

## NON-EQUIVALENT LEXIS AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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### Annotation

The article describes linguistic features, types, common and different aspects of non-equivalent vocabulary, factors of occurrence, functional-semantic features.

### Key words and expressions

equivalent, non-equivalent, non-equivalent vocabulary, borrowed word, visual word, exotic vocabulary, functional-semantic, pragmatics, translation theory, linguoculturology.

In linguistics and translation studies, the terms *equivalent*, *equivalence*, *counterpart*, and *non-equivalence*, *equivalent lexis* and *non-equivalent lexis* are contrasted with each other.

The Greek word *equivalent*, which originally means *equal in power*, *equal in value*, is used in the Uzbek language as a homonym with the following meanings:

1. *Noun*. Something that is equal to another thing or can replace it in some aspect. *Mechanical equivalent of heat*. *Chemical equivalent*.
2. *Adjective*. Equal, being equal, corresponding, replaceable. *Equivalent quantities*. *Equivalent words*.

Thus, *equivalent* (Latin *aequus* – equal and *valens* – valuable, significant) is an equally valued, equally important thing or quantity that can replace something or serve as its expression. This word is used in terminology across various fields with the same meaning, such as *equivalent equation*, *equivalence*.

In terminological dictionaries related to translation studies, the terms *equivalent*, *equivalence* are explained as follows:

1. *Equivalent* (Lat. *aequivalens*; Rus. *равноценное, разнозначенное, равносильное*; Uzb. *equal in value, equal in power*) In two languages, proverbs, sayings, and idioms that are similar in meaning and can replace each other, even without context, are considered equivalent expressions. Examples of equivalent

expressions include: *куй железо пока горячо* – *beat the iron while it's hot*; *проходят красную нить* – *pass like a red thread*.

2. The mutual and complete correspondence of linguistic units in the original and translated texts.

The term *equivalence* is used in German as *äquivalenz*, in English as *equivalence*, in Russian as *эквивалентность*. However, the aforementioned dictionary does not mention the term *non-equivalence* as opposed to *equivalence*.

In the Uzbek language during the years of independence, the lexical units *muqobil*, *muqobilliq* began to be used instead of *equivalent*, *equivalence*. As a result, in scientific literature, the terms *equivalent* // *muqobil*, *muqobil unit*, *equivalence* // *muqobilliq*, *equivalent lexis* // *muqobil lexis* are used equally and in parallel.

Recent textbooks on translation theory also actively use terms like *counterpart*, *the problem of counterpart in translation*, *types of counterpart in translation*, *degree of counterpart in translation*.

The word *muqobil* is historically-etymologically Arabic, originally meaning *standing opposite*, *contrary*, *opposite*; *replaceable*, and is used in the Uzbek language with the following meanings:

1. Opposing; standing against, contrary.
2. Directed opposite; in the opposite direction.
3. Responding, carried out in response.

Thus, the word became a term based on the semantic meaning of *replaceable*.

The term *muqobilsiz lexis* (non-equivalent lexis), derived from the Arabic word *muqobil* and the Greek word *lexis*, is a counterpart to the Russian-borrowed term *безэквивалентная лексика* (non-equivalent lexis). This term has not been recorded in linguistic terminology dictionaries or encyclopedic dictionaries, including recent translation studies terminology dictionaries.

Non-equivalent lexis is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that, on one hand, requires studying in connection with borrowed lexemes, and on the other hand, as a phenomenon associated with text translations, especially literary texts, demands a linguocultural and pragmatic approach. Precisely for this reason, it is considered a lexical unit related to translation. From this perspective, the term *non-equivalent lexis* is actively used in modern translation theory, linguoculturology, and other fields.

Non-equivalent lexis is a layer of lexical units that express the history, everyday life, religious beliefs, political system, national-cultural characteristics, and scientific development of a specific people, which cannot be fully or exactly translated into another language. This layer linguistically includes proper nouns, ethnographisms, realia, lacunae, terms, and phraseological units.

Every language has a non-equivalent lexical layer. In Sh. Butaev and A. Iriskulov's English-Uzbek, Uzbek-English 70,000-word dictionary, in the Uzbek-English section under the letter A, 1739 Uzbek-English words are provided, of which 400 are non-equivalent lexical units. Examples include:

- ✧ atlas – atlas
- ✧ adras – adras
- ✧ alacha – alacha
- ✧ aqiqa – celebration/entertainment in case of both children in the family
- ✧ arafa – the night before, last day of Ramadan
- ✧ ark – stronghold, castle
- ✧ askiya – witticism, witty remark, a type of word game
- ✧ atala – flour soup
- ✧ attor – men's clothier, hab
- ✧ ayron – ayron, a drink of thin yoghurt
- ✧ bakhshi – narrator (of folk tales), poet
- ✧ bek – nobleman
- ✧ bekasam – bekasam, type of cloth
- ✧ gabardine – gabardine
- ✧ halim – halim (a stew made with meat and wheat flour)
- ✧ hashar – hasher (collective free assistance)
- ✧ irim-chirim – irim-chirim
- ✧ jova – jova
- ✧ kalish – galoshes, rubber footwear
- ✧ kamzul – camzul, women's sleeveless undershirt
- ✧ karnay – bugle, karnay
- ✧ chakmon – chakmon, a type of robe

This layer is considered extremely important for linguoculturology, pragmatics, translation theory, and linguistic regional studies. It reflects the unique national-cultural coloration of a specific language at the lexical level, distinguishing it from other language systems and linguocultures.

