


Lexical and Grammatical Transformation Features in The Translation of Media Texts from Uzbek Into English (Based on The Example of Electronic Newspapers of Uzbekistan)

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Abstract: This article examines the lexical and grammatical transformation strategies employed in the translation of media texts from Uzbek into English, with empirical reference to electronic newspapers of Uzbekistan, namely Kun.uz, Gazeta.uz, and UzDaily. The study is grounded in the theoretical frameworks of V.N. Komissarov, L.K. Latishev, and T.R. Levitskaya, and analyses a parallel corpus of 120 text segments covering political, economic, and social news discourse. The findings reveal that transcription and transliteration, lexical addition, calque, motivated omission, modulation, grammatical substitution, and syntactic restructuring constitute the core transformation repertoire in Uzbek-English media translation. The typological distance between the agglutinative SOV structure of Uzbek and the analytic SVO structure of English necessitates systematic grammatical restructuring, while cultural and institutional specificity of Uzbek journalistic texts drives frequent explicitation for international audiences. The article concludes that mastery of transformation strategies is indispensable for achieving communicative equivalence in cross-linguistic media communication.

Keywords: Translation transformations, lexical transformation, grammatical transformation, media text, Uzbek-English translation, electronic newspapers, communicative equivalence, explicitation, syntactic restructuring.

Introduction: The rapid development of digital media in Uzbekistan has created an unprecedented demand for accurate, culturally sensitive translation of news and journalistic content from Uzbek into English. As Uzbekistan increasingly engages with the international community – through diplomatic channels, economic partnerships, and academic exchange – the quality and fidelity of media translation has become a matter of both linguistic and sociopolitical significance. Electronic newspapers such as Kun.uz, Gazeta.uz, and UzDaily regularly publish content in multiple languages, making them rich primary sources for the study of translation practice.

Translation, particularly of journalistic texts, is not a mechanical word-for-word substitution but a complex process of decision-making governed by linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic constraints. The term

'translation transformation' refers to the formal and semantic modifications that a translator makes during the transfer of meaning from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). These transformations are classified broadly into lexical and grammatical categories, each encompassing a range of specific operations.

The present article addresses a gap in Uzbek translation studies by providing a systematic empirical analysis of transformation strategies applied in the specific domain of electronic newspaper translation. The study aims to: (1) identify and classify lexical transformations in Uzbek-English media translation; (2) examine grammatical transformations and their motivations; (3) assess the impact of these transformations on communicative equivalence; and (4) contribute methodological insights relevant to professional

translators working with Uzbek media content.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

The theoretical foundation of this study draws on the well-established typologies of translation transformations developed within Soviet and post-Soviet translation theory. V.N. Komissarov classifies transformations into lexical (transcription, transliteration, calque, lexical-semantic substitution) and grammatical (syntactic assimilation, sentence splitting/merging, grammatical substitution, addition, and omission) [3, 253]. L.K.Latishev emphasizes the communicative-functional dimension of transformations, arguing that every transformation must serve the goal of functional equivalence between SL and TL texts [5, 320]. T.R. Levitskaya and A.M. Fiterman provide detailed taxonomies of grammatical transformations particularly useful for typologically distant language pairs [6, 205].

The Uzbek and English languages are typologically distinct: Uzbek is an agglutinative, SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) language of the Turkic family, while English is an analytic, SVO language of the Germanic family. This typological distance makes Uzbek-English translation especially rich in transformation phenomena, as translators must negotiate fundamentally different morphosyntactic structures.

The corpus for this study consists of 120 parallel text segments (Uzbek originals and their published English translations) collected from three major Uzbek electronic newspapers – Kun.uz, Gazeta.uz, and UzDaily – over the period of 2022-2024. Texts cover political, economic, cultural, and social news domains. The segments were manually analyzed and coded according to the transformation typology of Komissarov [3, 205], supplemented by Latishev's functional criteria [5, 320]

Table 1. Distribution of Transformation Types in the Corpus (n=120)

Transformation Type	Frequency	Percentage
Transcription / Transliteration	31	25.8%
Calque (Loan Translation)	18	15.0%
Lexical Addition	22	18.3%
Lexical Omission	14	11.7%
Modulation (Semantic Shift)	10	8.3%
Grammatical Substitution	12	10.0%
Sentence Splitting / Merging	8	6.7%
Syntactic Restructuring	5	4.2%

Lexical Transformations in Uzbek-English Media Translation

Transcription and Transliteration. Transcription and transliteration are among the most frequent transformations in Uzbek media translation, particularly for proper nouns, toponyms, official titles,

and culturally specific terms. Transcription renders the phonetic form of the SL word in the TL script, while transliteration reproduces the graphemic form. In Uzbek-English translation, transcription predominates, since English phonetics can generally approximate Uzbek sounds. These operations are critical in news texts, where proper nouns appear with high frequency.

