



TRANSLATION CHALLENGES POSED BY NON-FINITE FORMS

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Abstract. *The linguistic and translating challenges related to non-finite verb forms like infinives, gerunds, and participles are investigated in this paper. Examining instances from English to Uzbek and vice versa helps the study to spot structural and semantic difficulties in the translating process. Comparative language study and translation theory guide the suggested solutions and approaches for conquering these challenges.*

Keywords: *translation, non-finite forms, infinitive, gerund, participle, syntax, semantics, Uzbek-English translation.*


Аннотация. *В данной статье исследуются лингвистические и переводческие проблемы, связанные с нефинитными формами глаголов, такими как инфинитивы, герундии и причастия. Изучение примеров с английского на узбекский и наоборот помогает исследованию выявить структурные и семантические трудности в процессе перевода. Сравнительное изучение языков и теория перевода направляют предлагаемые решения и подходы для преодоления этих проблем.*

Ключевые слова: *перевод, нефинитные формы, инфинитив, герундий, причастие, синтаксис, семантика, узбекско-английский перевод.*

Annotatsiya. *Infinives, gerunds va particples kabi cheksiz fe'l shakllari bilan bog'liq lingvistik va tarjima muammolari ushbu maqolada ko'rib chiqiladi. Ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga va aksincha misollarni tekshirish tadqiqotga tarjima jarayonida tarkibiy va semantik qiyinchiliklarni aniqlashga yordam beradi. Qiyosiy tilshunoslik va tarjima nazariyasi ushbu muammolarni yengish uchun taklif qilingan yechimlar va yondashuvlarni boshqaradi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *tarjima, cheksiz shakllar, infinitiv, gerund, kesim, sintaksis, semantika, o'zbekcha-inglizcha tarjima.*

English syntax and semantics depend much on non-finite verb forms: infinitives, gerunds, and participles. But their translocation into other languages—especially agglutinative languages like Uzbek—offers particular difficulties. These challenges



result from structural and functional distinctions between English and Uzbek verb systems. Translators, linguists, and language learners striving for high-quality translating output must first understand these difficulties.

Many academics including Vinay & Darbelnet (1958), Catford (1965), and Newmark (1988) have examined grammatical variations causing translation difficulties. Studies of non-finite forms have revealed that, particularly in languages with little use of such forms, they can lack direct parallels in target languages. Uzbek linguistic studies also underline the challenge of translating participial formations and nominalised verbs owing to syntactic incongruities. Still, a thorough, comparative analysis targeted especially on non-finite forms is rare.

The approach of this study is analytical and comparative. Uzbek was translated from English literary and scholarly sources using selected works including non-finite verb forms; vice versa. Examining the translations helped one find repeating challenges. Translation activities and interviews allowed one to examine the techniques applied by expert translators and translation students.

English non-finite forms (gerunds, present and past participles, and infinitives) are compact clausal structures with certain characteristics. They have aspectual qualities, some may be introduced by conjunctions and prepositions. They may either express or unexpressed subjects. Quite importantly, translators have to pay particular attention when translating them into the later language since they lack regular equivalent forms in Romanian, especially in the case of the several kinds of gerundial and participial -ing constructions, for which the Romanian gerund is sometimes the inappropriate choice. In light of these observations, the present article aims to investigate the strategies employed by translators to render -ing participial constructions into Romanian, as well as the range of syntactic structures these strategies generate, and to relate the emerging patterns to the concept of explicitation as a translating universal, proposed by a number of researchers in the field of translation studies. Based on a rather large corpus of 285 tokens spanning almost the whole spectrum of available syntactic patterns built on participles (present participial constructions with PRO (i.e., unexpressed), Absolute Constructions, Accusative+Present Participle structures), conducted within the theoretical framework put forth by Hervey and Higgins (1992). Since the author's dynamic writing style is reinforced by his using various syntactic condensed structures—resultative and Goal of Motion constructions, different types of synthetic compounds, and, most importantly for the present analysis, an extensive array of non-finite constructions—Abercrombie's books offer plenty of material for this research. According to the study, translators favor two basic approaches when creating



