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PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING SLANG WORDS FROM ENGLISH INTO KARAKALPAK

Mambetniyazova H. M., Xodjaniyazova U. K.

Karakapak State University

Introduction. Slang is an informal vocabulary that is used spoken rather than written by people who belong to the same social group. Every day a new slang word is born and mostly young generation use them widely in daily communication. Some slang words even have several meanings, which are completely different from each other. Since social media is where all people are gathered, sometimes it is hard to understand new slang and even translate them from English to another language. In addition, informal language and slang are closely connected with social and technological changes. According to David Crystal, the rapid development of digital communication has significantly influenced the creation and spread of new vocabulary, especially slang expression used by younger generations. He notes that internet communication encourages linguistic creativity and accelerates the transformation of informal language across cultures [1].

Slangs are the words or expressions, in some cases sentences utilized in ordinary colloquial discourse by a particular zone that produces the dialect troublesome to get it for non-native speakers [2; 152]. There are three key concerns to take into consideration while translating slang words. One of the central concerns in translation studies is equivalence. It refers to achieving a corresponding, balanced relationship between a source text and its target translation, focusing on conveying meaning, style, and tone rather than mere word-for-word substitution. However, in the case of slang, achieving equivalence becomes problematic because slang words are often culture-specific, emotionally over loaded and context-dependent. Therefore, the translator must decide whether to keep the literal meaning, emotional tone or communicative effect of slang expression. Moreover, pragmatics also plays an important role and it focuses on preserving communicative intent, such as politeness, irony, or social nuance, ensuring the receiver understands the intended message. If the pragmatic meaning is ignored, the translation may sound neutral or unnatural in the target language. In addition, slang is deeply embedded in cultural context. It reflects social identity, generational differences, and contemporary realities. Many slang expressions are based on cultural references that may not exist in the target language. As a result, direct translation may lead to misunderstanding or loss of meaning. In translating English slang into Karakalpak, cultural adaptation may be necessary to achieve communicative effectiveness.

Methodology. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method. Slang expression were collected from online dictionaries, social media content and informal digital communication. The selected slang units were analyzed based on three criteria: equivalence, pragmatics and cultural context. Each slang expression was examined in its original communicative situation and then compared with possible Karakalpak translations. The study also applies comparative and contextual analysis to determine which translation strategy- literal, descriptive or adaptive-best preserves the intended meaning.

Analysis

1. Bet

Content:

"Slowing down the economy and making life miserable for everyone just so rich people can get richer? Ok, bet."
—@theashrb, X (formerly Twitter), 19 Oct.2024 [3].

Meaning problem:

Here, "Bet" expresses ironic or reluctant agreement rather than genuine approval. It conveys meanings such as *"Fine, whatever"* or *"Alright, then"*, depending on the tone. From the perspective of equivalence, a literal translation into Karakalpak would fail to capture the nuanced meaning behind the slang. Pragmatically, the expression reflects the speaker's critical attitude and emotional stance, which should be preserved in translation. Culturally, such usage is characteristic of contemporary online discourse, where brief expressions often carry complex meanings.

Translation approach: Therefore, an adaptive pragmatic interpretation is required to convey both the meaning and emotional tone in the target language.

A possible translation into Karakalpak may be presented as follows:

"Tek bay adamlar jáne de bayıwı ushın ekonomikanı ástelestiriw hám hámmenin ómirin awırlastırıw? Yaqshi, ne bolsa bolar."

2. Let him/her cook

Content: *"Why do they keep benching Patrick in the fourth quarter? Let him cook!"*[4].

Meaning problem: In this case, the expression does not refer literal cooking but metaphorically refers to giving a player the opportunity to perform. From the perspective of equivalence, a literal translation to Karakalpak would be misleading, as it would distort the intended figurative meaning. Pragmatically, the phrase expresses support, encouragement and confidence in the individual's abilities. Culturally, this expression reflects contemporary English slang influenced by metaphorical language and popular discourse, particularly in sports and online communities.

Translation approach: Since the expression is culturally influenced by modern internet and sports discourse, the translator should apply an adaptive cultural interpretation focus on conveying the functional meaning rather than the literal image.

A possible translation into Karakalpak may be presented as follows:

"Ne ushın olar Partikti tórtinshi sherekte rezervqa qoyadı. Oğan imkaniyat beriliwi kerek!"

3. Ghosted

Content: “*We were supposed to meet up for coffee, but he ghosted me and never showed up*” [5].

