

PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION AND TRANSCRIPTION OF ANTHROPONYMS (IN THE ENGLISH-UZBEK CONTEXT)

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Abstract

The current paper will discuss the issues related to the translation and transcription of proper names between English and Uzbek languages. It will focus on the lexicological, grammatical, and cultural factors that are unique to the names. This study will sketch the principal hindrances that arise in the procedure of transferring proper names from English to Uzbek by means of transcription and transliteration techniques and cultural adaptation methods. The analysis show that proper translation of anthroponyms is not only a matter of linguistic skills, but also of a thorough comprehension of the cultural contexts of both languages.

Keywords

anthroponyms, translation problems, transcription, transliteration, English language, Uzbek language, cultural adaptation, literary translation

Introduction. Anthroponyms, also known as personal proper names, are one of the types of linguistic units that should be especially under consideration during the translation process. With globalization, the intercultural communication getting more intense, the proper translation, and even the transcription, of anthroponyms are particularly [1] important. English and Uzbek are from two different language families, and the differences in their phonetic, morphological, and cultural systems are so large that they create a lot of problems in the anthroponyms transfer process from one language to another [2]. Uzbek translators always consider the necessity of applying three different methods, when transferring English anthroponyms into Uzbek, namely: transcription (sound-based), transliteration (letter-based), or cultural adaptation (meaning-based) [3]. Each method has its pros and cons, and the translator must choose the most suitable one depending on the genre, purpose, and the text's target audience [4]. In literary works, among other things,

anthroponyms fulfill the personal identification role and at the same time provide information about character's national-cultural belonging, social status, and psychological traits [5]. Hence, an anthroponym's incorrect translation or transcription can cause a misrepresentation of the content of the artwork and a wrong impression on the readers [6]. At present, the issues related to the translation and transcription of anthroponyms from English into Uzbek and vice versa are mostly unexplored in the field of linguistics in Uzbekistan and there is a demand for both theoretical and practical research to be conducted in this area.

Methodology and literature review. In the course of the study, descriptive-analytical methodology, comparative analysis, and the principles of contrastive linguistics were employed. Analysis of literature reveals that the issue of the translation and transcription of proper names has a complex nature, comprising linguistic, cultural, and practical dimensions [1; 2; 3]. Abdikholiqova and Abdukhodirova investigated lexicological and grammatical issues arisen in rendering English anthroponyms into Uzbek by citing Jack London's "Martin Eden" [1]. Saitkhanova determined general issues confronting the translation of proper names when discussing the pros and cons of the transcription and transliteration procedures [2]. She mentioned particularly difficulties related to the transcription of the sounds that exist in English but do not have equivalents in Uzbek (th, w, ng, r). Jurayeva and Rukhillayeva did an analysis on the functional load of proper names in the literary texts and their translation specifics using the works of Arthur Conan Doyle as an example [3].

The researcher Turayeva carried out a thorough examination of the assimilation of anthroponyms, demonstrating their adaptation in the case of English anthroponyms to Uzbek [4]. She pointed out that a lot of English anthroponyms which get into the Uzbek language adapt phonologically to the native language and hence get new forms. Ganiyeva and Mamataliyeva based on contrastive analysis researched the systematic differences in proper names (hydronyms, toponyms, and anthroponyms) in English and Uzbek [5]. Jummaev and Khakimova studied the lexicological and grammatical issues in the translation of anthroponyms in Neil Philip's "Robin Hood" [6].

Results and discussion. The analysis of scholarly literature and the investigation of practical translation examples lead to the distinction of three main problem categories in rendering anthroponyms from English into Uzbek: phonetic-phonological, grammatical-morphological, and cultural-semantic problems. The main phonetic difficulties that occur during transcription of English anthroponyms into Uzbek are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Phonetic problems in transcription of English anthroponyms into Uzbek

English sound	Uzbek equivalent	Problem	Example	Transcription variants
[θ], [ð]	No direct equivalent	Replacement with d, or s, z	Elizabeth, Theodore	Elizabet/Elizabes, Teodor/Teador
[w]	v or u	Ambiguity in rendering	William, Walter	Vilyam/Uilyam, Valter/Uolter
[r]	r (different articulation)	Phonetic distortion	Robert, Richard	Robert, Richard
[ŋ]	ng or n	Final position difficulties	Fleming, Young	Fleming/Flemin, Yang/Yan
Diphthongs [eɪ], [aɪ], [ɔɪ]	Approximation through vowel combinations	Loss of phonetic nuance	Jane, Brian, Roy	Jeyn, Brayan, Roy

Table 1 illustrates that if the Uzbek phonetic system lacks certain English sounds, therefore, the phonetic distortion of original anthroponyms is an inevitable consequence of the translators' resorting to approximate equivalents [1; 2]. The pronunciation of the English interdental fricatives [θ] and [ð], which do not exist in Uzbek, especially causes problems whereby they are substituted by different consonants based on the respective translator's preference and the already established customs. The presence of the English sound [w] is another problematic area since some translators represent it as Uzbek "v" while others as "u" or "w," thereby resulting in variant transcription forms [6]. Such variation causes inconsistency in the terms and makes it harder to identify the same person across different texts.

Grammatical and morphological issues are shown in Table 2 that occur during the process of translation when the English anthroponyms are converted into Uzbek.

Table 2. Grammatical and morphological problems in translating anthroponyms

Problem type	English feature	Uzbek feature	Translation difficulty	Example
Gender marking	Limited gender indicators	No grammatical gender	Loss of gender information	Leslie, Morgan (gender-neutral names)
Compound names	Common practice	Rare occurrence	Structural adaptation required	Mary-Jane, Jean-Claude
Diminutive forms	Numerous variants	Different formation system	Cultural mismatch	Bob/Bobby, Liz/Lizzy

Surname structure	Prefix/suffix diversity	Different affixation system	Morphological incompatibility	McDonald, O'Brien, -son endings
Patronymics	Absent in modern usage	Mandatory in formal contexts	Cultural-grammatical gap	No father's name in English system

A closer look at Table 2 uncovers that the grammatical and morphological disparities existing between English and Uzbek are the sources of systematic problems that necessitate not only linguistic but also cultural adaptations [5; 7]. To the English speakers, the compound names that are widely used in Anglo-American society are regarded as irregular in the Uzbek language and might even cause misunderstanding and misuse. On the other hand, diminutive forms of English names that have various variants and typically act as independent names do not always have satisfactory equivalents in Uzbek where the diminutive formation is patterned differently [3; 10]. The non-existence of patronymics in the contemporary English naming system poses a cultural-grammatical gap in translation to Uzbek where patronymic is a mandatory component of the official naming process [4]. Translators are left with the choice of either dropping the patronymic completely or creating it artificially based on the information available about the father of the character, which can result in inaccuracies.

Conclusion. Analysis of the translation and transcription issues of anthroponyms in the English-Uzbek context highlights that phonetic-phonological issues are connected to the very different nature of English and Uzbek sound systems, especially with regard to the existence of certain sounds in one language that are not present in the other's phonetic inventory. Grammatical-morphological differences are marked by the different structural organization of anthroponyms in the two languages, the different systems of marking gender, and the different cultural naming conventions. The cultural-semantic problems refer to the need of the translators of possessing not only linguistic competence but also deep cultural knowledge in order to keep the connotative meanings and cultural associations of anthroponyms. The study suggests that there is no one best method for all cases that can be used to convert anthroponyms; the translators have to apply flexibly the strategies of transcription, transliteration, and cultural adaptation according to the type of the text, the communicative purpose, and the target audience.

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