

TRANSLATION ISSUES IN FANTASY AND REALISTIC GENRES

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Abstract

This article examines the key translation issues in fantasy and realistic literary genres, focusing on the linguistic, cultural, and stylistic challenges that arise in the process of translation from English into Uzbek. The study highlights how genre-specific features influence translation strategies and affect the preservation of meaning, style, and cultural context. Fantasy literature, characterized by imaginative worlds and invented elements, requires creative and adaptive translation approaches, whereas realistic literature demands accuracy, naturalness, and cultural sensitivity. The research concludes that successful translation depends on the translator's ability to balance fidelity to the source text with the expectations of the target audience.

Keywords : Translation Studies, literary translation, fantasy genre, realistic genre, translation challenges, cultural adaptation, equivalence

Introduction

Translation is a complex interdisciplinary activity that involves not only linguistic transfer but also cultural interpretation and stylistic reconstruction. Within Translation Studies, scholars have long emphasized that different types of texts require different translation strategies. This is particularly evident in the case of literary translation, where genre plays a decisive role.

Fantasy and realistic genres represent two contrasting forms of literary expression. Fantasy literature creates imaginary worlds governed by their own rules, often including supernatural elements, invented languages, and symbolic structures. In contrast, realistic literature reflects everyday life, social relationships, and culturally specific realities. These fundamental differences lead to distinct translation challenges.

The aim of this study is to analyze the major translation issues in fantasy and realistic genres and to identify effective strategies for addressing them in the context of English–Uzbek translation.

Literature Review

The development of modern translation theory is closely associated with the works of Eugene Nida, who introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, and Peter Newmark, who distinguished between semantic and communicative translation. These theoretical frameworks provide a foundation for analyzing translation practices across different genres.

In addition, scholars such as Mona Baker and Lawrence Venuti have explored the role of cultural and ideological factors in translation. Their work highlights the importance of considering the target audience and the socio-cultural context of the translation.

Research on literary translation has shown that genre-specific features significantly influence translation strategies. Fantasy texts often require creative solutions due to their use of neologisms and imaginary elements, while realistic texts

demand accuracy and naturalness in representing everyday language and cultural references.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative comparative approach to examine translation issues in fantasy and realistic genres. Selected examples from English literary works and their Uzbek translations are analyzed to identify common patterns and challenges.

The analysis is based on three main criteria:

linguistic features (lexis, syntax, idiomatic expressions)

cultural elements (references, values, context)

stylistic characteristics (tone, imagery, narrative style) This methodological framework allows for a systematic comparison of translation practices across the two genres.

Analysis

1. Linguistic Features

Fantasy literature frequently includes invented terms, proper names, and expressions. Translators must decide whether to preserve the original form through transliteration or to adapt it to the phonological and morphological system of the target language.

In realistic literature, linguistic challenges are mainly related to idiomatic expressions, slang, and conversational language. The translator must ensure that these elements are rendered in a natural and contextually appropriate manner.

2. Cultural Aspects

Cultural factors play a significant role in both genres, although in different ways. Realistic texts often contain culture-specific references that require careful adaptation

or explanation. Failure to address these elements may lead to misunderstanding or loss of meaning.

In fantasy texts, cultural elements may be fictional or symbolic. This allows for greater flexibility but also requires consistency in the representation of the fictional world.

3. Stylistic Characteristics

The stylistic dimension of translation is particularly important in literary texts. Fantasy literature often employs rich imagery, metaphor, and descriptive language, which must be preserved in translation to maintain the artistic effect.

In contrast, realistic literature typically uses a more straightforward style. The main challenge is to reproduce the natural flow of language and the authenticity of dialogue.

Discussion

The comparative analysis reveals that translation strategies differ significantly between fantasy and realistic genres. In fantasy translation, creativity and flexibility are essential for dealing with imaginary elements and unconventional language use. In realistic translation, accuracy and cultural appropriateness are of primary importance.

These findings suggest that translators must adopt a genre-sensitive approach, adjusting their strategies according to the specific characteristics of the text. The study also confirms that theoretical models such as dynamic and communicative equivalence remain relevant in contemporary translation practice.

Conclusion

This study has examined the major translation issues in fantasy and realistic literary genres, emphasizing the role of linguistic, cultural, and stylistic factors in shaping translation strategies. The analysis demonstrates that genre differences significantly affect the translator's approach and decision-making process.

Fantasy literature requires creative and adaptive strategies to handle imaginary elements, neologisms, and symbolic language. Realistic literature, on the other hand, demands precision, naturalness, and sensitivity to cultural context. These contrasting requirements highlight the importance of genre awareness in translation.

The findings of this study confirm that successful translation is a complex process that involves more than linguistic competence. It requires a deep understanding of cultural nuances, stylistic features, and audience expectations. Future research may explore the application of digital tools and corpus-based methods in literary translation.

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