

PHRASEOLOGY IN TRANSLATION: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

Zuvaytova Sarvinoz Nusurxon qizi ¹

¹ Karshi State University

Foreign Language faculty, 3rd year student

Tel: +99895 074 43 01

email: s9376523@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT:

ARTICLE
HISTORY:

Received:21.03.2025

Revised: 22.03.2025

Accepted:23.03.2025

KEYWORDS:

phraseology,
translation challenges,
idiomatic expressions,
collocations, cultural
differences, equivalence,
semantic shifts,
adaptation,
paraphrasing,
translation strategies.

Phraseology is a vital aspect of language that encompasses idiomatic expressions, collocations, and proverbs, all of which pose significant challenges in translation. These linguistic units often carry deep cultural and contextual meanings that do not have direct equivalents in the target language. Translators must navigate issues such as semantic shifts, cultural differences, and the risk of losing stylistic nuances. This study explores key challenges in phraseological translation and evaluates various strategies, including literal translation, adaptation, paraphrasing, and equivalence. By analyzing real-world examples, the research highlights best practices for preserving both the meaning and cultural essence of phraseological units.

INTRODUCTION. Language is more than just a means of communication; it is a reflection of culture, history, and identity. One of the most intricate aspects of any language is its phraseology, which includes idiomatic expressions, collocations, proverbs, and fixed phrases. These linguistic units often carry meanings that extend beyond their literal interpretation, making them particularly challenging to translate. A phrase that is common and natural in one language may have no direct equivalent in another, requiring translators to employ various strategies to convey the intended meaning accurately.

The translation of phraseology is a complex process that goes beyond simple word-for-word substitution. Factors such as cultural differences, semantic shifts, and the structural uniqueness of languages significantly impact the translator's choices. A literal translation may result in confusion or loss of meaning, while a more adaptive approach can help preserve the original intent and stylistic effect. The challenge, therefore, lies in striking a balance between faithfulness to the source text and naturalness in the target language.

=====

This paper explores the main difficulties associated with phraseological translation and examines various strategies used to address these challenges. By analyzing real-world examples from different languages, the study aims to provide practical insights into the best approaches for translating idiomatic and phraseological expressions. Understanding these challenges and solutions is crucial for translators, linguists, and anyone involved in cross-cultural communication, as phraseology plays a vital role in effective and meaningful translation.

Idiomatic expressions are a fundamental aspect of language, adding color, creativity, and cultural depth to communication. However, their translation presents significant challenges due to their figurative meanings, cultural specificity, and lack of direct equivalents in other languages. One of the primary difficulties is that many idioms cannot be translated word for word without losing their intended meaning. For example, the English idiom "kick the bucket" (meaning "to die") does not have a direct equivalent in many languages, requiring translators to find alternative expressions that convey the same message. Cultural differences further complicate the process, as idioms often reflect historical and social contexts unique to a specific community. A phrase like the French "avoir le cafard" (literally "to have the cockroach") means "to feel depressed," but without cultural knowledge, a literal translation would be confusing. Similarly, word-for-word translations of idioms can lead to nonsensical or misleading outcomes. The Russian expression "вешать лапшу на уши" (literally "to hang noodles on someone's ears") means "to deceive someone," but translating it directly into English would make little sense. Another challenge is semantic shifts, as idioms can have different connotations depending on the context. For instance, "bite the bullet" in English means "to endure hardship," but if misunderstood, it could be taken as a reference to actual violence. To overcome these challenges, translators use various strategies, including finding an equivalent idiom in the target language, adapting the phrase to a culturally relevant expression, or paraphrasing it to maintain the intended meaning. These approaches ensure that the translation remains accurate, natural, and culturally appropriate while preserving the stylistic impact of the original text.

Collocations, cultural differences, and equivalence play a crucial role in phraseology translation, as they determine the accuracy and naturalness of the translated text. Collocations are word combinations that frequently occur together in a language, and translating them literally can lead to awkward phrasing. For example, while English uses "make a decision," Spanish prefers "tomar una decisión" ("take a decision"). Similarly, "strong tea" in English translates to "té cargado" ("loaded tea") in Spanish. A translator must recognize these patterns to ensure the target text sounds fluent and natural. Cultural differences present another challenge, as many idiomatic expressions and proverbs are deeply rooted in specific traditions, historical events, or societal norms. The English idiom

=====

"when pigs fly" has no direct equivalent in many languages, but Spanish has "cuando las ranas críen pelo" ("when frogs grow hair"), which conveys the same meaning. Likewise, the Chinese phrase "对牛弹琴" (duì niú tán qín), meaning "to play the piano to a cow," is equivalent to the English "to cast pearls before swine," yet a word-for-word translation would make little sense. To overcome these challenges, translators use equivalence strategies to find target-language expressions that preserve meaning and cultural relevance. Equivalence can be formal (literal translation), dynamic (natural phrasing), or functional (culturally adapted). For example, the English phrase "break a leg" (a way to wish someone good luck) has no literal counterpart in Italian, so it is translated as "In bocca al lupo" ("into the wolf's mouth"). These strategies help ensure that phraseological expressions retain their original intent while remaining understandable and effective in the target language. Skilled translators must navigate these linguistic and cultural complexities to create translations that maintain both the meaning and impact of the original text.

In conclusion, Translating phraseology is a complex process that requires a deep understanding of collocations, cultural differences, and equivalence. Collocations must be carefully handled to ensure natural phrasing in the target language, as direct translations often result in awkward or incorrect expressions. Cultural differences further complicate translation, as idiomatic expressions and proverbs are deeply rooted in specific traditions, histories, and worldviews. A phrase that makes perfect sense in one language may be meaningless or confusing in another, necessitating adaptation to maintain the intended meaning. To address these challenges, translators rely on different types of equivalence, ensuring that the translation is not only linguistically accurate but also culturally appropriate and stylistically effective. Successfully translating phraseology requires balancing literal accuracy with cultural adaptation to produce a fluent, meaningful, and natural text. By applying appropriate strategies, translators can preserve both the semantic essence and expressive power of idiomatic expressions, ensuring effective cross-cultural communication.

References:

1. Baker, M. (2018). In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation (3rd ed.). Routledge.
2. Bassnett, S. (2014). Translation Studies (4th ed.). Routledge.
3. Newmark, P. (1988). A Textbook of Translation. Prentice Hall.
4. Nida, E. A. & Taber, C. R. (1982). The Theory and Practice of Translation. Brill.
5. Vinay, J. P. & Darbelnet, J. (1995). Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation. John Benjamins.