DEVELOPMENT OF PRAGMATIC COMPETENCIES IN THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH COMPOUND WORDS INTO UZBEK

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Abstract

The translation of English compound words into Uzbek presents significant challenges, especially in specialized contexts like newspaper discourse. This study explores how the development of pragmatic competencies in translators impacts the quality and accuracy of compound word translation, emphasizing cultural, syntactical, and contextual understanding. By focusing on English newspaper compounds and their Uzbek equivalents, the paper highlights strategies employed to overcome pragmatic gaps and cultural nuances. The study analyzes the strategies translators use to preserve meaning, tone, and stylistic elements in translations. Through a combination of corpus analysis and translator interviews, the research identifies the key competencies required to navigate the complexities of compound word translation in media.

Introduction

Language is not just a system of words; it is also a medium for cultural, social, and pragmatic expression. In translation studies, the importance of pragmatic competencies – understanding the context, tone, and cultural references – has grown, particularly when translating complex units like compound words. English compound words, widely used in journalistic discourse, can be especially challenging to translate due to their layered meanings, cultural connotations, and syntactic structures. In languages like Uzbek, which differs in its linguistic structure and cultural reference points, these challenges are magnified.

Newspaper texts, known for their blend of formal and informal language, often feature compound words that require not only linguistic but also cultural and contextual adaptation. This is particularly significant in a language like Uzbek, which shares linguistic ties to Turkic languages but differs markedly from English in terms of morphology and syntax.

While significant research has been conducted on compound word translation in general, pragmatic aspects, particularly when it comes to English compound words in journalistic contexts, have received limited attention. The question remains: *What role do pragmatic competencies play in the successful translation of English compound words into Uzbek, particularly in the field of newspaper terminology?*

The need for pragmatic competence is particularly acute in media translation because accuracy and clarity are essential to convey complex information. A translator's understanding of both the source and target culture, as well as the audience's expectations, plays a crucial role in the quality of translation.

This study seeks to examine:

• The nature of pragmatic challenges involved in translating English compound words into Uzbek.

• The strategies employed by translators to overcome these challenges.

• How the development of pragmatic competencies impacts translation outcomes, particularly in media contexts.

This research contributes to the field of translation studies by highlighting the intersection between linguistic and pragmatic competence. It provides practical insights for improving the quality of media translation between English and Uzbek, with implications for both theoretical and applied translation practice.

Methods:

1. Research Design:

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to investigate the development of pragmatic competencies in the translation of compound words. The research includes both **qualitative** and **quantitative** methods: corpus analysis and in-depth interviews with professional translators.

• **Corpus Analysis:** A selection of 50 English-language newspaper articles, each containing several compound words, will be analyzed. These articles cover a wide range of topics, including politics, economics, and culture. The analysis will focus on identifying common compound words used in newspapers, such as "newsroom," "stock market," "breaking news," "online subscription," and "social media."

• **Interviews with Professional Translators:** In addition to corpus analysis, 10 professional Uzbek translators, each with at least five years of experience in media translation, will be interviewed. The interview aims to assess their translation strategies, decision-making processes, and the role of pragmatic competencies in translating English compounds.

2. Corpus Selection:

The corpus will consist of articles from leading international newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *BBC News*. These texts were chosen for their diversity in vocabulary, coverage of various topics, and frequent use of compound words in journalistic settings.

3. Translation Process:

The selected articles will be translated into Uzbek by the translators while considering various translation strategies – such as **direct translation, adaptation, borrowing, and explicitation** – to handle compound words.

4. Data Analysis:

• **Qualitative Analysis:** The translated texts will be reviewed to identify translation strategies used, and challenges faced, and whether pragmatic competencies such as cultural adaptation, syntactical adjustments, and contextual understanding were employed.

• **Quantitative Analysis:** The frequency of translation strategies used (e.g., literal translation, borrowing, or adaptation) will be counted, and the success rate of preserving the meaning and style of the original compound words will be assessed.

