CHARACTERISTICS OF ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POLITICAL SPEECHES FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Abstract. This thesis explores the distinctive characteristics of oral interpretation in the context of political speeches translated from English to Uzbek, emphasizing the linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic challenges inherent in this process. Drawing on interdisciplinary insights from linguistics, translation studies, and political discourse analysis, it examines how interpreters navigate syntactic asymmetries, cultural nuances, and real-time cognitive demands. Key characteristics include the adaptation of rhetorical devices, management of ideological connotations, and strategies for maintaining fidelity while ensuring audience comprehension. The analysis highlights the role of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation in diplomatic settings, where accuracy can influence geopolitical perceptions. By synthesizing existing literature and analogous case studies from Turkic languages, this work underscores the need for culturally attuned training for interpreters in emerging multilingual contexts like Uzbekistan's international engagements.

Keywords: Oral interpretation, political speeches, English–Uzbek translation, simultaneous interpretation, consecutive interpretation, rhetorical devices, pragmatic adaptation, cultural mediation, discourse analysis, syntactic restructuring.

Introduction. Oral interpretation, particularly in political discourse, serves as a critical bridge in cross-cultural communication, enabling the real-time conveyance of ideas across linguistic barriers. In the case of English-to-Uzbek interpretation of political speeches, this process is fraught with unique complexities due to the languages' typological differences—English as an analytic, Indo-European language with subject-verb-object (SVO) order, and Uzbek as an agglutinative Turkic language with subject-object-verb (SOV) structure. Political speeches, characterized by persuasive rhetoric, ideological undertones, and context-specific references, demand interpreters to balance literal accuracy with communicative effectiveness. This thesis investigates the core characteristics of such interpretation, focusing on simultaneous interpretation (SI), where the interpreter translates concurrently with the speaker, and consecutive interpretation (CI), where translation follows speech segments. These modes are prevalent in Uzbekistan's diplomatic arenas, such as summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) or bilateral talks with English-speaking nations.

The significance of this topic lies in the growing internationalization of Uzbekistan, where English serves as a lingua franca in global politics, yet Uzbek remains essential for domestic audiences. Misinterpretations can alter perceived intentions, as seen in historical diplomatic faux pas. This study aims to delineate the linguistic strategies, cultural adaptations, and

pragmatic adjustments that define effective oral interpretation, while addressing challenges like speed, terminology, and emotional tone. By avoiding quantitative metrics, the analysis relies on qualitative insights from discourse analysis and comparative linguistics.

Main part. Scholarly work on oral interpretation of political speeches has evolved from general translation theories to language-pair-specific examinations. Early frameworks, such as those by Michael Stubbs, emphasize discourse as a social construct, where political language operates on formal, contextual, and ideological levels. In political contexts, discourse features include metaphors, euphemisms, and persuasive structures that interpreters must recreate without diluting intent.

For English-Uzbek pairs, research often focuses on written translation but offers transferable insights to oral modes. Studies highlight semantic and communicative methods as dominant in political texts: semantic translation preserves source meaning, while communicative prioritizes target audience impact. Metaphorical phrases pose particular challenges, requiring interpreters to adapt English idioms (e.g., "kick the can down the road") into Uzbek equivalents that convey procrastination without cultural mismatch. Euphemisms in political language, such as "iron curtain" for Cold War imagery, are analyzed for their softening effects, with Uzbek renditions needing to maintain diplomatic tact.

Extralinguistic factors in Uzbek political speech, including social and historical contexts, influence interpretation. For instance, post-Soviet Uzbek discourse incorporates elements of national identity, requiring interpreters to infuse translations with appropriate cultural resonance. Comparative analyses of emotional expression reveal that English speeches often employ direct appeals, while Uzbek may favor collective-oriented rhetoric, necessitating tonal adjustments. In Turkic languages like Turkish, SI studies show errors stemming from syntactic restructuring and implicature handling, parallels applicable to Uzbek.

Broader interpreting literature identifies SI challenges such as cognitive overload from rapid speech, foreign accents, and specialized terminology. In political settings, these are amplified by the need to interpret implicatures—unspoken meanings in diplomatic language. Media discourses on interpreting, particularly in Turkey, underscore themes like high-stakes errors and career pressures, relevant to Uzbek contexts.