Meaning problem: In this content, the word does not relate to the literal meaning of “ghost”, but metaphorically refers to ignoring someone or suddenly ending communication. From the perspective of equivalence, a direct translation into Karakalpak would not convey the intended meaning. Pragmatically, the expression carries emotional nuance, often implying disappointment or confusion depending on the communicative situation. From a cultural perspective, the slang reflects modern online communication patterns where indirect expressions are commonly used to describe interpersonal behavior.

Translation approach: The translator should apply an adaptive descriptive interpretation to convey the idea of unexpectedly ending communication while preserving the emotional tone of the situation.

A possible translation into Karakalpak may be presented as follows:

“*Bizler kofe ishiw ushın kórisiwimiz kerek edi, biraq ol maǵan xabarlaspay hám ulıwma kórinbey qaldı.*”

Discussion and Results. The analysis demonstrates that translating slang expression from English into Karakalpak presents significant challenges due to their context-dependent, pragmatic and culturally bound nature. In many cases, achieving equivalence requires prioritizing communicative effect over literal meaning. As Eugene Nida states, “...the relationship between receptor and message ought to be significantly the same as that which existed between the initial receptors and message” [6; 159]. Furthermore, slang expression such as “bet” and “let him cook” illustrate that the meaning is often shaped by context and speaker intention, highlighting the importance of pragmatic factors. As Peter Newmark emphasizes, “There's no such thing as a complete, perfect or “correct” interpretation” [7; 6]. Therefore, the findings confirm that the translator must employ adaptive strategies to preserve both meaning and tone in slang translation. The semantic characteristics of the analyzed slang expressions and their contextual meanings are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Semantic characteristics of selected English slang expressions

№	Slang word	Literal meaning	Slang meaning	Translation approach	Context of use
1	Bet	A wager or gamble	Agreement or ironic confirmation	Adaptive/ pragmatic interpretation	Social media communication
2	Let him cook	Allow someone to cook food	Give someone opportunity to perform	Adaptive/ cultural interpretation	Sports and online discourse
3	Ghosted	Became a ghost	Suddenly stopped responding	Adaptive/ descriptive interpretation	Online interpersonal communication

Conclusion. The study highlights the complexity of translating slang words, emphasizing that such units require more than direct linguistic transfer. The findings demonstrate that effective translation depends on the translator's ability to interpret context, intention and cultural meaning. This research contributes to a better understanding of how informal language can be approached in translation between English and Karakalpak. It also suggests that further studies may explore a wider range of slang expression and their use in different communicative settings.

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Annotation. This article explores difficulties of translating slang expressions from English into Karakalpak, emphasizing key linguistic and cultural considerations. It analyses the challenges that arise when translating slang words due to issues of equivalence, pragmatics and cultural context. Since slang words are often informal, metaphorical and context-based their meanings cannot always be conveyed through literal translation. The study discusses some slang examples to demonstrate how some units require to use an adaptive strategy to translate slang into Karakalpak language. The findings show that understanding communicative intention and cultural background plays an important role in achieving accurate and natural translation.

Keywords: slang, translate, equivalence, pragmatics, cultural context, adaptive strategy.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются трудности перевода сленговых выражений с английского языка на каракалпакский язык, с акцентом на ключевые лингвистические и культурные аспекты. В ней анализируются трудности, возникающие при переводе сленговых слов из-за вопросов эквивалентности, прагматики и культурного контекста. Поскольку сленговые слова часто являются неформальными, их метафорические и контекстуальные значения не всегда могут быть выражены посредством буквального перевода.

Ключевые слова: сленг, перевод, эквивалентность, прагматика, культурный контекст, адаптивная стратегия.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidan qoraqalpoq tiliga sleng iboralarini tarjima qilishdagi qiyinchiliklar o'rganilib, asosiy lingvistik va madaniy jihatlariga e'tibor qaratilgan. Unda ekvivalentlik, pragmatika va madaniy kontekst masalalari tufayli sleng so'zlarini tarjima qilishda yuzaga keladigan qiyinchiliklar tahlil qilingan. Sleng so'zlari ko'pincha norasmiy bo'lganligi sababli, ularning majoziy va kontekstual ma'nolari har doim ham so'zma-so'z tarjima orqali yetkazilmaydi. Tadqiqotda ba'zi birliklar slenglarni qoraqalpoq tiliga tarjima qilish uchun adaptiv strategiyadan foydalanishni talab qilishini ko'rsatish uchun ba'zi sleng misollari muhokama qilinadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, kommunikativ niyat va madaniy kelib chiqishni tushunish aniq va tabiiy tarjimaga erishishda muhim rol o'ynaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: sleng, tarjima, ekvivalentlik, pragmatika, madaniy kontekst, moslashtiruvchi strategiya.