

## PRAGMATIC TRANSLATION IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH COMPOUND WORDS INTO UZBEK

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14464755>

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### **Abstract**

Translating English compound words into Uzbek poses unique challenges due to linguistic and cultural disparities. This paper examines the effectiveness of pragmatic translation techniques in addressing these challenges. A qualitative corpus-based study investigates how literal translation, semantic adaptation, descriptive methods, and borrowing contribute to producing adequate translations. The study concludes that pragmatic translation enhances contextual and cultural appropriateness, offering insights into cross-linguistic equivalence.

### **Key words**

compound words, cultural adaptation, pragmatic translation, intralingual, interlingual, intersemiotic, translation techniques.

### **Introduction**

The translation of English compound words into Uzbek represents an intricate linguistic endeavor. Compound words, formed by combining two or more lexemes, often encapsulate idiomatic, cultural, and contextual meanings. These meanings may not directly translate into Uzbek, an agglutinative language with distinct morphological rules.

### **Literature Review**

Translation studies have long explored the challenges of conveying meaning across linguistic and cultural boundaries, particularly with complex lexical structures like compound words. This review examines foundational theories and recent findings relevant to the pragmatic translation of English compound words into Uzbek. Key themes include linguistic equivalence, cultural adaptation, and pragmatic strategies.

Pragmatic translation, as conceptualized by Newmark (1988), emphasizes the translator's responsibility to ensure the functional equivalence of the source and

target texts. Rather than strictly adhering to word-for-word translation, this approach prioritizes meaning and audience comprehension. Larson (1984) concurs, advocating for a *meaning-based translation* framework that considers cultural and contextual factors. These principles are especially relevant for compound words, which often carry idiomatic or metaphorical meanings.

Jakobson (1959) identifies three types of translation: intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic. He highlights that interlingual translation—critical for transferring compound words—requires understanding both the structural and cultural nuances of the languages involved. Pragmatic translation aligns closely with Jakobson's emphasis on meaning over form.

Recent studies have applied pragmatic translation to various language pairs. For instance, Akhmanova (2009) investigates the translation of English compounds into Russian, noting that a combination of borrowing and adaptation often yields the most effective results. While the Russian and Uzbek languages differ structurally, the insights into compound adaptation provide a useful parallel.

In the context of Uzbek, Abdullayev (2015) highlights the growing need for adaptive translation strategies as globalization introduces new terminologies. He emphasizes that pragmatic translation is particularly valuable for handling the influx of English compounds in technology and media.

## Methods

*Corpus Compilation.* A dataset of 200 compound words was curated from literary texts, news articles, and technical documents. The selection emphasized diversity in meaning, structure, and context.

*Translation Techniques.* The study applied four pragmatic strategies:

1. **Literal Translation with Adjustments:** For straightforward compounds.
2. **Descriptive Translation:** For terms lacking direct equivalents.
3. **Semantic Adaptation:** For idiomatic compounds.
4. **Borrowing with Explanation:** For culturally specific or technical terms.

*Evaluation Criteria.* Translations were evaluated based on:

1. **Adequacy:** Fidelity to the source meaning.
2. **Naturalness:** Suitability within Uzbek linguistic and cultural norms.

*Reviewer Panel.* A panel of five Uzbek linguists and professional translators reviewed the translations to ensure quality and relevance.

## Results

*Types of Compound Words and Challenges.* The compounds were categorized as follows:

1. **Transparent Compounds:** Words with clear meanings (*notebook, toothbrush*).

2. **Idiomatic Compounds:** Phrases with metaphorical meanings (*spill the beans, cutting-edge*).

3. **Cultural Compounds:** Terms rooted in specific cultural contexts (*Thanksgiving dinner, smartphone*).

*Challenges Identified.*

**Structural Differences:** English relies on juxtaposition or hyphenation, while Uzbek often uses suffixes or descriptive phrases.

- **Idiomatic Complexity:** Non-literal meanings often lack direct counterparts.

- **Cultural Relevance:** Some terms require significant adaptation to resonate with Uzbek audiences.

*Pragmatic Translation Strategies.*

### 1. **Literal Translation with Adjustments.**

For compounds like *notebook* → *daftar kompyuter* (laptop notebook), slight lexical shifts ensured naturalness without altering the meaning.

