

Investigating Stylistic Transformation in the English Translation of Isajon**Sulton's "Boqiy darbadar"****Rahmonova Gulhayo Khalilovna****teacher of Tashkent University of Information Technology named after****Muhammad al-Kwarazmi****Abstract**

This article presents a comprehensive comparative stylistic analysis of Isajon Sulton's novel "Boqiy darbadar" and its English translation "Eternal Wanderer" by Ch. Ford. The study investigates how lexical, syntactic, and figurative features of the Uzbek source text are transformed in translation. Through detailed parallel textual analysis, the research identifies key stylistic shifts and translation challenges, particularly those arising from structural and cultural differences between Uzbek and English. The findings suggest that while the translation successfully conveys the philosophical narrative, it frequently reduces stylistic density, metaphorical richness, and cultural specificity.

Keywords: comparative stylistics, literary translation, Uzbek literature, English translation, lexical analysis, syntactic transformation, figurative language, cultural equivalence, stylistic transformation.

Introduction

Literary translation is not merely a linguistic operation but a complex interpretative act that involves transferring meaning, style, and cultural context from one language into another. In philological research, comparative stylistics provides a valuable framework for examining how textual features evolve across languages. [1; p.25–26.] Isajon Sulton's "Boqiy darbadar" occupies a significant place in modern Uzbek literature due to its philosophical depth and distinctive narrative style. The novel explores themes of existential alienation, fate, and the human search for meaning. Its language is highly expressive, marked by metaphorical density, rhythmic prose, and culturally embedded concepts.

The English translation “Eternal Wanderer” by Ch. Ford introduces the text to a broader audience. However, the process of translating from Uzbek—an agglutinative, Turkic language—into English—an analytic, Indo-European language—inevitably involves structural and stylistic transformations.

Methods

The research employs a qualitative comparative methodology based on close textual analysis. Selected passages from both the Uzbek original and the English translation are analyzed in parallel.

The analysis focuses on four main dimensions: lexical choices and semantic nuances; syntactic structures and sentence organization; figurative language and imagery; cultural references and their translation.

Examples are presented in original Uzbek form alongside their English translations. The theoretical framework draws on Eugene Nida’s concept of dynamic equivalence, Peter Newmark’s communicative translation, and Lawrence Venuti’s domestication vs. foreignization model. [2; p.45.]

Results

1. Lexical and Semantic Analysis. The Uzbek text is characterized by semantically rich and culturally loaded vocabulary. Many words carry emotional and philosophical depth that is difficult to reproduce in English.

Example 1: Uzbek: U o‘zini bu dunyoda ortiqcha his qilar, go‘yo taqdir uni unutilib qo‘ygandek edi.

English: He felt unnecessary in this world, as if fate had forgotten him.

The word “ortiqcha” implies more than “unnecessary”; it conveys existential redundancy and alienation. Similarly, “taqdir” encompasses both fate and a culturally nuanced concept of divine predestination. The English equivalents, while accurate, lack these connotations.

Example 2: Uzbek: Uning qalbini iztirob kemirar edi.

English: His heart was filled with suffering.

The verb “kemirar edi” (“was gnawing”) creates a vivid sensory image of pain. The translation replaces this with a static and abstract expression, reducing emotional intensity.

Syntactic Analysis. Uzbek syntax allows for long, flowing sentences that mirror psychological processes. These are often simplified in English.

Example 3: Uzbek: U uzoq o‘ylardi, xayollari esa uni yana o‘sha bolalik yillariga, beg‘ubor damlarga yetaklar, lekin u yerda ham taskin topolmasdi.

English: He thought for a long time. His thoughts took him back to childhood, to innocent moments. But he could not find peace even there.

The original sentence forms a continuous stream of consciousness. The translation divides it into shorter sentences, altering rhythm and weakening emotional continuity.

Example 4: Uzbek: Go‘yo butun borliq unga begona edi.

English: It was as if the whole world was strange to him.

Although structurally parallel, the Uzbek version carries stronger poetic emphasis through word order and tone.

Figurative Language and Imagery

Example 5: Uzbek: U sahroda yo‘qolgan soyadek sarson edi.

English: He wandered like a lost shadow in the desert.

This example demonstrates successful preservation of imagery.

Example 6: Uzbek: Hayot uning uchun yopiq eshiklar ortidagi sirli yo‘l edi.

English: Life was a mysterious path closed to him.

The metaphor of “closed doors” is partially omitted, weakening symbolic meaning.

Cultural Elements. Cultural concepts often lack direct equivalents.

Example 7: Uzbek: U ota-bobolar ruhi oldida o‘zini qarzdor his qilardi.

English: He felt indebted to his ancestors.

The spiritual dimension of “ruhi” is lost.

Example 8: Uzbek: Mahalla ahli uning holidan bexabar edi.

English: The neighbors were unaware of his situation.

The term “mahalla” represents a socio-cultural institution, not merely “neighbors.”

Discussion

The analysis reveals consistent stylistic shifts: lexical neutralization; syntactic simplification; metaphorical reduction; cultural generalization. These shifts reflect the translator’s preference for readability and accessibility. [3; p.78–79.]

1. Connotative Loss. Uzbek words often carry layered meanings that cannot be fully reproduced.
 2. Structural Differences. Agglutinative Uzbek allows compact expression, while English requires expansion or simplification.
 3. Cultural Gaps. Concepts such as “mahalla” and “taqdir” lack direct equivalents.
 4. Stylistic Dilution. The poetic and rhythmic qualities of the original are reduced.
- Translation Strategy Evaluation could be observed that in Ch. Ford’s translation primarily follows a domestication strategy, adapting the text to English norms. While effective for comprehension, this approach diminishes stylistic uniqueness. A more balanced strategy incorporating selective foreignization (e.g., retaining key Uzbek terms) could better preserve cultural identity.

This study demonstrates that the translation of “Boqiy darbadar” into “Eternal Wanderer” involves significant stylistic transformation. While the translation successfully conveys the narrative and philosophical themes, it often reduces the linguistic richness and cultural depth of the original text.

The key findings are:

1. Lexical nuances are partially lost in translation.
2. Syntactic restructuring alters narrative rhythm.
3. Figurative language is unevenly preserved.
4. Cultural elements are frequently simplified.

Conclusion

The analysis of specific examples reveals that the most significant losses occur at the level of connotation and imagery, where culturally embedded meanings and expressive nuances are difficult to reproduce within the structural and semantic

limits of English. At the same time, certain passages demonstrate that stylistic preservation is achievable when the translator maintains metaphorical integrity and avoids excessive simplification. The study highlights the need for a more nuanced approach to literary translation—one that recognizes the functional role of stylistic features in meaning construction and seeks to retain them wherever possible, even at the cost of partial foreignness in the target text.

References

1. Munday, J. (2016). "Introducing Translation Studies". Routledge.
2. Newmark, P. (1988). "A Textbook of Translation". Prentice Hall.
3. Nida, E. (1964). "Toward a Science of Translating". Brill.
4. Sulton, I. "Boqiy darbadar". Tashkent: Uzbek Literature Publishing.
5. Ford, Ch. "Eternal Wanderer". English Translation.