PRAGMATIC DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract: This study explored the role of pragmatics in English-Uzbek translation, focusing on the specific challenges and issues that arise during the translation process. Recognizing the increasing interest in pragmatics among scholars and linguists, the research emphasized its vital importance in translation practices. An analytical descriptive method was employed to meet the research goals and to pinpoint the challenges faced by translators. A questionnaire was used, divided into two sections with five items each, addressing the role of pragmatics in translation and the challenges of translating pragmatic elements from English to Uzbek. The study involved 15 Uzbek translators. The findings confirmed that pragmatics plays a crucial role in the translation process. In the first part of the questionnaire, 86% of respondents emphasized the importance of pragmatics in translation, with an average score of 2.6 out of 3. Additionally, the second part revealed that understanding pragmatics is essential for effective translation, with 83.3% of responses highlighting this need, and an average score of 2 out of 3 regarding the challenges translators face. These results underline the necessity of a strong grasp of pragmatic nuances for successful English-Uzbek translation.

Key words: Translation, Pragmatics, Translation Difficulties, English-Uzbek Translation.

INTRODUCTION.

Language is used not simply to report events in the world. It is used also to convey the rich mental models that individuals and cultures bring to bear on the communication process. It is the claim of the pragmatic-based approach Farewell and Helmreich (2004), that texts do not have meanings, but rather that in producing texts, people intended meanings. That is to say, the translator attempts to understand the author's intent in creating the source text for the original audience and then recreates, to the possible extent, that intent for the target audience by using the target language.

Based on conventional perspective, pragmatics operates in two different phases of the translation task; first, processing of source text (message), and second conceptualizing and reformulating the target text (message). In both phases a great awareness of the pragmatically relevant differences is needed so as to achieve an adequate translation that can fulfill its communicative role in the target language and culture. As a mediator, the translator performs as text receptor in the first place by trying to understand and capture the message of the source text. During this comprehending phase, the translator is bound to the source text pragmatics that he tries to decode appropriately and convey the true and intelligible meanings intended in the source text. However, in the process of translation, the translator is bound to manage the pragmatic differences between both source and target context.

From the views of House, Kasper, and Ross (2003), pragmatics is a type of knowledge that makes people detect the intercultural interaction structures and speech act strategies in order to resolve problems of misunderstanding encountered in the international social settings. Through pragmatics training, translators will be able to perceive the different interpretations of cross-cultural languages, and get accustomed to their assorted conventions, structures, and form. In this regard, any ignorance of such pragmatic aspects may lead to translation problems of pragmatic nature. For instance,

speech events differ cross-culturally just as in social distance and closeness which are often culture-specific. It means that in each community there are specific cultural contexts in which word-in – word translation cannot help to convey the intended meanings of the source text. The translator is thus involved in using his knowledge of cross-cultural pragmatics to convey the message appropriately in his translation without causing any offence.

Statement of the problem

Language serves not only as a tool for reporting events but also as a means to express the intricate mental models that individuals and cultures utilize in communication. According to the pragmatic-based approach of Farewell and Helmreich (2004), meaning does not reside directly in texts but emerges from the intentions behind their creation. In translation, this means that the translator seeks to grasp the author's original intent and aims to replicate that intent in a way that resonates with the target audience, using the nuances of the target language.

Pragmatics, from a conventional perspective, operates at two key stages in translation: understanding the source text and then conceptualizing and reshaping it into the target language. Both stages require a deep awareness of the pragmatic differences between the source and target languages to ensure that the translation accurately conveys the intended message in its new context. The translator's role is first to interpret the source text as a receiver, working to decode its intended meanings. During this phase, the translator is bound by the pragmatic elements of the original text, striving to convey the precise meanings encoded within it. However, translating these meanings effectively also involves managing the differences between the source language's pragmatics and those of the target language.

House, Kasper, and Ross (2003) highlight pragmatics as a kind of knowledge that allows individuals to recognize cultural interaction patterns and speech strategies, helping to resolve misunderstandings in international settings. Pragmatic awareness enables translators to understand and adapt to varying interpretations across different cultures, learning the conventions and norms that shape communication. Overlooking these elements can lead to challenges in translation, particularly when cultural norms affect how messages are interpreted. For instance, cultural-specific norms around social distance or closeness can significantly impact how a message is conveyed, necessitating a nuanced understanding beyond a word-for-word translation. In this context, a translator must use their understanding of cross-cultural pragmatics to convey the intended message accurately without causing unintended offense or distortion.

Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve two primary objectives:

1. **To investigate the role of pragmatics in the process of translating between Uzbek and English.** This involves analyzing how pragmatic factors—such as context, implied meanings, speech acts, and cultural nuances—affect the translation process and the effectiveness of conveying intended meanings across the two languages.

2. **To identify the types of challenges and obstacles that translators encounter when dealing with pragmatic elements.** This includes pinpointing specific difficulties in understanding and accurately translating pragmatic aspects like idiomatic expressions, cultural references, or context-sensitive language that may not directly translate between Uzbek and English.

