



EQUIVALENCE IN THE TRANSLATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Abstract. *This article explores the issue of equivalence in the translation of phraseological units, which are fixed expressions that often carry figurative meanings and reflect the cultural and national identity of a language. The paper discusses the challenges associated with translating phraseological units, such as cultural differences, semantic nuances, and stylistic mismatches. Different strategies for achieving equivalence—full, partial, descriptive, or adaptive—are analyzed. The article emphasizes the importance of both linguistic and cultural competence in preserving meaning and stylistic features during the translation process.*

Keywords: *equivalence, translation, phraseological units, semantic nuances, linguistic and cultural competence, figurative meaning.*

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of the culture, history, and worldview of its speakers. Translation serves as a bridge between languages and cultures, and one of the most intricate tasks in translation is rendering phraseological units appropriately. These expressions are often deeply rooted in the culture of the source language and may not have direct equivalents in the target language.

Phraseological units (also known as idioms or set phrases) carry a figurative meaning that goes beyond the literal interpretation of their individual words. Therefore, achieving equivalence in their translation requires not only linguistic knowledge but also cultural awareness and creativity. This article aims to examine the types of equivalence in the translation of phraseological units and provide practical strategies for accurate and contextually appropriate translation.

Definition and Types of Phraseological Units

Phraseological units are fixed or semi-fixed expressions that function as single lexical units and usually have a figurative meaning. Examples include:





English: *spill the beans, kick the bucket*

Russian: *делать из мухи слона* (make an elephant out of a fly)

Uzbek: *boshiga balo ortmoq, ko 'z oldidan g 'oyib bo 'lmoq*

These expressions are often language-specific and culturally bound, which makes their translation particularly challenging.

Equivalence in Translation

There are several types of equivalence in the translation of phraseological units:

Full equivalence: The target language has a phraseological unit with the same meaning and similar form.

Example: *dead end* (En) = *мёртук* (Ru) = *boshi berk ko 'cha* (Uz)

Partial equivalence: The target language has an expression with a similar meaning but different form or cultural connotation.

Descriptive (or paraphrased) translation: If no equivalent exists, the meaning is explained in the target language.

Functional equivalence or substitution: A different phraseological unit with a similar function or emotional effect is used.

Challenges in Translating Phraseological Units

Some of the most common difficulties include:

Cultural specificity: Many idioms are culture-bound and have no equivalents.

Polysemy: The same idiom can have different meanings depending on context.

Stylistic incompatibility: The tone or register of the idiom may not match in translation.

For example:

Russian: *льёт как из ведра* (literal: "raining like from a bucket")

In English: *it's raining cats and dogs*

In Uzbek: *osmondan sel quyayotganday yog 'moqda*

Translation Strategies

To address these challenges, several strategies can be used:

Use of a direct equivalent idiom in the target language, if available.

Modification of the idiom to fit cultural and contextual norms.

Omission or replacement with a non-idiomatic expression when necessary.

Creative adaptation, especially in literary or humorous contexts. Effective translation depends on the translator's ability to identify the function of the phrase and select an appropriate equivalent that preserves both the meaning and the stylistic value.





Conclusion. Phraseological units are among the most culturally loaded and semantically rich elements of language. Translating them requires more than a word-for-word approach—it demands deep understanding of both source and target languages and cultures. Achieving equivalence in the translation of such expressions is essential for maintaining the integrity, style, and emotional impact of the original text. Through the use of various translation strategies—such as full or partial equivalence, descriptive translation, or cultural adaptation—translators can effectively convey the meaning of phraseological units and bridge the gap between cultures.

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