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**ROLE OF TRANSLATOR'S COGNITIVE THINKING IN THE PROCESS OF LITERARY TRANSLATION**

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*This article examines the significant role of the translator's cognitive thinking in the process of literary translation, focusing on how mental operations, interpretive strategies, and creative decision-making shape the transformation of an original text into its translated version. Translators do not merely replace words from one language with equivalents in another; rather, they reconstruct meaning through a complex interaction of intuition, cultural awareness, analytical reasoning, and aesthetic judgment. By analyzing translation theories and examples from world literature, this paper highlights how the translator's intellectual, emotional, and cultural worldview influences the final translation, ultimately determining the level of fidelity, stylistic nuance, and artistic integrity*

**Introduction.** Literary translation is widely regarded as one of the most intellectually demanding fields in translation studies. Unlike technical or literal translation, literary translation involves re-creating an author's artistic vision, emotional tone, cultural context, and stylistic elegance. Such work cannot be performed mechanically. It requires the translator to engage in deep cognitive thinking — analyzing implicit meanings, evaluating cultural references, predicting readers' responses, and balancing fidelity with creativity.

The phrase 'the translator's thinking' refers to the mental processes, reasoning patterns, interpretive decisions, and aesthetic judgments that guide the translator while transferring meaning from a source text to a target text. This article explores how these mental processes shape the quality and authenticity of translation outcomes and why the translator's individual cognitive worldview is central to every successful translation.

Theoretical Foundations of Translator Cognition. Modern translation theory emphasizes that translation is not an act of linguistic substitution but a cognitive and interpretive activity. Scholars such as Eugene Nida, Peter Newmark, and Lawrence Venuti argue that translators must actively participate in meaning-making, functioning as cultural mediators rather than passive conveyors of text.

Key aspects of translator cognition include:

1. Interpretive Thinking

The translator must interpret:

- metaphors
- symbols
- idioms
- intertextual references
- cultural allusions
- authorial tone

For instance, translating Shakespeare or Chingiz Aitmatov requires deep understanding of figurative language and philosophical undertones. Interpretation is the first cognitive step in understanding what the author really means beyond the literal phrasing.

2. Analytical Thinking The translator analyzes:

textual structure narrative perspective genre conventions emotional intention linguistic style

This analytical dimension allows the translator to see the text not only as language but as an artistic composition.

3. Creative Thinking

Because languages differ in imagery, rhythm, syntax, and cultural associations, translators need creativity to produce a comparable emotional and aesthetic effect in the target text. Creativity does not violate fidelity; instead, it supports artistic equivalence.

4. Cultural and Emotional Intelligence The translator must understand cultural background of the source text moral and philosophical values character psychology social context

Cognitive thinking includes emotional sensitivity — the ability to sense the ‘inner voice’ of the text.

The Translator as Co-Creator

In literary translation, the translator acts not only as an interpreter but also as a co-creator. This status is justified by several factors:

1. Reconstructing Authorial Intent

The translator must imagine the author’s mindset, emotional state, and communicative goals. This requires empathy, intuition, and cognitive imagination.

2. Adapting Style and Aesthetics

Every writer has a unique style. Whether translating Dickens’s irony, Hemingway’s minimalism, or Tokhir Malik’s psychological depth, the translator must reproduce stylistic features through conscious aesthetic decisions.

3. Navigating Untranslatable Elements

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Certain cultural concepts, humor, and linguistic nuances cannot be translated literally. Cognitive thinking allows the translator to select appropriate compensation or adaptation strategies.

Example:

The Uzbek term ‘ko’ngil’ carries emotional, spiritual, and cultural layers that cannot be reduced to one English word. A thoughtful translator must choose context-based renderings such as heart, spirit, emotion, or inner feeling.

#### 4. Managing Dual Loyalty

The translator must balance loyalty to: the original author the target reader

This dual responsibility requires sophisticated judgment — a product of cognitive deliberation.

#### Cognitive Challenges in Preserving Meaning

The translator’s thinking is tested most intensely when translating:

##### 1. Metaphors and Symbolism Metaphors are culturally rooted.

For example, a metaphor in Uzbek literature may evoke local imagery that English readers cannot immediately grasp. The translator must understand both worlds to bridge them effectively.

##### 2. Wordplay and Idioms

Idioms rarely match across languages. Proper translation demands deep mental flexibility.

##### 3. Emotional Subtext

In literature, meaning often lies beneath the surface. Translators must sense implied emotions, silent tensions, and narrative mood — all requiring intuitive cognition.

##### 4. Philosophical and Psychological Layers

Complex philosophical texts require analytical reasoning, logical structuring, and awareness of conceptual differences across cultures.

#### Case Illustrations from World Literature Example 1: Translating Salinger

Holden Caulfield's voice in *The Catcher in the Rye* is frank, sarcastic, and emotionally unstable. A translator must think like Holden — capturing his personality, slang, and psychological turmoil. This is not possible without cognitive immersion.

#### Example 2: Translating ‘Otabek’ in O’tkan Kunlar

Abdulla Qodiriy’s characters express subtle psychological movements and cultural values specific to Uzbek society. A translator must think deeply about Uzbek historical context to convey such meanings accurately.

#### Example 3: Translating Poetry

In poetry, sound, rhythm, imagery, and emotional intensity merge. The translator’s creative thinking becomes central. Literal translation cannot capture poetic beauty; cognition must guide artistic re-creation.

### The Translator's Cognitive Signature

Every translator leaves a subtle intellectual imprint on their work. Their: worldview, education, cultural experience, emotional intelligence. linguistic intuition is all shape the translation. Thus, translation is a dialog between the author's mind and the translator's mind. This explains why different translations of the same text often sound distinct – each reflects a unique cognitive process.

**Conclusion.** The translator's cognitive thinking is the core of literary translation. It encompasses interpretation, analysis, creativity, emotional intelligence, and cultural awareness. The translator not only transfers meaning but reconstructs artistic reality, ensuring that the translated text resonates with the target audience while preserving the spirit of the original. Literary translation is thus an intellectual art where the translator's mind plays a decisive, indispensable role.

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