



Gulsum DUSMAMADOVA,
Assistant Teacher at the Uzbek-Finnish Pedagogical Institute
E-mail: gulidusmamadova@mail.ru
Malikabonu ABDULLOYEVA,
Assistant Teacher at the Uzbek-Finnish Pedagogical Institute

Reviewer: Oriental University, department of west languages, senior teacher, Rasulova Munajat Akmaljanovna

THE PECULIARITIES OF TRANSLATING YOUTH SLANG FROM ENGLISH INTO UZBEK: CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Annotation

In an increasingly globalized world, the translation of youth slang presents a fascinating yet challenging task for linguists and translators. This article delves into the peculiarities of translating youth slang from English into Uzbek, highlighting the complexities, cultural nuances, and considerations involved in this process.

Key words: Slang, cultural context, societal norms, socio-cultural factors, contextual sensitivity, creative adaptation, media and technology.

YOSHLAR SLENGINI INGLIZ TILIDAN O‘ZBEK TILIGA TARJIMA QILISHNING O‘ZIGA XOS XUSUSIYATLARI: MUAMMOLAR VA E‘TIBORLI JIHATLARI

Аннотация

Borgan sari globallashib borayotgan dunyoda yoshlar slenglarini tarjima qilish tilshunoslar va tarjimonlar uchun qiziqarli, ammo qiyin vazifadir. Ushbu maqolada yoshlar slengini ingliz tilidan o‘zbek tiliga tarjima qilishning o‘ziga xos jihatlari ko‘rib chiqiladi, bu jarayondagi murakkabliklar, madaniy farqlar va mulohazalar yoritiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Slang, madaniy kontekst, ijtimoiy me‘yorlar, ijtimoiy-madaniy omillar, kontekstual sezgirlik, ijodiy moslashuv, media va texnologiya.

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ПЕРЕВОДА МОЛОДЕЖНОГО СЛЕНГА С АНГЛИЙСКОГО НА УЗБЕКСКИЙ: ПРОБЛЕМЫ И СООБРАЖЕНИЯ

Аннотация

В условиях все более глобализованного мира перевод молодежного сленга представляет собой увлекательную, но непростую задачу для лингвистов и переводчиков. В данной статье рассматриваются особенности перевода молодёжного сленга с английского на узбекский язык, освещаются сложности, культурные нюансы и особенности этого процесса.

Ключевые слова: сленг, культурный контекст, социальные нормы, социокультурные факторы, контекстуальная чувствительность, творческая адаптация, медиа и технологии.

Introduction. Slang refers to informal words, phrases, or expressions that are commonly used in everyday language, often specific to particular groups or subcultures. It can vary by region, age group, or social setting, and it's often used to convey a casual or informal tone. Slang terms may come and go over time, reflecting changes in culture and society. In Collins Dictionary, slang is defined as “words, expressions, and meanings that are informal and are used by people who know each other very well or who have the same interests.” Haviland Ferguson and Reeves, in the journal “American Speech” (1926), define slang as “the changing vocabulary of conversation; it comes into sudden vogue, has a meaning, usually figurative, which is known by a particular set or class and which constitutes a sort of shibboleth during the brief period of its popularity, and then dies in the obscure corners of forgotten words and unabridged dictionaries, or passes into the legitimate speech.”

Literature review. The dynamic nature of slang makes it a fascinating aspect of language evolution. It often originates from various sources, including pop culture, music, technology, and social media. For instance, words like “selfie”, “ghosting” and “lit” have found their way into everyday conversation, originating from specific social contexts and eventually gaining widespread use. Slang can also serve as a linguistic marker of identity, allowing individuals to signal their membership in a particular group or subculture. I.R.Galperin, the author of numerous works in this area, contests the idea that slang is a stable linguistic phenomenon. According to him, it is essential to carefully examine the words in “slang” and distinguish them from jargon, dialect, professionalism, and commonly used words if the term

“slang” serves as an independent category in linguistics [2, 107–114].

Moreover, the use of slang can enhance communication by adding layers of meaning and nuance that might not be present in formal language. It can convey humor, irony, or solidarity among speakers. However, slang's informal nature can also lead to misunderstandings, especially among people from different backgrounds or generations.

Linguists study slang to understand how language reflects and influences social dynamics. They analyze how slang terms spread, change, and either fade away or become integrated into standard language. This process of linguistic change underscores the fluid and adaptive nature of human communication.

In academic contexts, the study of slang provides insights into cultural trends and societal values. It reveals how language adapts to new realities and how speakers use creativity to express contemporary experiences. Thus, slang is not merely a collection of casual words but a rich field of study that illuminates the ever-evolving landscape of human interaction.

Difficulties in translation and things to consider.

