

TRANSPORTATION TERMINOLOGY CHALLENGES

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Abstract

The process of translating transportation terminology into Uzbek faces numerous challenges due to linguistic, cultural, and technical barriers. While transportation is a universal need, terminology often emerges within specific socio-economic and technological contexts. This article highlights the complexities encountered when translating transportation-related terms into Uzbek, emphasizing the importance of accuracy and consistency for effective communication.

Keywords: Transportation, terminology, translation, Uzbek, equivalents, standards.

Introduction

Transportation systems are critical to global and local economies, necessitating clear and standardized terminology across languages. In the Uzbek context, the translation of transportation terminology remains problematic due to limited linguistic resources and the evolving nature of technical terminology. As Uzbek continues to modernize its lexicon, inconsistencies and ambiguities in translations can cause misunderstandings. According to Newmark (1988), "terminology is the key to technical translation, and any miscommunication in this domain can have practical repercussions" (p. 151).

The translation of transportation terminology from English into Uzbek presents a complex set of challenges, primarily due to linguistic disparities, cultural differences, and the evolving nature of technical vocabulary. Accurate translation is essential for effective communication in sectors such as logistics, trade, and transportation infrastructure. This article examines the key issues encountered in this translation process and proposes potential solutions to enhance clarity and precision.

Lack of Equivalent Terms. One of the primary challenges is the absence of direct equivalents for certain English transportation terms in the Uzbek language. As noted by Khamraeva, "Logistics may be a new sphere to the Uzbek language users and lack of equivalent terms can be most challenging problems during translation from English into Uzbek." This gap often necessitates the creation of new terms or the adaptation of existing ones, which can lead to inconsistencies and misunderstandings.

Different Grammatical Structures. English and Uzbek have distinct grammatical frameworks, which can complicate the translation of transportation terminology. English typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) sentence structure, whereas Uzbek employs a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order. This structural difference can pose challenges, especially in



oral translation. Khamraeva suggests that in such cases, "it is recommended to use a translation that conveys the same meaning, even if the grammatical structure is different."

Cultural Differences. Cultural nuances significantly influence the interpretation and translation of transportation terms. Certain concepts prevalent in English-speaking countries may not have direct counterparts in Uzbek culture, leading to potential misunderstandings. For instance, the term "subway" refers to an underground urban transit system in English, but in Uzbek, the term "metro" is commonly used.

To address these cultural differences, it is important to consider the cultural context of the target language. Translators should have a good understanding of the cultural practices and customs of the target language to ensure accurate translations. Additionally, providing context and background information to the translators can help them understand the meaning and usage of logistics terms in the cultural context of the target language.

Technical Language and Jargon. The specialized nature of transportation terminology adds another layer of complexity. Technical terms often lack direct translations in Uzbek, requiring translators to use descriptive phrases or borrow terms from other languages, which can lead to ambiguity. For example, the English term "freight forwarding" may not have a concise equivalent in Uzbek, necessitating a descriptive approach that could dilute its specific meaning. Khamraeva emphasizes the importance of understanding the technical language of logistics in both English and Uzbek to ensure accurate translations.

Recommendations for Effective Translation. To mitigate these challenges, several strategies can be employed:

1. Development of Specialized Glossaries: Creating comprehensive bilingual dictionaries that include transportation and logistics terminology can provide standardized references for translators. The Transport and Logistics Information Portal, Logistika.uz, offers a glossary aimed at facilitating foreign trade operations by translating terms into Uzbek, thereby aiding entrepreneurs and professionals in understanding international commerce terminology.

2. Use of Descriptive Translations: In cases where direct equivalents are lacking, employing descriptive translations can convey the intended meaning effectively. This approach involves explaining the term's function or purpose, which can enhance understanding despite the absence of a single-word equivalent. Khamraeva recommends using descriptive translations or borrowing terms from related fields when equivalent terms are lacking.

3. Cultural Adaptation: Understanding the cultural context is crucial for accurate translation. Translators should be aware of cultural practices and customs to ensure that the translated terms are appropriate and convey the correct connotations. Providing context and background information can assist translators in grasping the meaning and usage of terms within the cultural framework of the target language.



4. Collaboration with Subject Matter Experts: Engaging professionals who are well-versed in both the transportation industry and the linguistic aspects of Uzbek can provide valuable insights, ensuring that translations are both technically accurate and culturally appropriate. Expert appraisal and validation from linguists, translators, and subject matter specialists can enhance the credibility of translations.

5. Continuous Updating of Terminology Databases: The transportation sector is dynamic, with new terms and technologies emerging regularly. Maintaining up-to-date glossaries and databases ensures that translations remain relevant and accurate, accommodating the evolving nature of the industry. The glossary provided by Logistika.uz is designed to include basic terminology essential for foreign trade operations, highlighting the need for continuous updates to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Conclusion

Translating transportation terminology into Uzbek involves navigating linguistic, cultural, and technical challenges. By developing specialized glossaries, employing descriptive translations, adapting to cultural contexts, collaborating with experts, and maintaining updated terminology databases, translators can enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of their work. Such efforts are essential for facilitating clear communication in Uzbekistan's transportation and logistics sectors, thereby supporting the country's integration into the global economy.

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