therefore to classify the principal types of implicit meaning in English press texts and to describe the strategies that ensure their adequate rendering in Uzbek.

Main part. The analysis of translated news items shows that implicit meaning in press discourse is generated by at least five groups of means. The first is political metonymy, in which a place name stands for an institution: Washington, the Kremlin, Downing Street or Brussels. The second is presupposition embedded in lexical choice, as in Iran has once again refused…, where once again presupposes earlier refusals. The third is idiomatic and metaphorical imagery (a lame duck president, the ball is in their court). The fourth is understatement and hedging (not entirely unexpected, reportedly), and the fifth is evaluative connotation hidden in seemingly neutral vocabulary, for instance the contrast between regime and government or between militants and fighters.

Each of these means creates a specific translation problem. M. Baker emphasises that equivalence at the level of implicature cannot be achieved by reproducing linguistic form alone, because the target reader must possess the same contextual assumptions to arrive at the intended inference[3]. E.-A. Gutt goes further and maintains that a translation is successful only when it resembles the original in relevant respects for its new audience[4]. Consequently, the translator of news has to decide in every case whether the implicit content should be made explicit, replaced, compensated elsewhere or preserved.

The most frequent strategy in Uzbek press translation is explicitation, a technique first systematically described by J.-P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet as making explicit in the target language what remains implicit in the source[5]. Thus Downing Street rejected the proposal is regularly rendered as Buyuk Britaniya Bosh vaziri devoni taklifni rad etdi, because the metonymy is not conventional for the Uzbek reader, whereas Kreml and Oq uy have become established in Uzbek media and are usually preserved. Explicitation also applies to cultural allusions: a reference to Watergate-style scandal is commonly expanded into Uotergeyt ishiga o'xshash siyosiy janjal, sometimes with a short explanatory clause.

The second strategy is functional substitution, which is typical of idioms and metaphors. The expression the ball is in their court is replaced by the Uzbek equivalent endi navbat ularda, and a lame duck president is rendered descriptively as vakolat muddati tugayotgan va ta'siri susaygan prezident, since a literal calque would produce no inference at all; the image is lost, but its pragmatic function is retained. G'. Salomov stressed that the Uzbek translator must seek not formal correspondence but an expression that produces an equal effect on the national reader[6].

The third strategy, compensation, is applied when the implicit meaning cannot be preserved at the same point of the text. Understatement is particularly vulnerable: the English the results were not entirely unexpected conveys mild irony, yet the literal Uzbek natijalar mutlaqo kutilmagan emas edi sounds

[3] Baker M. In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation. 3rd ed. – London; New York: Routledge, 2018. – Ch. 8.
[4] Gutt E.-A. Translation and Relevance: Cognition and Context. 2nd ed. – Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 2000. – P. 105–108.
[5] Vinay J.-P., Darbelnet J. Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation. – Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1995. – P. 342.
[6] Salomov G'. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari. – Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 1983. – B. 64–66.

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awkward. Translators therefore often move the evaluative component into the following sentence or use modal particles such as -ku and axir, which are characteristic of Uzbek publicistic style. Similarly, the hedging device reportedly is rendered by xabar qilinishicha or ma'lum qilinishicha, preserving the journalist's distance from the claim.

The fourth strategy is retention with contextual support. B. Hatim and I. Mason note that evaluative lexis in news reflects ideological positioning and should not be neutralised by the translator without good reason[7]. When Uzbek translators render regime as hukumat, the critical stance of the source disappears; a more faithful choice is rejim or hukmron tuzum. At the same time, E. Bielsa and S. Bassnett remind us that news translation is an act of transediting, in which material is selected, reorganised and adapted to local editorial norms[8]. Hence the translator's decisions concerning implicit meaning are inseparable from the communicative goals of the specific Uzbek outlet.

The most typical errors are literal reproduction of unfamiliar metonymy, loss of irony, neutralisation of evaluative words and over-explicitation that destroys the economy of the news genre.

Conclusion. Implicit meaning is an inherent property of English press discourse and one of the main sources of difficulty in its translation into Uzbek. Metonymy, presupposition, idiomatic imagery, understatement and evaluative connotation require the translator to reconstruct the intended inference and to decide how it can be made accessible to the Uzbek reader. The study shows that explicitation, functional substitution, compensation and retention with contextual support are the most productive strategies, and that their choice is governed by the principle of relevance, the conventions of Uzbek media discourse and the editorial policy of the outlet. Further research may be directed at compiling a corpus of parallel English–Uzbek news texts and at developing practical recommendations for training media translators.

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