Uzbek	<i>O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev bugun Samarqand shahrida bo'lib o'tgan Shanxay Hamkorlik Tashkilotining sammitida</i>
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	<i>ishtirok etdi.</i>
English	The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, participated today in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the city of Samarkand.
Analysis	The personal name “Mirziyoyev” is transcribed into the established English-language orthographic convention. The city name “Samarqand” undergoes a conventional transliteration variant (“Samarkand”), reflecting the historically established English spelling. The formal title “Shanxay Hamkorlik Tashkiloti” is calqued as “Shanghai Cooperation Organisation” following the organization's official English name. The patronymic “Miromonovich” is omitted, as patronymics are not conventional in English naming practice.

Calque (Loan Translation). Calque involves the literal structural translation of SL components into TL equivalents. In media texts, calque frequently applies to compound terms, institutional names, and

conceptual phrases for which no established TL equivalent exists. While calque preserves structural transparency, it can sometimes produce awkward target-language expressions, necessitating editorial adjustment.

Uzbek	<i>Mehnat bozori va bandlik muammolari bo'yicha respublika konferensiyasi o'z ishini boshladi.</i>
English	The republic-level conference on labour market and employment issues has commenced its work.
Analysis	The compound noun phrase “mehnat bozori” (lit. “labour market”) is rendered via calque, producing the standard English economic term. “Respublika konferensiyasi” is calqued as “republic-level conference”, with addition of '-level' to produce a grammatically and collocationally natural TL expression. The verbal phrase “o'z ishini boshladi” (lit. “began its work”) is rendered formally as 'has commenced its work', acceptable in English journalistic prose.

Lexical Addition (Explicitation). Lexical addition involves the insertion of words or phrases in the TL text that have no direct counterpart in the SL text. This transformation is motivated by structural,

informational, or pragmatic requirements — most frequently by the need to make implicit SL information explicit for TL readers unfamiliar with the Uzbek cultural and institutional context.

Uzbek

English

Analysis

Lexical Omission. Lexical omission involves the deletion of SL elements in the TL text. In Uzbek media translation, omissions are typically motivated by the avoidance of redundancy, differences in informational

structure, or the absence of a meaningful TL equivalent. Omission must be distinguished from loss: a motivated omission preserves communicative equivalence, while unmotivated omission results in information loss.

Uzbek

Xurmatli rahbar o'z nutqida mamlakatimizning ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy rivojlanishi, iqtisodiy islohotlar va xalqimiz farovonligini oshirish masalalariga alohida e'tibor qaratdilar.

English

In his address, the leader highlighted social and economic development, economic reforms, and improving the welfare of the population.

Analysis

The honorific “xurmatli” (lit. “esteemed”) is omitted, as such formulaic honorifics are not conventional in English journalistic style. ‘Mamlakatimizning’ (“of our country”) is omitted as referentially recoverable from context. “Alohida e’tibor qaratdilar” (lit. “paid special attention to”) is compressed to “highlighted”, which is both more concise and more idiomatic in English news writing. These collectively constitute motivated omissions serving stylistic equivalence.

Modulation (Semantic Shift). Modulation involves a shift in the point of view or semantic perspective between SL and TL while preserving the overall

communicative meaning. This transformation is applied when a direct translation would produce an unnatural or misleading TL expression.

Uzbek

Ushbu loyiha amalga oshirilgach, mintaqada ishsizlik muammosi kamayadi.

English

Once this project is implemented, unemployment in the region will decrease.

Analysis

The Uzbek “ishsizlik muammosi kamayadi” (lit. “the unemployment problem will decrease”) undergoes modulation: “muammosi” (problem) is omitted and the semantic focus shifts from “the problem decreasing” to ‘unemployment decreasing’. This modulation produces a more idiomatic English expression while preserving the propositional content. The use of “decrease” rather than the literal “will become smaller” further demonstrates the interplay of modulation and grammatical naturalization.

Grammatical Transformations in Uzbek-English Media Translation

Grammatical Substitution. Grammatical substitution involves the replacement of one grammatical category or form in the SL with a different grammatical category

or form in the TL. This is one of the most pervasive transformations in Uzbek-English translation due to radical typological differences: Uzbek employs grammatical relations through agglutinative suffixation, whereas English relies on word order, prepositions, and auxiliary verbs.

Uzbek	<i>Hukumat tomonidan qabul qilingan qaror iqtisodiy islohotlarning muhim bosqichi hisoblanadi.</i>
English	The resolution adopted by the government is considered an important milestone of economic reforms.
Analysis	The Uzbek passive construction “hukumat tomonidan qabul qilingan” (lit. “by the government-side adopted [participle]”) is restructured into an English post-nominal participial clause “adopted by the government”. The agglutinative verbal noun “qaror” is placed before the participial modifier, conforming to English right-branching post-nominal modification. The copular construction “hisoblanadi” (“is considered”) is preserved via a grammatical calque.

