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TRANSLATION TRANSFORMATIONS OF POLITICAL EUPHEMISMS IN AN UZBEK–ENGLISH PARALLEL CORPUS

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Abstract. *This article investigates the translation transformations of political euphemisms in an Uzbek – English parallel corpus from the perspective of linguistic theory, applied linguistics, and computational linguistics. The study aims to identify translation equivalents of political euphemistic units, determine the transformations applied in the target texts, and develop a corpus-annotation model for the analysis of semantic and pragmatic shifts. The methodology integrates corpus linguistics, contrastive analysis, contextual-semantic analysis, linguopragmatic interpretation, translation-transformation analysis, and KWIC that is concordance techniques. Each aligned segment is represented through the attributes euphemistic unit, translation equivalent, transformation type, pragmatic function, euphemization degree, and political domain. The analysis demonstrates the relevance of lexical substitution, modulation, explicitation, generalization, specification, paraphrase, calque, adaptation, and neutralization in the translation of political euphemisms. The proposed model distinguishes formal equivalence from functional-pragmatic equivalence and provides a basis for computational annotation and subsequent automatic classification of euphemistic translation patterns.*

Keywords: *political discourse, euphemism, parallel corpus, computational linguistics, translation transformation, linguopragmatics, KWIC, modulation, explicitation, functional equivalence, Uzbek, English.*

O‘ZBEKCHA-INGLIZCHA PARALLEL KORPUS MATERIALLARI ASOSIDA SIYOSIY EVFEMIZMLARNING TARJIMADAGI TRANSFORMATSIYALARI

Annotatsiya. *Mazkur maqolada siyosiy evfemizmlarning o‘zbek–ingliz parallel korpusidagi tarjima transformatsiyalari til nazariyasi, amaliy tilshunoslik va kompyuter lingvistikasi nuqtayi nazaridan tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi siyosiy evfemistik birliklarning tarjima ekvivalentlarini aniqlash, tarjima matnlarida qo‘llanilgan transformatsiya turlarini belgilash hamda semantik va pragmatik siljishlarni tahlil qilish uchun korpus annotatsiyasi modelini ishlab chiqishdan iborat. Tadqiqot metodologiyasi korpus lingvistikasi, qiyosiy tahlil, kontekstual-semantik tahlil, lingvopragmatik talqin, tarjima transformatsiyalari tahlili hamda kalit so‘z konteksti (KWIC), ya’ni konkordans usullarini o‘zida birlashtiradi. Parallel korpusdagi har bir moslashtirilgan segment evfemistik birlik, tarjima ekvivalenti, transformatsiya turi, pragmatik funksiya, evfemizatsiya darajasi va siyosiy soha kabi belgilar asosida tavsiflanadi. Tahlil natijalari siyosiy evfemizmlarni tarjima qilishda leksik almashtirish, modulyatsiya, ochiqlashtirish, umumlashtirish, aniqlashtirish, parafrazlash, kalka, moslashtirish va neytrallashtirish kabi transformatsiyalarning muhim o‘rin tutishini ko‘rsatadi. Taklif etilayotgan model shakliy ekvivalentlikni funksional-pragmatik ekvivalentlikdan farqlash imkonini beradi hamda evfemistik tarjima qoliplarini kompyuter yordamida annotatsiyalash va keyinchalik avtomatik tasniflash uchun asos yaratadi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *siyosiy diskurs, evfemizm, parallel korpus, kompyuter lingvistikasi, tarjima transformatsiyasi, lingvopragmatika, KWIC, konkordans, modulyatsiya, ochiqlashtirish, funksional ekvivalentlik, o‘zbek tili, ingliz tili.*

ТРАНСФОРМАЦИИ ПРИ ПЕРЕВОДЕ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИХ ЭВФЕМИЗМОВ В УЗБЕКСКО-АНГЛИЙСКОМ ПАРАЛЛЕЛЬНОМ КОРПУСЕ)

Аннотация. *В статье исследуются переводческие трансформации политических эвфемизмов в узбекско-английском параллельном корпусе с позиций теории языка, прикладной лингвистики и компьютерной лингвистики. Цель исследования заключается в выявлении переводных эквивалентов политических эвфемистических единиц, определении типов трансформаций, применяемых в текстах перевода, а также разработке модели корпусной аннотации для анализа семантических и*

прагматических сдвигов. Методология исследования объединяет методы корпусной лингвистики, сопоставительного анализа, контекстуально-семантического анализа, лингвопрагматической интерпретации, анализа переводческих трансформаций и методы KWIC, то есть конкордансного анализа. Каждый выровненный сегмент параллельного корпуса описывается по таким параметрам, как эвфемистическая единица, переводной эквивалент, тип трансформации, прагматическая функция, степень эвфемизации и политическая сфера. Результаты анализа показывают значимость таких трансформаций, как лексическая замена, модуляция, экспликация, генерализация, конкретизация, перифразирование, калькирование, адаптация и нейтрализация при переводе политических эвфемизмов. Предлагаемая модель позволяет разграничить формальную и функционально-прагматическую эквивалентность и создает основу для компьютерной аннотации и последующей автоматической классификации переводческих моделей политических эвфемизмов.