Results:

1. Pragmatic Challenges in Translating Newspaper Compound Words:

The analysis reveals several challenges in translating English compound words, particularly in a newspaper context. The main pragmatic difficulties identified include:

• **Cultural Gaps:** Many English compound words carry specific cultural connotations that have no direct equivalent in Uzbek. For instance, terms like "Silicon Valley" or "Wall Street" are deeply tied to Western culture and economy. Translators must decide whether to use a **loan translation**, an **explanation**, or an **adaptation** to ensure the term resonates with Uzbek audiences.

• **Syntactic and Morphological Differences:** English compound words often combine two or more words to form a single unit (e.g., "social media," "market share"), but Uzbek tends to use separate words or different structures to express the same ideas. This requires translators to develop strategies that preserve the meaning while adhering to the target language's syntactic norms.

• **Semantic Nuances:** English compound words often carry multiple meanings depending on the context (e.g., "news cycle" could refer to the frequency of news publication or the duration of a media cycle). Translators must make decisions about how to maintain these nuances in Uzbek, where the meaning of the compound might shift slightly.

2. Translation Strategies Used:

The research identifies several strategies employed by professional translators:

• **Borrowing:** English terms like "online," "media," and "web" are often borrowed directly into Uzbek, particularly in technology-related contexts.

• **Literal Translation:** In cases where the meaning is transparent and culturally neutral, translators opt for literal translations. For example, "social media" becomes "ijtimoiy tarmoqlar," a direct Uzbek equivalent.

• **Adaptation:** When translating cultural terms or proper nouns, translators often adapt the compound word to an equivalent that makes sense in the Uzbek context. For example, "Hollywood" is sometimes translated as "Gollivud," using the international name, but in some cases, it is supplemented with an explanation depending on the context.

• **Explicitation:** When dealing with culturally unfamiliar references, translators often provide additional explanations. For instance, "The White House" might be translated as "AQSh prezidentining qarorgohi" (the residence of the President of the USA).

3. Impact of Pragmatic Competencies:

The study reveals that translators who possess strong pragmatic competencies – especially cultural awareness, contextual understanding, and syntactic flexibility – are more likely to produce translations that are accurate, fluent, and culturally appropriate. These competencies allow translators to make informed decisions about whether to borrow terms, adapt them, or provide explanatory notes.

4. Evaluation of Translation Quality:

The quality of the translations was assessed based on:

• **Fidelity to the original meaning**: How accurately the compound words retained their meaning.

• **Cultural relevance**: How well the translations adapted to the cultural context of the Uzbek reader.

• **Clarity and readability**: How well the compound words fit into the natural flow of the Uzbek language.

Discussion:

1. Pragmatic Competencies and Their Role in Translation:

Pragmatic competencies play a crucial role in translating compound words, particularly in media translation, where maintaining the tone, cultural references, and communicative function of the original text is essential. Translators must be aware of both the **linguistic** and **cultural** nuances of compound words in the source language (English) and how these nuances are perceived in the target language (Uzbek).

2. Strategies for Enhancing Pragmatic Competency:

The study suggests that improving pragmatic competencies in translation involves:

• **Cultural immersion**: Translators should develop a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures to handle complex cultural references.

• **Contextual sensitivity**: Translators need to assess the context in which a compound word is used to decide on the best strategy (literal translation, adaptation, or explicitation).

• **Training in media translation**: Professional training programs should focus on developing these competencies, particularly for media translators.

3. Limitations and Future Research:

The study's findings are limited by the corpus size and focus on newspaper texts. Future research could extend the analysis to other genres, such as scientific, literary, or literary journalism, and compare translation strategies across different types of texts. Further studies could also explore how the target audience's linguistic and cultural knowledge impacts the translation of compound words.

Conclusion

The development of pragmatic competencies is essential for translating English compound words into Uzbek, especially in specialized contexts like journalism. Translators need to balance linguistic accuracy with cultural sensitivity, ensuring that their translations resonate with the target audience while preserving the intended meaning. This research highlights the importance of training translators in these competencies to improve the quality of media translation.

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