Slang translation demands not only linguistic proficiency but also a profound understanding of cultural nuances and the ability to adapt creatively, ensuring effective communication across diverse linguistic landscapes. Translating slang presents formidable challenges due to its cultural specificity, nuanced meanings, and dynamic evolution, necessitating translators' adept navigation of linguistic and cultural gaps. Moreover, slang's contextual sensitivity requires translators to creatively adapt expressions to resonate authentically with the target audience

while staying attuned to evolving trends and influences, particularly those propagated by media and technology.

Translating slang words between languages can be challenging because slang is often culturally specific and deeply rooted in the context of a particular language or community. Slang words can have multiple meanings, nuances, and connotations that may not directly translate into another language. Additionally, slang evolves rapidly, making it even harder to keep up with its current usage and nuances across different languages. Cultural differences and historical contexts also play a significant role in understanding slang, making it difficult to find equivalent expressions in another language. According to Karl Sornig (1981), "Slang terms present almost insurmountable difficulties for the translator. This is mainly due to their emotive charging."

Discussion. The task of translating slang is further complicated by the need to preserve the informal, often playful tone of the original text. Translators must be inventive, often creating new expressions that capture the spirit and meaning of the original slang. This process involves not only finding linguistic equivalents but also considering the social and cultural connotations associated with the slang. For instance, a slang term used by teenagers in one culture may need a completely different expression to convey the same idea to teenagers in another culture.

Moreover, the rapid pace of slang evolution means that what is trendy and relevant today might be obsolete tomorrow. Translators must stay abreast of these changes to ensure their translations remain current and relatable. This is particularly challenging in the age of the internet, where slang can spread globally within hours, influenced by memes, viral videos, and social media trends.

In addition to linguistic challenges, translators must navigate ethical considerations. They need to be aware of the potential for slang to include offensive or inappropriate content, which may not have direct equivalents in another language. Finding a balance between staying true to the original and making the translated content suitable for the target audience is a delicate task.

The complexities of translating slang underscore the importance of cultural competence in translation work. Translators must have a deep understanding of both source and target cultures to effectively bridge the gap between them. This cultural insight, combined with linguistic skills, enables translators to capture the essence of slang, making it accessible and meaningful across different languages and cultural contexts.

Linguistic and Cultural Differences:

Translating youth slang involves navigating linguistic and cultural gaps between English and Uzbek. Slang is deeply rooted in cultural contexts, reflecting the values, experiences, and identities of a particular group or community. As such, translating English youth slang into Uzbek requires an understanding of Uzbek youth culture, societal norms, and language usage patterns.

For example:

Slang Word: "Dude"

"Hey dude, what's up?"(4)

Uzbek Translation: "Salom oshna, ishlar qalay?"

"Dude" in English is a casual term for addressing a friend or acquaintance. The Uzbek equivalent "oshna" is less commonly used and might sound slightly more informal.

Successfully translating slang also involves recognizing the social dynamics and hierarchical relationships within the target culture. In Uzbek society, terms of address can vary significantly based on the relationship between the speakers, their relative ages, and social statuses. Thus, translators must choose terms that not only convey the casual tone of the original slang but also respect the cultural context of the target language.

Furthermore, the dynamic nature of youth slang means that terms frequently change and evolve. A term that is popular among English-speaking youth today may be outdated tomorrow, and the same applies to Uzbek slang. This necessitates that translators stay updated with current trends in both cultures to ensure the translations remain relevant and resonate with the target audience.

Additionally, the influence of media and technology on slang cannot be underestimated. English youth slang is often shaped by popular culture, including movies, music, and social media. Similarly, Uzbek youth are influenced by both local and global media, which introduces new slang terms and modifies existing ones. Translators must be aware of these influences to accurately capture the essence of the slang in translation.

Another layer of complexity arises from the emotional and expressive nuances of slang. Slang often carries connotations and subtext that extend beyond its literal meaning, including humor, irony, and solidarity. Translating these elements requires a deep cultural insight and creative linguistic skills to ensure the translated slang conveys the same emotional impact as the original.

Finally, the regional variations within both English and Uzbek can affect the translation of slang. English slang used in the United States may differ from that in the United Kingdom, and similarly, slang in Tashkent may differ from that in Samarkand. Recognizing these regional differences is crucial for translators to provide accurate and culturally appropriate translations.

In summary, translating youth slang between English and Uzbek is a complex task that requires more than just linguistic proficiency. It demands a nuanced understanding of both cultures, an awareness of current trends, and the ability to creatively adapt expressions to maintain their original tone and meaning.

Dynamic and Evolving Nature of Slang: Slang is dynamic and constantly evolving, shaped by socio-cultural factors, technological advancements, and global influences. What may be trendy and relevant in English youth culture today may not have an equivalent counterpart in Uzbek youth culture. Translators must stay updated on the latest slang trends and language innovations among Uzbek youth to accurately capture the essence of English youth slang in translation. One example of a dynamic and evolving slang nature is "lit". Initially, "lit" meant intoxicated or drunk, but over time, it evolved to describe something exciting, excellent, or impressive. This shift in meaning reflects how language constantly changes to adapt to new contexts and generations.

