

ANNOTATION
of a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
in the educational program
“8D02302 - Translation Studies (Western languages)”
“The Preservation of the national character in Russian and English
translations of Dulat Issabekov’s works” by
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Relevance of the topic. This dissertation examines the issues of preserving national colour in the translations of D. Issabekov’s works into the Russian and English languages. Linguistic units with a national-cultural component in literary texts, when translated, give rise to linguistic and cultural asymmetry, which requires the translator to possess profound knowledge and research skills. Therefore, the rendering of linguistic units inherent to one people into the language and culture of another remains one of the most relevant issues in contemporary translation studies worldwide.

If the spiritual and material culture of each nation is reflected in its literature, then literary translation plays a crucial role in introducing people to one another. However, when translations into English are made not directly from Kazakh but through the mediation of Russian, lexical-semantic and stylistic distortions often arise, resulting in the loss of authenticity in the national originality of the Kazakh people. In this regard, the dissertation identifies the degree of preservation of national colour in the translations of D. Issabekov’s works, analyzes translation difficulties, and based on the author’s own translation offers recommendations for translation practice. To date, the translated texts of the writer’s works have not been the subject of comprehensive research.

The significance of the triad “language – culture – translation” is clearly reflected in state programs such as “Rukhani Zhangyru”, “Mangilik El”, as well as in the project “100 Books.” Government initiatives such as translating Kazakhstan’s literary heritage into world languages and translating 100 books of world classics into Kazakh have given new impetus to the development of domestic translation studies.

Object of the study: national-specific vocabulary realia – phraseological units, proverbs and sayings in D. Issabekov’s works “Süyekshi”, “Gauhartas”, “Biz sogysty körgen joqpız”, “Kablan”, and “Dermene”, and their Russian and English translations.

Subject of the study: level of preserving the national character and colour of the original in the translated text.

The purpose of the study is to reveal level of preserving the national character in the Russian and English translations of Dulat Issabekov's works.

To achieve this goal, the following objectives were set:

- to establish the theoretical and methodological foundation of the research by analyzing relevant domestic and foreign academic sources;
- to conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis of national-specific vocabulary in the works of D. Issabekov;

- to select, systematize and interpret linguistic elements reflecting the national character of D. Issabekov's works;
- to conduct comparative-contrastive, lexical-semantic, structural-semantic analysis of translations of the selected nationally coloured vocabulary into the Russian and English languages in the original/translation pair;
- to classify and systematize the methods and strategies for translating nationally coloured vocabulary that poses translation difficulties;
- to recommend the most effective ways to preserve the national specificity and national flavor of the language in literary translation.

Research methods. The following methods were used to analyze the issues of rendering cultural vocabulary in translation: methods of collecting and systematizing information to analyze contemporary theories addressing these issues; methods of fixation, classification, and interpretation of linguistic elements reflecting national colour in D. Isabekov's works to select research cases; comparative-contrastive, lexical-semantic, and structural analysis to assess the preservation of national-specific vocabulary in translation; and quantitative and qualitative methods to summarize and formulate the research results.

Theoretical and methodological foundations.

The dissertation is based on the works of W. von Humboldt, E. Sapir, B. Whorf, M. Heidegger, A.A. Potebnya and other scholars who explored the interconnection between language and culture and laid the foundations of this field.

In analyzing national-specific vocabulary and translation strategies, theoretical insights from prominent foreign scholars in translation studies were used, including J. Mounin, E. Nida, P. Newmark, L. Venuti, K. Schäffner & U. Wiesemann, K. Nord, M. Baker, J. Catford, M. Cronin, S. Bassnett, J.-P. Vinay & J. Darbelnet.

From the Russian linguistic tradition, the works of L.N. Sobolev, G.D. Tomakhin, V.G. Kostomarov, V.N. Komissarov and others were analyzed. Views of Bulgarian scholars S. Vlahov and S. Florin on the translation of cultural vocabulary were also considered.

Within the framework of the linguoculturological approach, the research of V.A. Maslova, V.N. Teliya, A. Wierzbicka, as well as the works of domestic scholars such as A.T. Kaidar, E.N. Zhanpeisov, R. Syzdyk, Z.K. Akhmetzhanova, Z.K. Sabitova, and others, have been utilized.

The theoretical works of A.M. Aldasheva, Zh.A. Mankeyeva, S.A. Ashimkhanova, Zh. Dadebayev, A.Zh. Zhaksylykova, T.U. Yesembekov, A.S. Tarakov, and others played a significant role in Kazakhstani scientific discourse. Additionally, the dissertation widely incorporates theoretical findings from doctoral and candidate dissertations written during the post-independence period, focused on Dulat Issabekov's literary works and linguistic persona.

This dissertation also draws on the substantive and theoretical findings of doctoral and candidate dissertations defended in the post-Soviet period on the literary work and linguistic personality of writer D. Isabekov.

Research sources and materials. Authors of the translations used: the novella "Süyekshi" was translated into Russian as "Молчун" by V. Berdennikov,

and into English as “The Silent Shadow” (2014) by Katerina Yudelso. “Gauhartas” was translated into Russian under the title “Тайхат тас” by L. Kosmukhamedova and V. Berdennikov, and into English under the title “The Little Pearl” (2014) by Katerina Yudelso. “Biz sogysty korigen joqpız” was translated into Russian under the title “Вы не знали войны” by V. Ostrogorsky, and into English under the title “We Never Knew the War” (2014) by K. Yudelso. “Kablan” was translated into Russian under the title “Каблан” by V. Karpenko, and into English under the title “Kablan” (2014) by K. Yudelso. “Dermené” was translated into Russian under the title “Полынь” by V. Berdennikov. According to an interview given by Dulat Issabekov on May 25, 2023, he personally participated in the translation work of V. Berdennikov and V. Ostrogorsky.

