THE CONCEPT OF LEXICOLOGY AND ITS TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

Lexicology is the branch of linguistics that studies the nature, meaning, and function of words. This field encompasses various aspects, including semantics, morphology, and etymology, ultimately aiming to understand how vocabulary reflects cultural and social contexts. Translating lexicological concepts requires careful consideration of meaning and usage across languages, highlighting the nuances that can influence interpretation. An effective translation not only conveys the original term but also maintains its cultural significance, making lexicology essential for both linguistic analysis and effective communication.

Key words: lexicology, language, linguistics, subject, phraseology, stylistics.

INTRODUCTION

Lexicology is the branch of linguistics that studies the nature, meaning, and function of words. This field encompasses various aspects, including semantics, morphology, and etymology, ultimately aiming to understand how vocabulary reflects cultural and social contexts. Translating lexicological concepts requires careful consideration of meaning and usage across languages, highlighting the nuances that can influence interpretation. An effective translation not only conveys the original term but also maintains its cultural significance, making lexicology essential for both linguistic analysis and effective communication. Lexicology is closely related to fields such as lexicography, phraseology, semantics, etymology, stylistics, and word formation theories. In lexicology, issues regarding the meaning of words are examined, including monosemy, polysemy, synonymy, antonymy, and the existence of free or related meanings. When lexicon is viewed as a specific system, it takes into account the interrelation of word meanings and concepts.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The vocabulary of a language and the words that make it up are characterized by a number of common features. Lexicology studies the lexicon from the point of view of these common features. These features are as follows:

1. Any word that forms the vocabulary has meaning. From the perspective of this meaning, words have their own peculiarities. The meaning (semantics) of a word and related issues are among the main topics in lexicology. This issue related to vocabulary is studied by the semasiology branch of lexicology.

2. In the development of any language, the most changeable and rapidly evolving part is its vocabulary. During the process of language development, the vocabulary grows richer with new words, while some words become outdated and gradually fall out of use. Therefore, the vocabulary is characterized by the coexistence of long-assimilated, currently used words, relatively new words, and obsolete words. This aspect of vocabulary is also studied in lexicology.

3. Each word has a phonetic form and a meaning, that is, it possesses both form and content. Words in the vocabulary may have different relationships based on these aspects of form and content. For example, the words chaqqon (quick), epchil (nimble), chechan (eloquent), abjir (active), and chapdast (skillful) have different forms but the same meaning (synonyms); while ko'k (blue, colour), ko'k (sky), ko'k (grass, greens) have the same form but different meanings (homonyms), and so on. In lexicology, words are also studied based on such relationships.

The characteristics mentioned about words apply to all words in a language. In lexicology, it is primarily these types of words that are studied.

As noted above, lexicology studies vocabulary, and vocabulary consists of words (a collection of words). Therefore, it is necessary to first address the word itself and its essence. In some works, the word is simply defined as "the main linguistic unit," "one of the most important elements of language and speech," or "the smallest basic unit of language." However, the word is, in fact, a very complex phenomenon. Even with a few sentences or phrases, it is impossible to fully define a word.

The reason there is still no precise and complete definition in linguistic literature that distinguishes words from other linguistic phenomena lies in this complexity. Since the word, as a linguistic unit, is so complex, it is more important to highlight its unique aspects and the features that differentiate it from other linguistic units rather than providing a general or precise definition.

At a glance, it is clear that a word is composed of sounds or a combination of sounds. In all languages, words are primarily composed of more than one sound. The meaning of a word is realized through a specific combination of sounds, which might make it seem like this meaning is created by the combination of sounds or the ordered unity of these sounds. In other words, it may appear that the "unity of sounds" contains the meaning of the word itself. However, this is not the case. While a word cannot exist without sounds, the meaning of a word is not derived from the "meaning" of the sounds that make up the word. Sounds (phonemes) do not carry meaning on their own. Therefore, any random combination of sounds does not necessarily convey meaning.

For example, the sound combination "o, d, a, m" forms the word "odam" (human), which carries meaning, but the combinations "adom," "admo," or "odma" do not have any meaning and are not considered words. On the other hand, the combination of the

same phonemes forming the word "omad" (luck) also has meaning and is recognized as a word, yet it is entirely different from the word "odam." The change in the sound structure of a word (whether through qualitative or quantitative changes in sounds, or changes in sound order) can also lead to a change in meaning or the formation of new words. For example, the words "ko'r" (to see) and "ko'z" (eye), as well as "artmoq" (to wipe) and "arch(i)moq" (to peel), illustrate this phenomenon. The word "artmoq" can mean to wipe a window or to wipe a table, while "arch(i)moq" refers specifically to peeling a potato, among other meanings.

Another important characteristic of a word is that it possesses a specific meaning. However, the meanings expressed by words are not the same; they can be categorized into different types based on their most general characteristics. For example, some words refer to objects, phenomena, qualities, or actions in objective reality (these words name the objects, phenomena, qualities, or actions): bog' (garden), daryo (river), ko'k (blue), baland (tall), o'qimoq (to read), and so on.

Interjections express emotions or exclamations, such as oh, voy, bay-bay, balli, and others.