Contextual Sensitivity: Slang is highly context-dependent, often carrying layered meanings and connotations that may not be readily apparent to outsiders. Translators must be sensitive to the cultural nuances and social dynamics embedded within English youth slang and find culturally appropriate equivalents in Uzbek. This requires a deep understanding of the socio-cultural context in both languages and the ability to adapt slang expressions to resonate with Uzbek youth. Let's consider the English slang word "cool" which can be translated into Uzbek as "zo'r". However, it's important to note that the contextual sensitivity may vary. In some situations, "zo'r" perfectly captures the meaning of "cool", but in others, different Uzbek slang words might be more appropriate depending on the context and the nuances of the conversation.

"-So how was the concert? -It was cool!" (4)- "-Konsert qanday bo'ldi? -Zo'r(ajoyib) bo'ldi"

"Can you come at 10.30 tomorrow? That's cool."(4) - "Ertaga soat 10:30 da kelolasanmi? -Juda yaxshi(yaxshi,albatta)"

Creative Adaptation: Translating youth slang is not a straightforward word-for-word process but rather a creative adaptation that involves capturing the underlying meaning, tone, and attitude conveyed by the slang expressions. Translators may need to employ creative strategies such as paraphrasing, using culturally relevant metaphors or idiomatic expressions, and inventing new slang terms to convey the intended message effectively in Uzbek. Let's take the English slang word "ROFL" which means "rolling on the floor laughing". In Uzbek, a simple translation could be "(kulgidan) dumalamoq", and a creatively adopted translation could be "roflit" which incorporates the English word into Russian phonetics and adds the Russian suffix "-ить" to make it a verb. This form of creative adoption allows for the incorporation of English slang into the Uzbek language while still maintaining a sense of familiarity and understanding among speakers.

Influence of Media and Technology: The proliferation of media platforms, social media, and digital communication has

significantly influenced the spread and adoption of youth slang across languages and cultures. English youth slang, in particular, is often disseminated through popular culture, music, movies, and online platforms, shaping the linguistic landscape of Uzbek youth. Translators need to be aware of these influences and incorporate them into their translations to ensure authenticity and relevance. Let's consider the English slang term "selfie" which refers to a photograph that one takes of oneself, typically with a smartphone. In Uzbek, the term "selfi" is widely used and has been adopted directly from English due to the influence of media and technology. This adoption reflects the global nature of social media platforms and the widespread usage of smartphones for photography. Another example influenced by media and technology is the English slang word "hater" commonly used in the context of social networking. In Uzbek, it can be translated as "heyter", which is a direct borrowing from English and is used to describe a person who strongly dislikes something or someone.

Conclusion. Translating youth slang from English into Uzbek is a complex and nuanced task, requiring a blend of linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, and creative adaptation. The informal and dynamic nature of slang means that translators must constantly stay updated on evolving language trends and cultural influences. Slang often carries context-specific meanings and connotations that are deeply rooted in the cultural and social fabric of its users, making direct translations inadequate.

Cultural sensitivity is crucial, as translators need to understand the values, experiences, and identities of both English

and Uzbek youth. This understanding enables them to find or create expressions that resonate authentically with the target audience. Additionally, the rapid evolution of slang, driven by socio-cultural factors and technological advancements, necessitates a commitment to continuous learning and adaptation.

The role of media and technology in the proliferation of slang adds another layer of complexity. Terms like "selfie" and "hater" have seamlessly integrated into Uzbek due to their widespread use in digital media. Translators must consider these influences to ensure their translations remain relevant and relatable.

In essence, successful translation of youth slang involves more than just linguistic proficiency; it requires a nuanced approach that captures the original tone, humor, and impact. By embracing these challenges, translators can enhance cross-cultural communication and enrich the linguistic landscape of Uzbek youth, fostering a deeper connection between diverse cultures. Translating youth slang from English into Uzbek presents a unique set of challenges due to linguistic, cultural, and contextual differences. It requires translators to navigate these complexities with sensitivity, creativity, and a deep understanding of both languages and cultures. By staying informed, culturally attuned, and creatively adaptive, translators can effectively bridge the gap between English youth slang and Uzbek youth culture, facilitating cross-cultural understanding and communication in an ever-evolving linguistic landscape.

REFERENCES

1. Collins English dictionary (2020) Available from: <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/slang>
2. Galperin I.R About the term "slang"/Linguistic Issues. –M:Academician of sciences- No. 6.1956. – P.107–114
3. Karl Sornig, Lexical Innovation. A Study of Slang, Colloquialisms and Casual Speech (Amsterdam: Benjamins, 1981), P. 81.
4. Reves, Haviland Ferguson, What Is Slang?: A Survey of Opinion, American Speech, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i219043> pp. 216-220
5. Wisdom English-Uzbek Dictionary (2021)