RECONTEXTUALIZATION OF NATIONAL-CULTURAL CONCEPTS IN ENGLISH–UZBEK TRANSLATION OF MEDICAL APHORISMS

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DOI:https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23274682

Abstract. Medical aphorisms are short and meaningful expressions related to health, illness, medicine, and human life. They often contain not only medical information but also cultural ideas, values, and beliefs. For this reason, translating medical aphorisms from English into Uzbek can be difficult. Some expressions have cultural meanings that cannot be transferred directly from one language to another. This article discusses the recontextualization of national-cultural concepts in the English–Uzbek translation of medical aphorisms. The study focuses on how cultural meanings can be preserved and adapted for Uzbek readers. It also considers several translation strategies, including literal translation, adaptation, explanation, cultural substitution, and modulation. The analysis shows that successful translation of medical aphorisms requires attention to both linguistic meaning and cultural background. Recontextualization helps translators present the original idea in a form that is understandable and natural for the target audience while keeping its main cultural meaning.

Keywords: medical aphorisms, national-cultural concepts, recontextualization, English–Uzbek translation, cultural meaning, translation strategies, medical discourse.

Introduction. Aphorisms are short expressions that usually present a general idea, life experience, or piece of wisdom in a memorable way. Medical aphorisms are a special type of aphorism connected with health, illness, medicine, doctors, patients, and human life. Although they are often short, they can contain deep meanings.

Medical aphorisms are important not only because of their medical content but also because they reflect the culture of the people who use them. Ideas about health, illness, the human body, doctors, family, suffering, and death can be influenced by cultural traditions and beliefs. Therefore, medical aphorisms can be considered both linguistic and cultural units. Translation becomes more complicated when an aphorism contains a national-cultural concept. A word or expression that is easily understood by English-speaking readers may have a different meaning or association for Uzbek readers. A direct translation may therefore sound unnatural or may not communicate the original idea correctly.

In this situation, recontextualization becomes important. Recontextualization means presenting an expression in a new linguistic and cultural context while trying to preserve its main meaning. In English–Uzbek translation, this process helps the translator make culturally specific medical aphorisms understandable for Uzbek readers. The main purpose of this article is to discuss how national-cultural concepts in English medical aphorisms can be recontextualized in Uzbek translation and what translation strategies can be used to preserve their meaning.

Main Part

1. Medical Aphorisms and Cultural Meaning

Medical aphorisms are usually short, but their meanings can be quite complex. They may express ideas about health, illness, treatment, doctors, patients, and human behavior. At the same time, they can

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show how a particular society understands these ideas. For example, an aphorism about a doctor may describe not only medical knowledge but also qualities such as kindness, responsibility, honesty, and patience. These qualities may be valued in many cultures, but the way they are expressed can be different.

The same situation can be seen in aphorisms about illness. Some cultures may emphasize personal responsibility for health, while others may give greater importance to family support, patience, or traditional beliefs. Such differences can affect the translation of medical aphorisms. Therefore, the translator needs to understand both the literal meaning and the cultural meaning of an aphorism.

2. National-Cultural Concepts in English–Uzbek Translation

National-cultural concepts are ideas that are closely connected with the history, traditions, values, and worldview of a particular culture. In medical aphorisms, these concepts may be related to health, the body, illness, family, morality, nature, and the relationship between doctors and patients. For example, the concept of health can be understood differently in different cultures. In some English-language contexts, health may be strongly connected with individual responsibility and lifestyle. In Uzbek culture, health can also be discussed in connection with family, social relationships, traditional practices, and moral values.

The concept of the doctor can also have cultural differences. A medical aphorism may present the doctor as a professional, a helper, a moral person, or an authority figure. The translator should understand this role before choosing an Uzbek equivalent.

Another important area is the human body. Words such as “heart,” “blood,” “head,” and “hand” can have both physical and figurative meanings. Although these body parts are universal, their metaphorical meanings may differ between English and Uzbek.

3. Recontextualization in Translation

Recontextualization is the process of transferring a text or concept from one context into another. In translation, it means adapting the original meaning to the linguistic and cultural environment of the target language.

When translating an English medical aphorism into Uzbek, the translator first needs to understand the original cultural meaning. Then, the translator should find the most suitable way to express this meaning in Uzbek.

The process can be described simply as:

English aphorism → understanding the cultural meaning → choosing a translation strategy → Uzbek recontextualization

The main purpose is not necessarily to translate every word in exactly the same way. The main purpose is to preserve the central meaning and communicative effect of the original aphorism.

4. The Role of the Translator

The translator plays an important role in transferring cultural meaning. A translator should not only know English and Uzbek but should also understand the cultural background of both languages.

Before translating a medical aphorism, the translator should consider several questions:

- What is the main medical idea?
- What cultural concept is expressed?
- Does Uzbek have a similar expression?
- Will a literal translation be understandable?
- Is adaptation necessary?
- Can the original metaphor be preserved?
- How can the aphorism remain short and memorable?

Answering these questions can help the translator produce a more accurate and natural translation.

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The translator therefore works not only as a language mediator but also as a cultural mediator between English-speaking and Uzbek-speaking readers.

Conclusion

Medical aphorisms are important linguistic and cultural units because they combine medical ideas with social values, beliefs, and views about human life. Their translation from English into Uzbek can be challenging because national-cultural concepts are not always directly transferable between the two languages. Recontextualization provides a useful way to solve this problem. It allows the translator to transfer the main idea of an English medical aphorism into an Uzbek cultural context while preserving its important meaning. Depending on the aphorism, different strategies such as literal translation, adaptation, explanation, cultural substitution, and modulation can be used.

The study shows that successful translation of medical aphorisms requires more than knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. The translator must also understand cultural meanings and the worldview behind the expression. At the same time, the translator should preserve the concise and memorable character of the aphorism.

Thus, the English–Uzbek translation of medical aphorisms can be viewed as a form of intercultural communication. Careful recontextualization can help preserve national-cultural concepts and make them accessible to Uzbek readers without completely losing their original cultural identity.

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