Modal and evaluative words indicate a relationship between thoughts and reality, including words like axir (after all), faqat (only), darvoqe (by the way),shubhasiz (without a doubt), and so on.

Connectives and conjunctions (like uchun [for], tufayli [because of], so'ng [then], bilan [with], va [and], etc.) only have grammatical meanings. Regardless of the type of meaning they express, all of these are still considered words.

Translation is deeply intertwined with lexicology, as it requires a profound understanding of the nuances of words in both the source and target languages. Translators must navigate the complexities of meaning, considering the connotations and cultural significance of words. For example, the Uzbek word "yurt" refers not only to a physical dwelling but also encompasses notions of home and belonging, which may not have a direct equivalent in English. A translator must capture these subtleties to convey the intended meaning accurately.

Moreover, lexicology highlights the importance of context in translation. A word's meaning can change based on its usage within a sentence or cultural setting. For instance, the English word "bank" can refer to a financial institution or the side of a river, depending on the context. Translators must be adept at recognizing these variations to ensure accurate translations.

Ways of Translating Lexicological Concepts

Translating lexicology presents unique challenges due to the intricate nature of words and their meanings, which are often tied to cultural and contextual elements.

Here are some key methods used in the translation of lexicological terms, along with their advantages and disadvantages:

Literal Translation

Literal translation involves translating words directly from the source language into the target language without changing the structure or meaning of the sentence.

Advantages:

- This method preserves the original structure and meaning, ensuring that the translation remains as close as possible to the source text.

- It's useful when translating technical or scientific terms that have direct equivalents across languages.

Disadvantages:

- Literal translation can lead to awkward or unclear expressions, especially if the target language has different syntactic rules.

- It often fails to convey the cultural nuances or idiomatic expressions inherent in the source language, which can be a significant limitation in lexicological translation.

For instance, directly translating an Uzbek word like "yurt" (which refers to both a physical home and a sense of belonging) may lose the emotional and cultural depth that the term carries.

Contextual Translation

Contextual translation takes into account the meaning of the word based on the context in which it is used. This approach focuses on finding the most appropriate term in the target language that reflects the same meaning in a specific setting.

Advantages:

- This method ensures that the translated term fits well within the surrounding text, making the translation more coherent and natural.

- It helps preserve the intended meaning, especially when words have multiple meanings depending on context (e.g., homonyms or polysemous words).

Disadvantages:

- Contextual translation may involve deviating from the original word's literal meaning, which could lead to a loss of precision.

- The translator must have deep knowledge of both languages and cultures to choose the most appropriate word based on context, making it more subjective and complex.

For example, when translating the English word "bank," one must consider whether it refers to a financial institution or the side of a river, depending on the context.

Descriptive Translation

Descriptive translation is used when there is no direct equivalent for a word in the target language. Instead of using a single word, the translator describes the meaning of the original term.

Advantages:

- This method allows the translator to explain terms that have no exact equivalent, preserving the original meaning.

- It helps capture cultural or linguistic subtleties that might otherwise be lost in translation.

Disadvantages:

- Descriptive translation can lead to long-winded explanations, which may disrupt the flow of the text.

- It may not always be practical in fast-paced or highly technical texts, where brevity is key.

For example, in translating the Russian term "toska" (which conveys a complex mix of sadness, longing, and melancholy), a descriptive approach might be needed to explain its full emotional weight.

Adaptation

Adaptation involves altering a word or phrase from the source language to suit the cultural or linguistic norms of the target language. This method is often used for idioms, metaphors, or culturally bound expressions.

Advantages:

- It ensures that the translation is culturally relevant and easily understood by the target audience.

- This method can make idiomatic expressions and culturally specific terms more relatable and meaningful to readers in the target language.

Disadvantages:

- There is a risk of losing the original meaning or the unique cultural reference, which can lead to a departure from the original text.

- Adaptation requires a high level of creativity and familiarity with both cultures, making it more challenging and subjective.

For instance, translating the English idiom "kick the bucket" into a target language might require finding a culturally relevant equivalent rather than translating it literally, which could confuse the reader.

Borrowing

Borrowing involves using the original term from the source language in the target text. This is often done when there is no equivalent term or when the borrowed word has become widely accepted in the target language.

Advantages:

- It preserves the original term and can introduce new lexical items into the target language.

- Borrowing is particularly useful for terms related to technology, culture, or specific fields, where creating a new term would be unnecessary or cumbersome.

Disadvantages:

- Borrowing may create confusion if the borrowed term is not widely understood by the target audience.

- Over-reliance on borrowed terms can lead to a lack of natural flow in the target language, potentially alienating readers.

For example, words like "pizza" or "sushi" are borrowed across many languages because they lack an equivalent, yet their meaning is universally understood.

CONCLUSION

It can be stated that, as discussed above, a word is an extremely complex linguistic unit. It serves as the object of study for various specialized branches of linguistics due to its significant characteristics and features.

Each method of translating lexicological terms has its advantages and disadvantages, and the choice of method depends largely on the context, the complexity of the term, and the target audience. Skilled translators often employ a mix of these techniques to ensure the most accurate and culturally appropriate translation. As noted by Newmark (1988), "the translator's duty is to balance between preserving the source language's essence while making the text accessible and meaningful to the target audience".

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