



DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING GASTRONOMIC TERMINOLOGY FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK

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Abstract: The expansion of international culinary communication, tourism, globalization, and digital media has considerably increased the significance of gastronomic translation in modern linguistic and translation studies. Gastronomic terminology represents not only the names of dishes, ingredients, and cooking methods but also reflects national mentality, cultural traditions, historical development, and social identity. Translating culinary vocabulary from English into

Uzbek creates numerous semantic, lexical, cultural, and pragmatic challenges due to the absence of direct equivalents for many English gastronomic concepts in Uzbek culture. This article explores the principal difficulties encountered in translating gastronomic terminology from English into Uzbek and analyzes the translation strategies applied to maintain semantic precision and cultural adequacy. Particular attention is paid to transliteration, borrowing, descriptive translation, cultural adaptation, and semantic substitution as essential methods in culinary translation. The article also examines the impact of globalization and intercultural interaction on the enrichment of Uzbek gastronomic vocabulary.


Key Words: Gastronomic terminology, culinary discourse, translation difficulties, semantic equivalence, cultural adaptation, gastronomic culture, English-Uzbek translation, terminology analysis.

Introduction

The relationship between language and culture is especially visible in the field of gastronomy. Culinary terminology reflects a nation's traditions, eating customs, historical experience, and worldview. In the contemporary world, globalization, international tourism, social networking platforms, trade relations, and intercultural

communication have intensified the exchange of culinary concepts among different societies. Consequently, the translation of gastronomic vocabulary has become an important field within translation studies and linguistic research.

English currently functions as one of the dominant languages in global culinary communication. A vast number of English gastronomic terms are actively used in restaurant menus, cookbooks, television cooking programs, online food platforms, advertisements, and culinary blogs. However, translating such terms into Uzbek often creates serious difficulties because many English culinary concepts are deeply rooted in foreign cultural traditions and may be unfamiliar to Uzbek-speaking audiences. Certain ingredients, dishes, cooking



techniques, and dining practices existing in English-speaking countries do not possess direct analogues in Uzbek gastronomic culture.

Eugene Nida states that translation should be viewed not merely as the substitution of words from one language into another but as the transfer of meaning, culture, and communicative effect.¹ This approach is particularly significant in gastronomic translation because culinary terminology frequently carries strong cultural associations. Peter Newmark similarly argues that culture-specific lexical units create major difficulties for translators due to the absence of direct semantic equivalents in the target language.²

Materials and Methods

The current study applies linguistic, comparative, cultural, and translational methods in order to examine the difficulties involved in translating gastronomic terms from English into Uzbek. The research mainly focuses on culinary vocabulary found in authentic English-language gastronomic materials such as restaurant menus, culinary magazines, cookbooks, television cooking shows, food blogs, advertisements, and digital culinary platforms.

In addition to primary culinary sources, the study relies on scholarly literature connected with translation studies, terminology theory, intercultural communication, and linguistic analysis. The theoretical foundation of the research is based on the works of well-known scholars including Eugene Nida, Peter Newmark, Mona Baker, and Lawrence Venuti, whose theories regarding equivalence, domestication, foreignization, and cultural adaptation provide important perspectives for the study of gastronomic translation.

The comparative approach used in the research involves examining English gastronomic terms alongside their Uzbek translations in order to identify semantic, lexical, cultural, and pragmatic distinctions between the two languages. Particular attention is given to translation methods such as borrowing, transliteration, descriptive translation, semantic adaptation, and cultural substitution. The study also

analyzes situations where English culinary concepts lack direct Uzbek equivalents because of differences in national cuisine, religious traditions, and cultural attitudes toward food.


Furthermore, the research investigates the influence of globalization and intercultural communication on the formation and expansion of Uzbek gastronomic terminology. Through the comparison of English and Uzbek culinary discourse, the study seeks to reveal universal tendencies and culturally specific characteristics in the translation of gastronomic vocabulary. Such an approach contributes to a deeper understanding of the interaction between language, culture, and gastronomy in the process of translation.