participial constructions into Romanian; their decision usually reflects the sort of present participle structure they translate. When the participial structure includes an unexpressed subject and functions as adverbial phrase (of Time, Reason, Manner, etc.), one alternative is literal translation, which seems to be the technique of choice. The other major choice is divided compensation. While utilized to create participial clauses with unexpressed subjects as well, compensation by splitting is, nevertheless, the method preferred by translators when rendering Absolute Constructions. The reason might be that, although present in Romanian as the Absolute Gerundial Construction, this syntactic pattern is rather marginal in this language exactly because it lexicalizes its own subject and, hence, is seen as unusual and features mostly in written contexts of the formal and literary kind. English construction is therefore not easily translocated literally, and instead compensating by splitting is used. On the other hand, compensating by splitting also becomes an alternative to render participial constructions with unexpressed subjects when the translator wishes to disambiguate the adverbial relation existing between the participial subordinate and the matrix phrase. Given the translators' inclination to explain the syntactic status and meaning of the participial constructions as well as the great frequency of Absolute Constructions in the original text, statistically of the two tactics, compensating by splitting, is somewhat more prevalent.

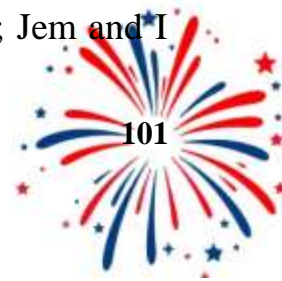
Apart from the two approaches discussed, there are other compensation techniques with opposite effects; compensation in place usually accompanies compensation by splitting, producing syntactically lengthened structures, whereas compensation by merging, which is by far less common, reduces the original verbal structures to prepositional or adverbial phrases. Still, the translators' inclination for split correction results in more prolonged structures. Therefore, since the expansion of the source text constructions seems to be a regular occurrence, the findings of the analysis may be interpreted as lending further support to the view whereby explicitation, defined in the literature, is indeed, a universal translation strategy. The paper is set up as follows: Section 2 offers a syntactic classification of the several kinds of participial constructions under analysis and makes a number of predictions regarding their translation based on their syntactic properties; Section 3 analyses the corpus from the perspective of the translation strategies adopted and the resulting syntactic patterns; Section 4 discusses the statistical results of the analysis; Section 5 presents the conclusions of the study. The English present participle is a totally verbal form distinguished by several traits common of non-finite forms. Specifically, it is marked for Aspect (it combines with the perfect – have+en – to convey anteriority), Voice (it allows passivisation), and Negation with the negative marker






although it is not marked for Tense. not; it might be introduced by conjunctions and choose subjects in the Nominative. Excepting the present participle utilized as a marker of the progressive aspect in connection with the auxiliary be and the -ing adjectival participle, this verbal form is the heart of a number of clausal structures functioning either as arguments or as adjuncts. Consequently, the present participle may restrictively show up in participial clauses acting as main verb arguments. Selected by verbs of perception (see, hear, watch, notice, feel, scent), causative verbs (get, have, send), and miscellaneous verbs like find, keep, and leave, these are the Accusative+Participle construction and its passivized version (1) below. First a. I noticed him approaching the store. The man last observed getting on a train at Reading. The search party came upon the climber clinging to a rock ledge. The doctor will have you skiing once more very shortly.