Ключевые слова: *политический дискурс, эвфемизм, параллельный корпус, компьютерная лингвистика, переводческие трансформации, лингвопрагматика, KWIC, конкорданс, модуляция, экспликация, функциональная эквивалентность, узбекский язык, английский язык.*

Introduction. Political discourse is a highly conventionalized communicative domain in which linguistic choices may perform not only referential but also evaluative, ideological, legitimizing, and persuasive functions. In discussions of war, military operations, economic hardship, unemployment, migration, social inequality, and politically sensitive actions, speakers frequently avoid direct naming and employ euphemistic expressions. Allan and Burridge define euphemisms as "alternatives to dispreferred expressions" [1, p. 11]. This formulation is particularly relevant to political discourse because the choice of a euphemistic alternative may reduce the perceived offensiveness or social cost of a proposition while preserving its referential content.

E. Crespo-Fernández argues that political euphemism can function as a discursive strategy for addressing delicate subjects without appearing insensitive and for managing the public presentation of controversial issues [2]. Thus, political euphemism should be approached not merely as lexical synonymy but as a context-dependent pragmatic phenomenon.

The translation of political euphemisms presents an additional problem. A translator may preserve the denotative meaning but weaken the euphemistic effect; alternatively, the translator may preserve the pragmatic softening but modify the lexical and syntactic form. Consequently, translation adequacy requires consideration of at least three dimensions: referential meaning, degree of euphemization, and pragmatic function.

The relevance of a corpus-based approach follows from the development of corpus linguistics in translation studies. Baker demonstrated that computerized corpora can reveal recurring patterns and tendencies in translated language and can therefore provide empirical evidence for translation research [3]. A parallel corpus is especially useful because source and target segments can be aligned and compared at the level of individual lexical and phraseological choices.

Research on English and Uzbek political euphemisms has already identified culturally and pragmatically significant euphemistic patterns [4; 5]. However, the systematic modelling of their translation transformations within an Uzbek–English parallel corpus, particularly with computational annotation in mind, remains insufficiently developed.

The aim of this study is to model the translation transformations of political euphemisms in an Uzbek–English parallel corpus and to establish a linguopragmatic and computational framework for their analysis.

The objectives are: (1) to establish criteria for identifying political euphemisms; (2) to identify aligned source–target segments; (3) to classify translation transformations; (4) to evaluate changes in euphemization degree; and (5) to propose a formal annotation scheme suitable for corpus-based and computational analysis.

The object of the study is English and Uzbek political discourse represented by parallel texts. The subject is the lexical, semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic transformations applied to political euphemisms in translation.

Materials and methods. The methodological design combines linguistic-pragmatic interpretation with corpus-based processing. The proposed corpus should contain aligned English and Uzbek political texts representing speeches by political leaders, governmental statements, diplomatic communication, international-organization documents, and political news reporting. The final quantitative results must be calculated from a verified corpus rather than estimated.

A political euphemism is identified through three operational criteria: (1) indirect or mitigated reference to a socially, politically, morally, or ideologically sensitive referent; (2) a function of mitigation,

avoidance, legitimization, concealment, or face management; and (3) contextual evidence that the expression performs a euphemistic rather than merely neutral nominative function.

For corpus processing, the aligned unit consists of a source-language segment containing a political euphemism and its target-language counterpart. KWIC and concordance searches are used to retrieve contextual occurrences, while frequency and collocation information can be used to identify recurring euphemistic patterns. The source and target segments should subsequently be manually verified.

The classification of translation procedures follows the comparative framework of Vinay and Darbelnet [6], complemented by contemporary approaches to functional equivalence and translation analysis [7]. The principal transformation categories used in this study are lexical substitution, modulation, explicitation, implicitation, generalization, specification, paraphrase, calque, adaptation, neutralization, and compensation.

The computational component requires each aligned pair to be encoded using a controlled annotation vocabulary. This makes the dataset suitable for frequency analysis and, at a later stage, for machine-learning or rule-based classification.

Table 1.

Corpus Annotation Model

Attribute	Code	Description	Example
Euphemistic unit	EU	Political euphemism in the source text	collateral damage
Translation equivalent	T	Corresponding target-language segment	tinch aholi talafotlari
Transformation	TR	Translation procedure	MOD+EXP
Pragmatic function	PF	Mitigation, legitimization, concealment, etc.	mitigation
Euphemization degree	ED	Maintained, reduced, intensified	reduced
Political domain	DOM	Military, economic, social, diplomatic, etc.	military

Results. The corpus-oriented analysis indicates that political euphemisms are best treated as units whose translation may involve semantic-pragmatic recoding rather than simple lexical substitution. The target expression may reproduce the referential content while changing the level of explicitness or the strength of the euphemistic effect.

A representative example is collateral damage. In military and political discourse, the expression can refer to unintended damage or casualties resulting from military action without directly foregrounding civilian deaths. The Uzbek rendering “tinch aholi talafotlari” makes the civilian referent more explicit and can therefore be classified as modulation combined with explicitation. The translation preserves the broad referential meaning but reduces the degree of abstraction.

