



ADAPTING TEXT TYPES AND REGISTERS: A FUNCTIONAL APPROACH TO TRANSLATION

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Abstract *This thesis investigates the challenges and strategies involved in adapting different text types and registers during the translation process. Drawing on the functionalist approach in translation theory, it examines how translators modify language features to maintain communicative effectiveness across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Special focus is given to register variation, audience expectations, and genre conventions. A comparative analysis of translated texts from English into Uzbek and vice versa is conducted to evaluate adaptation strategies across formal, informal, technical, and literary registers.*

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

In translation studies, effective communication is not achieved solely through word-for-word equivalence. Instead, a successful translation respects the functional purpose of the source text (ST) and the sociocultural norms of the target audience. One of the central issues in this regard is how to adapt text types and registers without compromising the message or its stylistic integrity.

1.2 Aims of the Research

- To define and differentiate text types and registers.
- To analyze how register adaptation influences translation quality.
- To explore strategies used to adapt text types in real-world translation tasks
- To assess the effectiveness of adaptation techniques through case studies.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the main linguistic and stylistic characteristics of different text types and registers?
2. How can register shifts be managed without distorting meaning?
3. What strategies do professional translators use to adapt register and genre effectively?

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Defining Text Types and Registers

- Text Types: Based on Reiss's classification—informative, expressive, operative, and audio-medial texts.
- Registers: Refers to variations in language based on field (topic), tenor (relationship), and mode (medium), as defined by Halliday.





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2.2 Functionalist Translation Theories

- Skopos Theory (Vermeer): Translation must serve a purpose (Skopos) in the target culture.
- Text Typology (Reiss & Vermeer): The nature of the text determines the translation strategy
- Register Analysis (Hallidayan Approach): A practical tool for analyzing language variation.

2.3 Prior Research

Studies have shown that inappropriate register adaptation can lead to translation failure, especially in legal, literary, and marketing texts.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Research Design

A qualitative, comparative analysis was employed using samples from four genres:

- Legal document
- Marketing brochure
- Literary passage
- Academic article

3.2 Data Collection

Original and translated pairs of English-Uzbek texts were selected. Register markers (vocabulary, syntax, tone) were analyzed.

3.3 Analytical Framework

- Lexical density and complexity
- Sentence structure and modality
- Use of formal/informal expressions
- Genre-specific conventions

Chapter 4: Analysis and Findings

4.1 Case Study 1: Legal Text

Findings show that register is maintained primarily through lexical formality and syntactic parallelism. Literal translation of legal terms often results in ambiguity unless culturally equivalent terms are used.

4.2 Case Study 2: Marketing Brochure

Dynamic equivalence and creative adaptation were crucial. Humor, puns, and rhetorical questions had to be localized to resonate with Uzbek readers.

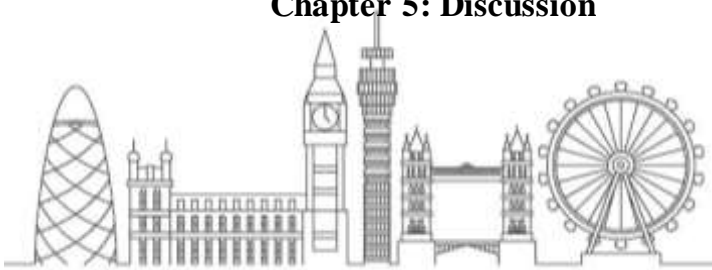
4.3 Case Study 3: Literary Text

Maintaining stylistic nuance required adjusting metaphors and idioms. Literal translation was avoided in favor of emotional and contextual equivalence.

4.4 Case Study 4: Academic Article

Register adaptation involved technical terminology and referencing style. Passive voice and nominalizations were carefully managed.

Chapter 5: Discussion





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- Text type greatly influences register expectations.
- Successful adaptation requires both linguistic awareness and cultural sensitivity.
- The translator's role is both interpretive and creative—balancing fidelity and functionality.
- Register shifts can enhance readability but must be controlled to avoid distortion.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

This thesis demonstrates that adapting text types and registers is essential to functional translation. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work in professional translation. Instead, each genre requires a tailored strategy based on function, audience, and cultural norms.

Recommendations

- Translator training programs should include modules on register analysis.
- Future research should explore adaptation in audiovisual and AI-assisted translation.
- Develop style guides for specific genres in low-resource language pairs like English–Uzbek.

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