Sentence Splitting and Merging. Sentence splitting divides a single SL sentence into two or more TL sentences; sentence merging combines two or more SL sentences into one. Both operations are motivated by differences in sentence length norms, syntactic

complexity constraints, and readability conventions. Uzbek journalistic prose tends toward longer, more complex sentences with multiple participial and verbal noun constructions, while English news style favors shorter, more direct sentences.

Uzbek	<i>Respublikaning barcha hududlarida o'tkazilayotgan bahorgi ko'kalamzorlashtirish kampaniyasi doirasida, aholi faol ishtirok etayotgan holda, minglab daraxtlar ekilmoqda va shahar infrastrukturasi yaxshilash bo'yicha ishlar amalga oshirilmoqda.</i>
English	Thousands of trees are being planted across all regions of the republic as part of the spring greening campaign. Citizens are actively participating, and infrastructure improvement works are underway.
Analysis	A single complex Uzbek sentence with two parallel participial constructions and a compound predicate is split into two English sentences. The first sentence carries the main informational content (tree-planting campaign), while the second covers civic participation and infrastructure works. This splitting improves readability and aligns with the inverted pyramid structure

conventional in English-language journalism.

Syntactic Restructuring. Syntactic restructuring involves a fundamental reordering of syntactic elements between SL and TL. Since Uzbek is an SOV language and English is SVO, every translated sentence

undergoes a degree of syntactic restructuring. Beyond this basic word-order shift, media texts often require additional restructuring of topicalization, thematic organization, and clause embedding.

Uzbek	<i>Xalqaro valyuta fondi ekspertlari tomonidan O'zbekiston iqtisodiyotiga qo'yilgan yuksak baho mamlakatimizning to'g'ri yo'lda ekanligidan dalolat beradi.</i>
English	The high assessment of Uzbekistan's economy by International Monetary Fund experts demonstrates that our country is on the right path.
Analysis	The Uzbek sentence follows SOV order with a complex nominalized subject. In translation, this is restructured into an English SVO sentence with a nominal subject followed by “demonstrates” and a complement clause. The postposed agent phrase “xalqaro valyuta fondi ekspertlari tomonidan” is moved to a by-phrase within the English nominal group, following English agent attribution conventions. The idiomatic expression “to'g'ri yo'lda” (right path) is retained as a lexical calque that functions naturally in English.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of transformation patterns in Uzbek-English media translation reveals several consistent tendencies that reflect both the typological distance between the two languages and the specific discursive conventions of journalistic writing.

First, the high frequency of transcription and transliteration (25.8%) reflects the dense occurrence of proper nouns, official titles, and institutional names in political and economic news texts – domains that dominate the corpora of Uzbek electronic newspapers. The reliance on established international spelling conventions rather than strictly phonological transcription suggests that translators are oriented toward international communicative norms.

Second, the significant proportion of lexical additions (18.3%) reflects what translation scholars term “explicitation” the tendency to make implicit source-language information explicit in the target language. In Uzbek media texts, institutional and cultural references self-evident to domestic audiences require disambiguation for international English-speaking

readers. This finding corroborates Blum-Kulka's Explicitation Hypothesis in the specific context of Uzbek-English media translation [1, 17-35].

Third, grammatical substitution (10.0%) and syntactic restructuring (4.2%), while numerically smaller, represent the most structurally significant transformations. These are effectively obligatory given the SOV/SVO typological contrast, but also involve translators' choices about information structure, topicalization, and clause organization that go beyond mechanical word-order inversion. Experienced translators consistently prioritize English SVO order and active voice, converting Uzbek participial chains and nominalized constructions into English finite clauses.

Fourth, motivated omissions (11.7%) primarily target honorific particles, formulaic address forms, and redundant topic markers — elements structurally required in Uzbek journalistic discourse but absent from English conventions. This finding aligns with Newmark's observation that cultural politeness markers in source-language texts often require neutralization in translation [7, 292].

CONCLUSION

This study has provided a systematic empirical analysis of lexical and grammatical transformations in the translation of media texts from Uzbek into English, using parallel corpus data from three major electronic newspapers of Uzbekistan. The findings confirm that Uzbek-English media translation involves a rich and systematic repertoire of transformation strategies, driven by both typological necessity and pragmatic-communicative imperatives.

The most frequent transformations — transcription/transliteration and lexical addition — reflect the referential density of Uzbek political and economic journalism and the need for explicitation for international audiences. Grammatical transformations, though less numerically frequent, are structurally pervasive and represent the core challenge of translating between typologically distant languages. The transformation of Uzbek SOV participial structures into English SVO clausal constructions constitutes the most consistent and obligatory restructuring operation in the corpus.

The implications of these findings are twofold. For translation pedagogy, they underscore the need for Uzbek translator training programs to develop systematic competence in both lexical and grammatical transformation operations, with explicit attention to the typological contrasts between Uzbek and English. For professional practice, they highlight the importance of editorial awareness of cultural explicitation needs in Uzbek-English media translation, particularly for texts intended for international audiences.

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