

Who Translates News? The Role Of Translators And Journalists In News Translation

Dilnoza Shonazarova

English Language Teacher, TSUUL Doctorate Student Nordic International University, Uzbekistan

Received: 21 March 2026; **Accepted:** 18 April 2026; **Published:** 11 May 2026

Abstract: This article examines the roles of translators and journalists in the process of news translation highlighting the hybrid nature of news translation. The study analyses how translation, editing, and rewriting intersect in news production. Furthermore, the role of translators and journalists in the process of news production is discussed in the Uzbek media context.

Keywords: News translation, translation and editing, rewriting, translator, journalist, journalist-translator, source text, target text, headline.

Introduction: With the rapid expansion of digital media, news translation has become an essential part of linguistic-cultural communication and news production. News translation is considered a subfield of translation. However, apart from “news translation”, this term is classified under diverse headings: “press translation” [Bani, 2006], “news translation” [Holland, 2013], “translation in news media” [Schaffner, 2018], “journalistic translation” [Valdeon, 2015].

News translation was considered to begin with the birth of journalism. As, from the very beginning, almost all of the journalistic materials were translated into different languages. But “news translation was slow to attract scholarly interest; translation is intimately linked to journalism” [Valdeon 2015, 636]. News translation is a specialized domain within translation studies that focuses on the delivery of news in different languages, focusing on the linguistic and cultural content.

One of the central questions in this field is, Who translates the news? Is it professional translators, journalists, other personas, or a combination of both? These questions are particularly relevant in the media translation context, where the role of translators is questioned, and the boundary between translation, editing, and rewriting is blurred.

Translators as a part of news production

Even translation is considered as a work of translators; in the news context, they are not usually included in news translation. This is the case for all global media communication. Although there is no quantitative information to confirm this view, many online press releases and websites that share do not mainly depend on professional translators in media. However, according to observations, they play an important role in news magazines that rely more on international translated news. In those situations, they create the target versions of news reports in foreign languages. [Malmkjaer 2022, 405]. Mainly, professional translators are involved in more formal or institutional contexts such as international organizations or official government websites where the translation is considered as a separate process.

In Uzbekistan, translators still play an important role in news translation and their works are visible in the online media contexts: in online news presses, such as Qalampir.uz, Daryo.uz, Kun.uz, Zamin.uz and etc.; in official government presses, such as Gov.uz, UZA.uz, E.gov.uz and, etc.; in informational websites, such as Golden Pages, Yellow Pages and etc. But they function and work differently depending on the setting and rules within the institution. Sometimes, they do all the processes themselves including the translation as a whole and the edition process, and sometimes they use machine translation and edit the text themselves and

so on. According to our observations, the source text and target text matched in most of the online press releases in Uzbekistan, and this indicates the work is

mainly done by translators. Here is an example taken from online posts' original version and their translation:

	Source text	Target text
Gazeta.uz	“Shavkat Mirziyoyev Yangi Orlean shahrida sodir etilgan terrorchilik harakati oqibatida ko'plab insonlar qurbon bo'lgani munosabati bilan AQSh prezidenti Jozef Baydenga ta'ziya maktubi yo'lladi. Bu haqda O'zbekiston prezidenti matbuot kotibi Sherzod Asadov xabar berdi” [Gazeta.uz].	“President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev sent condolences to president of the US Joe Biden following the tragic loss of lives caused by a terrorist attack in New Orleans, his press secretary Sherzod Asadov said” [Gazeta.uz].
Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan	“Mehmonlarga 9 ta mehmonxona, 3 ta sanatoriy va 40 dan ortiq mehmon uylari xizmat ko'rsatadi. Bu yerda yangi ekzotik va ekstremal turistik yo'nalishlar ochilgan bo'lib, ulardan biri “Qora yulduz” yoki “Teskari Everest” nomi bilan mashhur dunyoning eng chuqur g'oridir” [Gov.uz].	“Accommodations include nine hotels, three sanatoriums, and over 40 guest houses. Additionally, new exotic and extreme tourist routes have been established, featuring the deepest cave on Earth, known as the “Black Star” or “Inverted Everest”” [Gov.uz].
Open Data Portal of the Republic of Uzbekistan	“Joriy yilning 4–7- mart kunlari Amerika Qo'shma Shtatlarining Nyu-York shahrida Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti (BMT) Bosh qarorgohida Statistika komissiyasining navbatdagi 56-sessiyasi o'tkazildi. Mazkur tadbirda O'zbekiston Respublikasi Milliy statistika qo'mitasi delegatsiyasi ishtirok etdi” [Data.egov.uz].	“The 56th regular session of the Statistical Commission was held from March 4-7 of this year at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York (USA). The delegation of the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on took part in this event” [Data.egov.uz].
UZA	“O'zbekiston yetakchisi G'alaba kuniga bag'ishlangan yodgorlik poyiga gul qo'yib, Ozarbayjon vatanparvarlari xotirasiga hurmat bajo keltirdi” [UZA.uz]	“The Leader of Uzbekistan laid flowers at the monument dedicated to Victory Day and honored the memory of Azerbaijan's fallen patriots” [UZA.uz].

