

JOKE TRANSLATION AND CULTURE

Soatova Mohinur Majid qizi

Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry

mohinur97soatova@gmail.com

Abstract. Humor is a universal phenomenon that exists in all cultures, yet it is profoundly shaped by cultural norms, values, and experiences. Translating jokes from one language to another is a complex task because humor often relies on cultural references, linguistic nuances, and shared context. A successful joke translation must not only convey the original meaning but also evoke the same humorous effect in the target culture. This essay explores the challenges and strategies of translating jokes and highlights the role of culture in shaping humor.

Keywords: Humor, Translation, challenges, strategies, Cognitive Pragmatics.

ПЕРЕВОД ШУТОК И КУЛЬТУРА

Соатова Мохинур Маджид кызы

Ташкентский институт текстильной и легкой промышленности

mohinur97soatova@gmail.com

Абстракт. Юмор- это универсальное явление, которое присутствует во всех культурах, но при этом он глубоко связан с культурными нормами, ценностями и опытом. Перевод шуток с одного языка на другой- это сложная задача, поскольку юмор часто основывается на культурных отсылках, языковых нюансах и общих контекстах. Успешный перевод шутки должен не только передавать исходный смысл, но и вызывать тот же юмористический эффект в целевой культуре. Это эссе исследует трудности и стратегии перевода шуток и подчеркивает роль культуры в формировании юмора.

Ключевые слова: Юмор, Перевод, Трудности перевода шуток, стратегии, Когнитивная Прагматика

Soatova Mohinur Majid qizi

Toshkent To`qimachilik va Yengil Sanoati institute

mohinur97soatova@gmail.com

Kirish. Hazil - bu barcha madaniyatlarda mavjud bo'lgan universal hodisa, ammo u chuqur tarzda madaniy me'yorlar, qadriyatlar va tajribalarga bog'liqdir. Shuningdek, hazilni bir tildan ikkinchi tilga tarjima qilish murakkab vazifadir, chunki

hazil ko'pincha madaniy havolalar, tilning nozik jihatlari va umumiy kontekstga tayanadi. Muvaffaqiyatli tarjima qilingan hazil nafaqat asl ma'noni yetkazishi, balki maqsadli tarjima matnida ham xuddi aslidek hazil hissini yaratishi kerak. Ushbu maqola hazil tarjimasining qiyinchiliklari va strategiyalarini o'rganib, tarjimada milliy madaniyatga asoslangan hajviy matnni shakllantirish bo'yicha yo'l-yo'riq va korsatmalar beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: Yumor, tarjima, tarjimadagi qiyinchiliklar, strategiyalar, Kognitiv Pragmatika

The Cultural Nature of Humor

Humor is deeply embedded in culture. It reflects the history, traditions, and social values of a community. For instance, a joke that uses wordplay, idiomatic expressions, or cultural stereotypes may resonate with one audience while falling flat with another. For example, British humor often relies on irony, understatement, and wordplay, which can be challenging to translate into cultures that prefer directness or different comedic styles. Similarly, Uzbek humor, rich with folklore and proverbs, may be difficult for outsiders to understand without background knowledge.

Challenges in Translating Jokes

1. Linguistic Barriers:

Many jokes are based on wordplay, puns, or double meanings that are specific to a language. Translating these into another language often results in a loss of humor. For example, the pun "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana" is untranslatable into most other languages because it relies on the dual meanings of "flies."

2. Cultural References:

Jokes often refer to specific cultural phenomena, such as historical events, popular figures, or local customs. For instance, a joke about British tea culture might confuse audiences unfamiliar with its significance.

3. Taboos and Sensitivities:

Humor also depends on cultural norms regarding what is considered funny or offensive. A joke that is acceptable in one culture might be deemed inappropriate or even offensive in another. For instance, self-deprecating humor is popular in some cultures but might be misunderstood elsewhere.

4. Contextual Understanding:

Jokes often rely on shared knowledge and context. Translators must recreate this context in the target language, which is not always straightforward. For instance, the humor in the phrase "It's not rocket science" may not resonate in cultures without the phrase or a similar metaphor.

Strategies for Joke Translation

1. *Adaptation:*

Instead of a literal translation, the joke is adapted to fit the target culture. For example, a joke about cricket might be replaced with one about soccer for audiences unfamiliar with cricket.

2. *Explanation:*

In some cases, providing a brief explanation can preserve the humor, although it risks reducing its spontaneity.

3. *Localization:*

Translators may replace culturally specific references with equivalent references familiar to the target audience. For example, an American joke about Hollywood might be localized to Bollywood for Indian audiences.

4. *Retelling:*

If a joke cannot be translated or adapted, a completely new joke with a similar humorous effect may be created.

The Role of Cognitive Pragmatics

Understanding humor involves more than just linguistic knowledge; it requires interpreting intentions, contexts, and shared beliefs. Cognitive pragmatics plays a crucial role in joke translation, as it focuses on how humor is processed and understood across cultures. Translators must anticipate the cognitive and emotional response of the target audience, ensuring that the humor aligns with their cultural framework.

Conclusion

Joke translation is an art that requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures. While some humor may inevitably be lost in translation, skilled translators can use various strategies to recreate the essence of a joke. By bridging linguistic and cultural gaps, they help humor transcend boundaries, fostering understanding and connection between cultures.

As cultures become increasingly interconnected, the translation of humor becomes ever more significant. It not only entertains but also promotes cultural exchange, making the world a more vibrant and humorous place. Through continued study and practice, translators can refine their craft and ensure that humor remains a universal language.

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