Most of the examples above—all constructions serving as Direct Object clauses—are instances of Accusative+Participle constructs cselected by transitive main verbs (watch in (1a), find in (1b), and causative have in (1d)). By comparison, the split participial construction in italics in (1b) is an example of Nominative+Participle, a passivized form of, say, We last saw the man boarding a train at Reading. Since this structure functions as a Subject Clause, it is another clausal argument. Whereas the Accusative/Nominative+Participle patterns are limited in use due of the fact they are selected by certain categories of verbs, participial clauses employed as adjuncts are free to appear in a range of circumstances, as seen in (2) below: A. He fled knowing he was at fault. He said, staring at the ruby, "Good stone, that." As if she had not spent an hour getting ready before the mirror. He discovered the painting missing after visiting his aunt. Her brother was not the man heading from her residence. Participial clauses with unexpressed logical subjects—that is, PRO subjects that are coreferential with those of the predicates in the matrix clauses—abound in all the foregoing. Beyond that, every one shows another kind of auxiliary: Adverbial Clause of Reason in (2a), Adverbial Clause of Time in (2b), Adverbial Clause of Manner in (2c), Adverbial Clause of Time again in (2d), but note that this participial construction is introduced by a time junction, and Attributive Clause (Restrictive Relative Clause) modifying the subject of the Main Clause (the man). On the other hand, present participles could show up in the so-called Absolute Constructions when they choose their own subjects in the Nominative case. These grammatical constructions also have auxiliary status and function as adverbial clauses of some kind . The bodyguard grumbled, [grip] Subject falling on the wire. [The holidays] Subject over must start working on our projects. A minute later, [nerves] Subject still twitching; Jem and I





were walking on the pavement towards home. [Weather] Subject allowing, we could set off a three-day alpine expedition. Two characteristics of the foregoing examples are their own articulated subjects and their semantically uncertain nature in the lack of typical subordinating elements—that is, conjunctions— clearly specifying precise adverbial relations. Thus, the participial clause in (3a) functions as Adverbial Clause of Time (< “The bodyguard grunted as his grip was slipping on the wire/when his grip slipped on the wire”), that in (3b) is an Adverbial Clause of Reason (< “As/since the holidays were over...”), the structure in (3c) is an Adverbial Clause of Manner (< “with nerves still tangling”), and that in (3d), an Adverbial Clause of Condition (< “if the weather permits...”). The present study draws on the theory that the syntactic type of participial sentence will define the translation approach chosen to render it into Romanian, as the introduction's brief statement suggests. In particular, two predictions will be made concerning the translation of English participial constructions into Romanian: given the properties of present participles in participial clauses with unexpressed subjects, translators will overwhelmingly opt for literal translation, i.e., grammatical equivalence, and use Romanian gerundial forms with unexpressed subjects that are coreferential with those selected by the main clause predicates since they are non-finite verbal forms with comparable characteristics (they are marked for Negation and Voice, they are aspectually durative, denoting situations simultaneous with those in the main clause, and, syntactically, function mostly as adverbials); Absolute Constructions, although slightly present in Romanian as well (as Absolute Gerundial Constructions), are predicted to be more problematic to render using literal translation because of their unconventional internal structure (the presence of a Nominative subject in the context of a non-finite form is viewed as marginal in Romanian), and thus, will be more readily translated by means of all manner of compensation strategies (compensation by splitting, compensation in place, grammatical transposition). The application of which will result in the lengthening of the source text structures. The corpus analysis and the following statistical evaluation will usually support these hypotheses, as will be shown in the next sections.

The study turned up numerous recurring difficulties: In Uzbek, infinitives may needed restructure into subordinate clauses or verbal nouns. Because there was no clear morphological equivalent, gerunds presented challenges that sometimes required a total syntactic change. Particularly with shorter relative clauses, participles sometimes insisted on full clause expansion to keep Uzbek meaning intact. As for: English: He paused to speak with her. Uzbek: U u bilan gaplashish uchun to'dadi. (Infinitive utilised for goal) English: She came upon a bird strolling across



the park. Uzbek: Qushni ko'rди, yurib ketayotib. (Participial phrase enlarged) Professional translators addressed these problems using explicitation, transposition, and modulation as well as other approaches. Conversely, students tended to depend on literal translation, which sometimes resulted in grammatical or semantic distortion.

Translating non-finite verb forms presents major difficulties because English and Uzbek have structural disparities. In Uzbek, these types can call for change into finite clauses or other grammatical structures. Effective translation depends on an awareness of the purpose and meaning of these forms within context. To guarantee correctness and fluency in translation, translators' training should concentrate on raising awareness of various forms and learning transformation techniques.

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