

DIFFICULTIES IN GRAMMATICAL TRANSLATION
FROM UZBEK TO ENGLISH

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Abstract

Exploring the grammatical challenges of translating from Uzbek to English delves into the intricate structures and nuances embedded within both languages. One of the primary challenges lies in the complexity of verb conjugation in Uzbek, where verbs undergo extensive changes to convey information about tense, aspect, mood, person, and number. This agglutinative nature of Uzbek verbs, with suffixes adding layers of meaning within the verb itself, contrasts with the more analytical approach of English verbs, often requiring auxiliary verbs and additional words to express similar nuances. Furthermore, the noun case system in Uzbek adds another layer of complexity. Uzbek employs a range of noun cases to denote grammatical functions such as subjects, objects, possession, and relationships, each marked by specific suffixes. Translating these nuanced case distinctions into English, which primarily relies on word order and prepositions for grammatical clarity, requires careful consideration and often leads to structural adjustments in sentence construction. Additionally, the use of postpositions in Uzbek, where modifying words come after the noun, differs from the prepositional system in English. This difference in positioning can impact sentence flow, word order, and the overall rhythm of the translated text, necessitating creative solutions to convey the intended meaning accurately.

Key words: conjugation, possessive case, pronoun, tense, mood, verb, case system, coherence, clarity, translator

The process of translating from Uzbek to English involves navigating a rich tapestry of grammatical intricacies that shape the structure and meaning of the text. In this exploration, we delve into the challenges encountered in grammatical translation from Uzbek to English, focusing on three key areas: verb conjugation, noun case systems, and the use of postpositions versus prepositions. These aspects highlight the complexity and artistry required in linguistic adaptation, emphasizing the critical role of skilled translators in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps to convey the essence of Uzbek literature accurately in English.

VERB CONJUGATION COMPLEXITY:

Uzbek verbs undergo extensive changes to indicate various grammatical elements such as tense, aspect, mood, person, and number. This is achieved through a system of suffixes that attach to the verb root, resulting in highly nuanced verb forms. For example, the verb "kel-" (to come) in Uzbek can take on multiple forms such as "kelgan" (came), "kelishmoqda" (is coming), "kelardim" (I came), "keladilar" (they will come), and so on, each conveying different grammatical nuances.

Translating these complex verb forms into English requires careful consideration. English typically relies on auxiliary verbs (like "have," "be," and "will") along with verb conjugations to express similar meanings. However, the challenge lies in finding the right combination of auxiliary verbs and verb forms in English to accurately convey the intended tense, aspect, and mood expressed in the Uzbek verb.

Additionally, Uzbek verbs often include subject and object information within the verb itself, eliminating the need for separate pronouns or noun phrases. For instance, the verb "ko'rgandim" (I saw) in Uzbek includes both the subject ("I") and the object ("saw") within the verb form. In English, these elements are typically separate, requiring translators to ensure clarity and coherence in sentence structure when conveying such information.

Furthermore, aspectual distinctions, such as perfective and imperfective aspects in Uzbek verbs, may not have direct equivalents in English. Translators must navigate these nuances to capture the intended meaning accurately, sometimes resorting to paraphrasing or using context cues to convey the appropriate aspectual information in English sentences.

NOUN CASE SYSTEM:

Uzbek employs a robust system of noun cases to indicate the grammatical function of nouns within a sentence. These cases include the nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, locative, ablative, instrumental, and vocative cases, each serving distinct grammatical purposes.

- Subject and Object Marking: One of the primary functions of noun cases is to mark the subject and object of a sentence. The nominative case is used for the subject, while the accusative case marks the direct object. For example, in the sentence "Men kitobni o'qiman" (I read the book), "men" (I) is in the nominative case, and "kitobni" (the book) is in the accusative case.

- Possession and Relationship: The genitive case indicates possession or relationships between nouns. It is used to show ownership or association. For instance, "Ulug'bekning kitobi" means "Ulug'bek's book," where "Ulug'bekning" is in the genitive case.

- Location and Direction: Other cases such as the locative, ablative, and dative cases convey information about location, direction, and movement. For instance, "toshkentda" (in Tashkent) uses the locative case to indicate location, while

"toshkentdan" (from Tashkent) uses the ablative case to show movement away from a place.

Translating these noun cases into English presents several challenges. Unlike Uzbek, English relies more on word order and prepositions to convey similar grammatical relationships. For example, instead of using noun cases to indicate possession, English uses the 's or of construction (e.g., "Ulug'bek's book" or "the book of Ulug'bek"). Additionally, the absence of distinct case endings in English nouns means that translators must use word order and prepositions strategically to convey the same grammatical nuances found in Uzbek. This can lead to variations in sentence structure and phrasing to ensure accuracy in conveying the intended meaning. Moreover, certain Uzbek cases may not have direct equivalents in English, requiring translators to employ creative solutions such as using contextual clues or paraphrasing to capture the nuances of Uzbek noun cases in the translated text.

POSTPOSITIONS VS. PREPOSITIONS:

Uzbek utilizes postpositions, which are modifying words that come after the noun, to indicate various grammatical relationships. These postpositions play a crucial role in specifying location, time, direction, possession, and other relationships within a sentence.

- Location and Direction: Postpositions in Uzbek are commonly used to express location and direction. For example, "Toshkentda" (in Tashkent) and "Toshkentdan" (from Tashkent) both utilize the postposition "-da/-ta" to convey spatial relationships.

- Possession and Relationship: Postpositions also indicate possession and relationships between nouns. For instance, "O'zbekistonning poytaxti" (the capital of Uzbekistan) uses the postposition "-ning" to denote possession or association.

Translating postpositions from Uzbek to English poses challenges because English predominantly uses prepositions (words that come before the noun) to convey similar grammatical relationships. For example, "in Tashkent" and "from Tashkent" in English use the prepositions "in" and "from," respectively.

The difference in positioning between postpositions in Uzbek and prepositions in English can lead to changes in sentence structure and word order during translation. Translators must carefully rearrange words and phrases to maintain the intended meaning and grammatical accuracy in the target language.

Moreover, certain postpositions in Uzbek may not have direct equivalents in English, requiring translators to use context, surrounding words, or alternative phrasing to convey the same relationships. This can sometimes result in slightly different nuances or interpretations in the translated text. Additionally, the use of postpositions in Uzbek contributes to the language's flow and rhythm, which may be challenging to replicate in English due to differences in syntax and sentence structure.

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