Conceptual Framework and Methodology

This thesis adopts a qualitative, discourse-analytic approach, viewing interpretation as a mediated act of meaning reconstruction. Key frameworks include genre theory, which treats political speeches as a distinct genre with rhetorical moves (e.g., problem-solution structures) that must be preserved across languages. The methodology involves textual analysis of sample speeches, drawing from publicly available English political addresses (e.g., U.S. presidential speeches) and their hypothetical Uzbek interpretations, informed by linguistic models.

No empirical data collection is employed; instead, synthesis from secondary sources forms the basis, focusing on lexical-semantic, pragmatic, and cultural dimensions. This allows for an exploration of characteristics without reliance on statistical validation, emphasizing interpretive depth over quantification.

Key Characteristics of Oral Interpretation

Linguistic and Structural Adaptations

One primary characteristic is the real-time syntactic reconfiguration. English's analytic nature relies on word order and prepositions, while Uzbek's agglutination uses suffixes for grammatical relations. In SI, interpreters must invert SVO to SOV mid-sentence, risking fragmentation if the source speech is rapid or complex. For example, an English clause like "The government will implement reforms to boost the economy" requires Uzbek restructuring to maintain natural flow, potentially as "Hukumat iqtisodiyotni rivojlantirish uchun islohotlarni amalga oshiradi."

Lexical-semantic features dominate, with political terms carrying culture-specific loads. Diplomatic vocabulary, such as "sovereignty" (English) translated as "suverenitet" in Uzbek, must convey identical connotations to avoid misinterpretation in sensitive contexts like territorial disputes. Euphemisms and metaphors are adapted communicatively; an English "iron curtain" might evoke Cold War imagery, requiring an Uzbek equivalent that resonates with local historical awareness.

Pragmatic and Rhetorical Dimensions

Pragmatic fidelity is crucial, as political speeches aim to persuade. Interpreters employ strategies like explicitation—adding clarifications for Uzbek audiences unfamiliar with Western references—or implicature preservation to retain subtle criticisms. Emotional expression varies: English speeches may use individualistic appeals (e.g., "I promise"), while Uzbek interpretations favor collectivist tones (e.g., "Biz birgalikda").

In CI, pauses allow for fuller rendition, but SI demands anticipation, where interpreters predict based on genre conventions. Errors often arise from cultural mismatches, such as direct vs. indirect communication styles.

Cultural and Extralinguistic Factors

Uzbek political discourse is shaped by historical legacies, including Soviet influences and national revival, necessitating interpreters to embed translations in socio-cultural contexts. Extralinguistic elements like tone, emphasis, and non-verbal cues (e.g., pauses for applause) must be conveyed orally, often through prosodic adjustments in Uzbek delivery.

In diplomacy, interpretation facilitates mutual understanding, but challenges include ideological biases—English neoliberal terms may clash with Uzbek state-centric narratives.

Challenges and Strategies

Challenges encompass cognitive demands in SI, such as managing ear-voice span amid fast-paced speeches, and handling accents or disfluencies. Strategies include segmentation (breaking long sentences) and reformulation for clarity. In Uzbek contexts, legal and diplomatic terms require specialized glossaries to ensure precision. Analogous case studies from Turkish interpreting reveal common errors in implicature, suggesting training in political pragmatics for Uzbek interpreters. For instance, interpreting U.S. speeches on democracy in Uzbek diplomatic forums demands neutralizing potential cultural sensitivities.

Conclusion. *The oral interpretation of political speeches from English to Uzbek is characterized by dynamic linguistic reconfiguration, pragmatic sensitivity, and cultural mediation, essential for effective cross-border dialogue. As Uzbekistan expands its global footprint, enhancing interpreter training in these areas will mitigate risks of miscommunication. Future research should explore hybrid modes incorporating AI aids, while preserving the human nuance vital to political discourse. This thesis advocates for a genre-informed approach to foster accurate, impactful interpretations in multilingual geopolitics.*

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