*Example:*

- *Toothbrush: tish cho'tkasi.*

- **Commentary:** A direct equivalent exists, preserving meaning and simplicity.

### 1. **Descriptive Translation.**

Terms without direct Uzbek equivalents required detailed descriptions.

*Example:*

- *Brainstorming: yangi g'oyalarni ishlab chiqish* (developing new ideas).

- **Commentary:** This method preserves the essence but increases lexical density.

### 2. **Semantic Adaptation.**

Adaptations were necessary for idiomatic compounds.

*Example:*

- *Kickoff: boshlanish marosimi* (inaugural ceremony).

- **Commentary:** Captures the figurative sense without direct translation.

### 3. **Borrowing with Explanation.**

Borrowing was used for technological and cultural terms unfamiliar to Uzbek.

*Example:*

- *Smartphone: smartfon* (aqlli telefon).

- **Commentary:** Explanation clarifies the term for audiences.

## **Discussion**

The results underscore the importance of pragmatic translation in bridging linguistic and cultural divides. Literal translation, while effective for some compounds, often fails with idiomatic or cultural terms. Pragmatic strategies prioritize meaning, context, and audience reception, aligning with Newmark's (1988) theory of communicative translation.

*Case Study: Translating "Cutting-Edge".* The term *cutting-edge* illustrates the need for semantic adaptation. Its literal Uzbek translation (*kesuvchi qirrası*) conveys no figurative meaning. Using pragmatic translation, *zamonaviy va ilg'or* (modern and advanced) was chosen, resonating with Uzbek speakers.

Compound words are linguistically rich but challenging to translate due to their diverse structures and functions. According to Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), compound words often require *modulation* or *equivalence techniques* to convey the intended message. For instance, the English compound *time-consuming* has no direct Uzbek equivalent and requires descriptive translation (*ko'p vaqt talab etuvchi*).

Catford (1965) addresses the issue of untranslatability, particularly with idiomatic compounds. He argues that cultural context often dictates meaning, making literal translations ineffective. Similarly, Nida (1964) stresses the importance of dynamic equivalence, suggesting that translations should evoke the same response in the target audience as the original does.

The cultural dimension of translation is particularly significant for compound words with idiomatic or culturally specific meanings. Hatim and Mason (1997) emphasize the translator's role as a cultural mediator, bridging gaps between the source and target languages. For example, compounds like *Thanksgiving dinner* have cultural connotations that require adaptation rather than direct translation. In Uzbek, this might involve borrowing the term with explanatory notes.

Katan (2004) explores the impact of cultural filters on translation, highlighting the importance of considering the target audience's worldview. This perspective is critical when translating culturally laden compounds, as Uzbek speakers may interpret terms differently than native English speakers.

*Strategies for Translating Compound Words.* Several scholars have proposed strategies specifically tailored to translating compound words. Baker (1992) identifies four primary approaches:

1. **Literal Translation:** Effective for transparent compounds with direct equivalents, e.g., *toothbrush* → *tish cho'tkasi*.

2. **Paraphrasing:** Useful for descriptive or idiomatic compounds, e.g., *brainstorming* → *yangi g'oyalarni ishlab chiqish*.

3. **Cultural Substitution:** Replacing culturally specific terms with analogous concepts in the target culture, e.g., *prom night* → *maktab bitiruv kechasi*.

4. **Borrowing with Explanation:** Applied to technical or novel terms, e.g., *smartphone* → *smartfon (aqlli telefon)*.

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) add that compounds often require transposition, changing the grammatical structure to fit the target language. For instance, English compounds that use a noun-noun structure may require additional suffixes or phrases in Uzbek.

### Conclusion

Pragmatic translation requires a deep understanding of both source and target cultures. Translators must balance fidelity and fluency, ensuring that translations are meaningful and accessible.

Pragmatic translation emerges as an essential approach for translating English compound words into Uzbek. By prioritizing context and meaning, this method overcomes structural and cultural disparities, ensuring adequacy and naturalness.

Further research could explore automation in pragmatic translation or compare strategies across other Turkic languages, broadening the scope of translation studies.

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