The expression enhanced interrogation techniques provides another illustration. Its institutional and technical wording can function as a euphemistic formulation for coercive interrogation practices. A target-language rendering that retains an institutional formulation maintains the euphemistic effect, whereas an explicit rendering equivalent to “torture methods” reduces or removes it. The transformation should therefore be annotated not only according to lexical procedure but also according to euphemization degree.

Economically disadvantaged is a socially sensitive expression that may be translated through an Uzbek institutional or socially mitigated formulation such as “ijtimoiy himoyaga muhtoj” depending on context. A direct rendering equivalent to “poor” would retain the basic referent but could increase social bluntness. This demonstrates why pragmatic equivalence is necessary alongside semantic equivalence.

The political metaphor lame duck creates a further translation problem. It can be transferred through calque-like reproduction or rendered through an explanatory phrase such as “a politician whose political influence has declined.” The first option retains the metaphorical form, whereas the second increases explicitness. In corpus annotation, the distinction between CAL and PAR/EXP is therefore analytically useful.

These examples demonstrate that one source euphemism may correspond to more than one legitimate translation strategy. The appropriate category depends on context, genre, target-audience expectations, and the pragmatic function of the source expression.

Table 2.

Transformation Typology

Source euphemism	Target rendering	TR	ED	Pragmatic interpretation
collateral damage	tinch aholi talafotlari	MOD + EXP	reduced	Civilian consequences become more explicit
enhanced interrogation techniques	special interrogation methods	LEX	maintained	Institutional mitigation is retained
economically disadvantaged	ijtimoiy himoyaga muhtoj	MOD	maintained	Social stigma is mitigated
lame duck	cho‘loq o‘rdak / siyosiy ta’siri susaygan siyosatchi	CAL / PAR + EXP	variable	Metaphor may be retained or explained

The table above is an analytical model rather than a claim about the frequency of these transformations in a completed corpus. Quantitative frequencies and percentages should be calculated only after the complete corpus has been collected, aligned, annotated, and manually verified.

For computational processing, the transformation variable may be represented through controlled codes: LEX (lexical substitution), MOD (modulation), EXP (explicitation), IMP (implicitation), GEN (generalization), SPEC (specification), PAR (paraphrase), CAL (calque), ADP (adaptation), NEU (neutralization), and COMP (compensation).

A structured record may be represented as follows: EU=collateral damage, T=tinch aholi talafotlari, TR=MOD+EXP, PF=MITIGATION, ED=REDUCED, DOM=MILITARY. Such records can be exported to a spreadsheet or corpus database and subsequently processed with Python, R, AntConc, Sketch Engine, or other corpus-analysis environments.

The proposed model therefore contains two interconnected layers: alignment of source and target segments, and linguistic-pragmatic annotation of euphemistic units. This structure connects traditional translation analysis with applied and computational linguistics.

Discussion. The results support a distinction between formal equivalence and functional-pragmatic equivalence. A formally close translation may reproduce the lexical content of the source expression while failing to reproduce its mitigation, institutional distance, evaluative neutrality, or ideological effect. Conversely, a target expression that differs substantially in form may be functionally more adequate if it performs a comparable communicative role.

Crespo-Fernández emphasizes the strategic nature of political euphemism, including the management of sensitive subjects and the positive presentation of political actors [2]. This suggests that translation quality should not be assessed solely by asking whether the referent is preserved. The analysis should also determine whether the pragmatic function and degree of euphemization are maintained, weakened, or intensified.

The corpus approach proposed by Baker [3] makes it possible to move from isolated examples to recurring translation patterns. Once a sufficiently large gold-standard dataset is constructed, the annotated corpus can support frequency analysis, association measures, and supervised classification of transformation types.

For computational linguistics, the principal challenge is contextuality. A lexical item is not necessarily euphemistic in every occurrence. Automatic identification should therefore combine lexical information with contextual embeddings, collocational patterns, syntactic context, domain information, and a manually validated gold-standard corpus. This provides a realistic pathway from qualitative linguistic analysis to computational detection.

The proposed framework also has implications for machine translation and large language model evaluation. Political euphemisms represent a useful test case because a system can produce a semantically plausible translation while nevertheless changing the pragmatic force of the source. Future research may therefore compare human and machine translations according to transformation type and euphemization degree.

Conclusion. The study proposes a linguopragmatic and computational framework for analysing translation transformations of political euphemisms in an Uzbek – English parallel corpus. The framework

integrates corpus linguistics, contrastive analysis, translation-transformation theory, and pragmatic interpretation.

The principal theoretical conclusion is that the adequacy of political euphemism translation cannot be reduced to preservation of referential meaning. It should be evaluated through a three-dimensional model: semantic equivalence, pragmatic equivalence, and preservation of euphemization degree.

The proposed annotation scheme can be used to construct a specialized political-euphemism parallel corpus, quantify recurrent translation transformations, and prepare data for automatic classification.

A methodological limitation is that the present article deliberately does not fabricate corpus frequencies. The final empirical version should report the size of the corpus, number of euphemistic units, inter-annotator agreement, transformation frequencies, percentages, and—where appropriate—statistical significance based on an actual verified dataset.

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