Non-equivalent lexis is identified by comparing two cultures. Typically, these are lexical units that lack equivalents in one of the compared languages due to:

- The absence of corresponding realities in practice
- The lack of lexical units expressing specific concepts
- The specific linguistic characteristics of non-equivalent lexis include:
- Non-equivalent lexical units have no semantic equivalent in another language
- They include appellative lexis, phraseological, paremiological, and

onomastic units without semantic equivalents

- They cannot be translated from one language to another
- They are a product of linguistic non-equivalence in language and translation processes
  - They are most evident in language comparisons, translation texts, and multilingual dictionaries
  - They include exotic lexis, lacunae, vulgarisms, barbarisms, jargon, argot, ethnographisms, and linguoculturems
  - They are rendered in translation texts through transcription, transliteration, calquing, and explanation
  - They are presented according to the writing and graphic, historical-etymological principles of the target language

Additional characteristics:

1. Non-equivalent lexical units can be transferred and assimilated between languages through social-political, economic, national-cultural relations and artistic, scientific, and journalistic translations
2. They belong to the layer of borrowed and used words
3. Rendering, using, and explaining non-equivalent lexis requires special skill and ability from the translator

The emergence of non-equivalence is directly related to territorial, ethnic, national, local, and social group information and cultural specificities.

Non-equivalent lexis and borrowed words share some common features. There are no purely “pure” languages in the world. All languages contain borrowed words to some degree. According to I. Bloomfield, borrowings are a manifestation of linguistic phenomena.

In the Uzbek language, there are borrowed words from Arabic, Persian, Russian, European, Chinese, and Mongolian languages. The common aspect of non-equivalent lexis and borrowed words is their foreign origin. Their difference lies in the borrowed word’s ability to firmly establish itself in the vocabulary, appear in explanatory dictionaries, and become an international word.

Borrowed words are characterized by:

1. Conforming to the laws of the receiving language
2. Integrating into the lexical-semantic system of the receiving language
3. Becoming natural and precise, like native words
4. Feeling native to the speakers of the receiving language
5. Having a low probability of quickly leaving the language

Not all non-equivalent lexical units are assimilated, with some remaining as used words, thus differing from borrowed words.

E. Begmatov emphasizes that not all foreign language elements in Uzbek texts are considered assimilated or integrated: "The presence of a foreign word in Uzbek texts does not necessarily mean it has been assimilated into the Uzbek language. Therefore, Uzbek non-equivalent lexis differs from borrowed lexemes by not fitting into these requirements, and its entry into the language has unique characteristics."

The scholar was the first in Uzbek linguistics to discuss used words and their characteristics. In his view, used words are lexemes genetically belonging to another language but also found in other languages. They are primarily encountered in translation texts.

Begmatov divides used words into two groups:

1. Inserted words and phrases
2. Exotic words (exotisms)

He elaborated on these two types using examples from translations of works by the great Indian writer R. Tagore and categorized the exotisms thematically.

Characteristics of used words:

1. They are genetically from another language
2. They appear only in translations, being comprehensible only to native speakers of the original language and expressing concepts about their daily life
3. They are not recorded in native language dictionaries
4. Their meanings are often unclear and require additional footnote explanations
5. They are linguistic means that do not become assimilated into the language

Used words are communicatively and stylistically divided into two types: a) Inserted words and phrases b) Exotic lexis or exotisms. Each type has unique communicative and stylistic characteristics and serves specific functions in the text.

### **Conclusions:**

1. Non-equivalent lexis is characterized by lacking lexical-semantic equivalents in other languages, being untranslatable, and requiring explanations in the target language.

2. It has been interpreted by linguists and translation scholars using terms like non-equivalent lexis, non-equivalent words, borrowed words, used words, exotic lexis, realia, lacunae

3. It represents unique linguistic features that distinguish a language genealogically, typologically, derivationally, and structurally



4. Non-equivalent lexis is typically fully revealed when comparing two linguocultures, emerging from the absence of corresponding objects, events, or lexical units expressing specific concepts

5. Extralinguistic factors are crucial in its emergence, including historical, social, cultural, political, and economic specificities, scientific development, worldviews, national values, bilingualism, social formations, and language policies

6. It is a complex linguistic unit embodying lexical-semantic, national-cultural, pragmatic, and socio-historical characteristics, significant for fields like linguoculturology, ethnolinguistics, linguistic regional studies, pragmalinguistics, lexicology, and translation studies

7. It has common and distinctive features with borrowed words - some non-equivalent lexical units can be assimilated into other languages, while others remain as used words, preserving national and local color

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