From the given examples, it is visible that the translation of the news in the English language is mainly compatible with its original version. This means that the work is mainly done by professional translators. However, the headlines and subheadlines are exceptional in this case. News translation should also focus on the pragmatic aspects of the news. Headline creation and its construction differ in different languages. Here, main the focus is on the effectiveness

of the headline, as this is the main factor for the readability of the post. Thus, even translators should change headlines and translate them accordingly into the target language in almost, if not all, cases.

Journalists as translators in news translation

In some contexts, news translation in other languages is conducted by journalists, but they “refuse to be called ‘translators’, preferring terms such as ‘international journalist’ or ‘bilingual journalist’”

[Schaffner 2018, 332]. They also prefer to “use the verb ‘to edit’ instead of ‘to translate’” [Bielsa and Bassnett, 2009; Gambier, 2010]. They reject the terms ‘translation’ and ‘translator’, because translation is mainly depicted negatively as a “complete linguistic transfer of information that does not involve adaptation to the target readership [Bielsa and Bassnett, 2009]. It is observed from Uzbek press releases that in some media organizations journalists themselves perform translation tasks. When this work is done by journalists, they do not follow the source text completely and change the context freely. As they often work directly with foreign-language sources and produce news reports in the target language. In doing so, they do not only translate but also interpret, summarize, restructure, add or remove the information. In the Uzbek media context, this certain situation was observed in Kun.uz online press release, where the translation of the posts is freely changed. Although this fact is not proven, it seems that on this website, translation is performed by ‘journalists’.

For instance, in the post named “FTB Yangi Orleandagi fojiani terakt sifatida tergov qilmoqda” – “Mirziyoyev extends condolences to Biden following New Orleans terror attack” [Kun.uz] the source text and target text are almost completely different, and the English version of the post almost can be mentioned as ‘rewritten’ or ‘edited’ rather than ‘translated’. Some posts are changed partially, or part of the information is omitted. For instance, in the post named “1 fevralgacha mahallalar uchun bankirlar tayinlanadi” – “Gov’t plans to provide employment for 5.2 million people in 2025” [Kun.uz] some sentences are the same with the Uzbek source, while some are completely rewritten, including the headline.

Hybrid Roles: Journalist-Translators

The increasing overlap between translation and journalism has led to the emergence of hybrid roles, which often can be referred to ‘journalist-translators’. These professionals are usually translators who can function as journalists or the journalist who have the foreign linguistic competence in more than one language. As it was mentioned before, sometimes journalists who can produce texts in different languages using the news source call themselves ‘international journalists’ as well.

Conclusion

This article examined the roles of translators and journalists in the context of news translation – one of the significant branches of translation. News translation is not a purely linguistic task that has a hybrid nature. News production and translation is a multifaceted process involving translation, editing, and

rewriting.

The findings suggest that both translators and journalists play essential roles in media content creation, often working in different positions. In some press releases, translators still do the translation work, mainly sticking to the source text, while in some cases journalists act as translators and often work freely, changing, adding, omitting, and sometimes fully rewriting the post. Nowadays, translators and journalists have hybrid roles and they are referred to ‘journalist-translators’.

References

1. Bani, S. (2006). An analysis of press translation process. In K. Conway and S. Bassnett, eds., *Translation in Global News: Proceedings of the Conference Held at the University of Warwick*, 23 June 2006. Coventry, UK: Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Warwick, pp. 35–46.
2. Bielsa, E., and Bassnett, S. (2009). *Translation in Global News*. London: Routledge.
3. Gambier, Y. (2010). Media, information et traduction à l’ère de la mondialisation. In R. A. Valdeón, ed., *Translating Information*. Oviedo: Universidad de Oviedo, pp. 13–30.
4. Holland, R. (2013). News translation. In C. Millán and F. Bartrina, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies*. London: Routledge, pp. 332–46.
5. Malmkjaer, Kirsten. *The Cambridge Handbook of Translation*. Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics. Cambridge University press, 2022.
6. Schaffner, C. (2018). Language, interpreting, and translation in news media. In K. Malmkjaer, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies and Linguistics*. London: Routledge, pp. 327–41.
7. Valdeón, R. A. (2015). Fifteen years of journalistic translation research and more. *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice*, 23(4), 634–62. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2015.1057187>.
8. <https://www.gazeta.uz/oz/2025/01/03/condolences/>
9. <https://gov.uz/oz/miit/news/view/33051>
10. <https://data.egov.uz/news/milliy-statistika-qomitasi-delegatsiyasi-bmt-stati>
11. <https://daryo.uz/en/2025/09/10/finnish-president-alexander-stubb-to-visit-uzbekistan>
12. https://uza.uz/oz/posts/ozbekiston-prezidenti-ozarbayjon-qahramonlarini-xotirladi_736615

13. <https://kun.uz/news/2025/01/02/ftb-yangi-orleandagi-fojiani-terakt-sifatida-tergov-qilmoqda>
14. <https://kun.uz/news/2025/01/03/1-fevralgacha-mahallalar-uchun-bankirlar-tayinlanadi>