A total of 973 language units with national specificity were selected for this dissertation. Their frequency of contextual use amounts to 1578. These include: realia – 603, phraseological units – 359, proverbs and sayings – 11. Breakdown by literary work: in the novella “Süyekshi”, the number of selected lexical units is 288, with a contextual frequency of 423; in “Gauhartas” – 174 units, frequency – 285; in “Biz sogysty korigen joqpız” – 136 units, frequency – 288; in the short story “Kablan” – 88 units, frequency – 133; in the novel “Dermene” – 287 units, frequency – 509.

Research novelty:

- for the first time, the preservation of national colour in Russian and English translations of D. Isabekov's works: “Suyekshi”, “Gaukhartas”, “Dermene”, “Biz sogysty korigen zhokpyz”, “Kablan” is examined as the object of a comprehensive scientific study;

- for the first time, the linguistic expression of national colour in Russian and English translations of D. Isabekov's works is defined, and national-specific vocabulary is identified and classified;

- for the first time, within the framework of this study, a personal interview was conducted with the writer D. Issabekov, who participated in the translation of his own works, during which the difficulties of translation and the author's vision of interpretation were discussed;

- for the first time, the author's literary translation of the story "Dermene" is presented directly into English, for which a copyright document has been officially issued with the writer's consent.

Proposals submitted for defense.

1. Literary texts of D. Isabekov are of significant interest to translation studies due to the abundance of vocabulary with a national colour. From plant names to traditional units of measurement his works reflect the spiritual and material culture of the Kazakh people. The use of archaic vocabulary, according to the writer, is intentional, aimed at preserving linguistic heritage for future generations, which, in turn, creates certain difficulties in literary translation.

2. The author often uses dialectal words related to everyday life that may be unfamiliar to general readers. Translating such elements poses challenges for translators and requires consulting specialized dictionaries. As a result, omission has

become the most frequently used translation technique across all five analyzed stories.

2. The frequent use of dialectal words related to everyday life and culture, unfamiliar to the recipient of the translation, poses misunderstandings between representatives of different cultures. This asymmetry (lexical, grammatical, and stylistic) poses challenges for translators and requires consulting specialized dictionaries. Therefore, the method of omission (omission) was most frequently used in the translation of all five works. Particularly, in “Tayhap rac” entire sentences and paragraphs are omitted or substituted with the translator’s interpretations.

3. The strategy of domestication of national vocabulary predominates in translating the writer's works into the Russian and English languages. The average arithmetic level of domestication in Russian is 87.8%, while in English it is 94.75%. Thus, the level of preservation of national character — foreignization — is 12.2% in Russian, and 5.25% in English. In Russian, this figure is 7.25% higher. Overall, domestication, i.e. the adaptation of cultural information, predominates in translations into both languages.

4. The domestication strategy employed by translators in some cases led to the loss of some national specificity. This should not be viewed as an unambiguously negative phenomenon, as they sought to convey the content of the original as accurately as possible through various transformations. At the same time, cases of omission and semantic distortions were recorded, affecting the adequacy of the translation. When rendering the names of material culture, translators more often resorted to functional analogues, functional equivalents, and transcription, whereas for the designation of elements of spiritual culture, the techniques of explanation, descriptive translation, and explication were predominantly used. This is due to the impossibility of replacing profound conceptual notions with a single word or a set expression.

5. In the five works of D. Isabekov, the most frequently used linguistic units are phraseological expressions (359 instances: “Süyekshi” – 140, “Gaukhartas” – 30, “Biz sogysty körgen joqpız” – 49, “Qablan” – 31, “Dermene” – 61), which impart special expressiveness and imagery to the text. However, in both translation, the techniques of omission and descriptive translation were predominantly applied, whereas complete or partial equivalents were rare, which is due to the inherent integrity and metaphorical nature of phraseological units. The least frequently used units were proverbs and sayings (11 instances), most of which underwent domestication through partial equivalence, adaptation, and compensation; only in the story “Qablan” was a high level of foreignization observed. Overall, the rendering of phraseological and paremiological units while preserving national specificity presents a significant challenge for translators.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study. The results and conclusions of the study allow us to systematize the common difficulties encountered when translating nationally specific vocabulary from Kazakh into Russian and English and will further contribute to the development of specific and specialized translation theory and practice.

The materials and findings of the comparative analysis can serve as a source for courses such as “Practice of Literary Translation””, Translation and Intercultural Communication”, and “Theory of Translation” at all levels of translator training (Bachelor’s, Master’s, Doctoral programs). They can also serve as a valuable resource for professional translators working on Russian and English translations of D. Issabekov’s works.

Publication and approval of the study. The main scientific results and conclusions of the dissertation were published in national and international journals and presented at international scientific-theoretical and practical conferences. A total of 8 scientific articles were published: 1 - in a Scopus-indexed journal, 4 - at international conferences, 3 - in journals included in the list of the Science and Quality Assurance Committee in the Sphere of Education and Science of the MSE of Kazakhstan.

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, definitions, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references, and appendices.