Results and Discussion

Gastronomic translation belongs to the sphere of specialized translation because it requires not only linguistic competence but also familiarity with culinary culture, food

¹ Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a Science of Translating*. Leiden: Brill. –pp: 27.

² Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. London: Prentice Hall. –pp: 19.



traditions, and intercultural communication. Translation theories developed within modern translation studies offer valuable frameworks for understanding the challenges associated with gastronomic terminology.

Equivalence in translation may appear at lexical, grammatical, semantic, pragmatic, and textual levels. Nevertheless, gastronomic vocabulary often creates translation difficulties because direct lexical equivalence between English and Uzbek is frequently absent. For example, the English term “pudding” cannot always be translated directly into Uzbek because its meaning differs depending on British and American culinary traditions. In British English, pudding may refer to desserts as well as savory dishes, whereas Uzbek cuisine lacks a fully equivalent concept. Therefore, translators often resort to descriptive explanation. In gastronomic translation, domestication refers to adapting foreign culinary concepts to Uzbek cultural understanding, whereas foreignization preserves the original foreign identity of the term.

For example: “Hamburger” → gamburger (foreignization through transliteration);
“Mashed potatoes” → kartoshka pyuresi (adaptation/domestication).

The communicative purpose of the translation strongly influences the choice of translation strategy. In restaurant menus, tourism texts, and culinary advertising, translators frequently prioritize readability, attractiveness, and cultural accessibility instead of strict literal translation.


One of the most widespread problems in gastronomic translation is lexical non-equivalence. Numerous English gastronomic terms do not possess direct Uzbek counterparts because the culinary concepts themselves may not exist within Uzbek culture. Additionally, many gastronomic terms are polysemantic and may express different meanings depending on context.

For instance: “Dressing” may refer to: a) salad sauce; b) stuffing; c) decorative food topping. Similarly: “Course” in gastronomic discourse signifies a stage of a meal rather than an academic subject. Without adequate cultural and contextual knowledge, translators may produce incorrect or misleading translations. Ingredient terminology also presents considerable difficulties because certain products commonly used in English-speaking countries are not naturally available in Uzbekistan. Examples include: asparagus, zucchini, cranberry, maple syrup, avocado. In such situations, translators may:

1. transliterate the term,
2. use descriptive explanations,
3. or apply scientific naming.

For example: “Maple syrup” → zarang daraxti siropi; “Avocado” → avokado mevasi.

Globalization has significantly transformed modern culinary communication. International restaurants, tourism industries, television programs, YouTube cooking channels, and social media platforms have actively introduced foreign gastronomic vocabulary into Uzbek linguistic practice. Today, urban Uzbek speakers widely use terms such as latte, cappuccino, burger, nuggets, and croissant. This phenomenon demonstrates



linguistic borrowing and intercultural interaction. However, it also creates difficulties connected with terminology standardization and the preservation of linguistic identity. Modern terminology studies indicate that globalization accelerates lexical enrichment while simultaneously increasing the necessity for systematic terminology regulation.

Conclusion

The translation of gastronomic terminology from English into Uzbek is a complex linguistic and cultural process that requires not only language proficiency but also strong intercultural competence. Culinary vocabulary reflects national traditions, cultural identity, historical development, and social values. Therefore, literal translation alone cannot fully convey the semantic and cultural meaning of gastronomic expressions. The research demonstrates that the primary challenges in gastronomic translation include lexical non-equivalence, semantic ambiguity, culture-specific references, ingredient translation difficulties, and pragmatic sensitivity associated with religious and social traditions. Translators must carefully select appropriate methods such as transliteration, borrowing, descriptive translation, domestication, and cultural adaptation in order to preserve both semantic meaning and cultural relevance. Modern globalization has significantly expanded the use of English gastronomic terminology in Uzbek communication. Although this process enriches the Uzbek lexical system, it also increases the need for terminology standardization and professional translation practices.

Ultimately, successful gastronomic translation requires the integration of linguistic knowledge, cultural awareness, translation competence, and culinary understanding. Future research may further explore comparative gastronomic terminology, semantic transformation in culinary discourse, and the influence of digital communication on the development of gastronomic language.

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