Questions of the Study

The study focuses on two core research questions that explore the importance of pragmatics in translation between Uzbek and English, as well as the challenges that translators face:

1. **Does pragmatics play a crucial role in Uzbek-English translation?**
This question investigates how pragmatics influences the translation process, emphasizing aspects like context, implied meanings, and cultural nuances. It aims to determine whether a deep understanding of pragmatics can significantly improve the accuracy and effectiveness of translation, ensuring that the intended message is appropriately conveyed between these two languages.

2. **What are the problems and difficulties that translators face in rendering the pragmatic aspects in Uzbek-English translation?**
This question seeks to identify specific challenges that translators encounter when translating pragmatic elements. It looks into the complexities of interpreting cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and context-dependent meanings, which can vary greatly between Uzbek and English.

The goal is to uncover common issues that arise during translation and suggest strategies to overcome them.

Literature Review

This text provides an in-depth discussion on the definition, scope, and role of pragmatics in linguistics, with a focus on its relevance to translation studies. It begins by acknowledging the foundational contributions of Charles Morris, who defined pragmatics as the study of the relationship between signs and their interpreters, distinguishing it from semantics, which focuses on the relationship between signs and their meanings. This early understanding has been further developed by scholars like Leech, Crystal, Kasper, and Blum-Kulka, highlighting pragmatics' focus on users' choices in social interactions, and the importance of understanding the context and intention behind communication.

Pragmatics, according to Yule (2010), emphasizes understanding speakers' meanings and the unspoken or implied elements of communication. This branch of linguistics explores how context influences the interpretation of language, emphasizing the importance of recognizing nuances that aren't directly expressed. Fromkin and Rodman (1993) underscore the critical role of context in decoding messages, stressing that pragmatics deals with the "real" meaning behind sentences, influenced by social, cultural, and situational factors.

In the realm of translation, pragmatics becomes particularly important. Translators need to not only understand the literal meaning of the words but also the underlying intentions, cultural nuances, and social contexts of the source language to convey these accurately in the target language. This process is complex, as noted by Kasper and Blum-Kulka (1993), because it involves both comprehension of the original text and the ability to reformulate it for the target audience while preserving the intended message.

The study further delves into Roman Jakobson's three-part classification of translation—intralingual (rewording within the same language), intersemiotic (translating linguistic signs into non-linguistic forms), and interlingual (translating between languages). This classification highlights the diverse nature of translation tasks and emphasizes the challenges of transferring meanings between languages and cultural contexts. Translators face particular difficulties when cultural contexts differ, which can lead to challenges in conveying the intended message accurately. Pragmatics is essential in bridging these gaps, as it equips translators with the skills to navigate cultural and contextual subtleties, ensuring that translations maintain their intended communicative impact. The discussion also touches upon the interdisciplinary nature of translation, linking it closely with fields like sociolinguistics and semantics. Newmark (1981) argues that translation is deeply interconnected with linguistic studies, as it involves applying principles from comparative linguistics and cultural studies to achieve effective communication between languages.

The overlapping relationship between pragmatics and translation

This passage explores the significant role of pragmatics in translation, highlighting the complexity of conveying intended meanings across different languages and cultures. The primary advantage of studying language through pragmatics is the ability to focus on the intended meanings, assumptions, and goals of speakers (Yule, 2010). Pragmatics considers how context influences communication, accounting for both verbal and non-verbal elements, such as the nature of relationships between speakers and the social factors affecting their interaction.

In translation, a pragmatic approach emphasizes understanding the underlying intentions and beliefs behind a text, rather than merely its literal meaning. Farewell and Helmreich (2004) argue that translators must interpret utterances within their context, considering beliefs about the world and the intended message of the original text to recreate a similar impact in the target language. This pragmatic perspective recognizes that translation can yield a range of possible interpretations, which requires sensitivity to both linguistic and cultural differences.

Kitis (2009) expands on this idea, emphasizing that various pragmatic elements form the backbone of the translation process, and awareness of these elements is critical for effective translation. Such awareness is necessary for maintaining the intended message of the source text when adapting it to a different cultural context. Similarly, Pym (1992) points out that translators increasingly deal with multilingual documents, which challenges traditional methods of translation and requires a flexible approach to manage intercultural and linguistic variances.

Bernardo (2011) and Nida (2000) underscore that translators must adapt texts to the pragmatic realities of their target audience. Bernardo highlights the need for translators to handle pragmatic divergences, requiring high levels of textual competence. Nida emphasizes the importance of pragmatic knowledge in translation, viewing it as essential for achieving accuracy and naturalness in communication. Meanwhile, Mason and Hatim (1997) advocate for maintaining the pragmatic effect of the original text in the translation, ensuring that the impact on the target audience mirrors that of the source.

Gut (1991), following Sperber and Wilson's relevance theory, sees translation as a communicative act where translators must skillfully interpret and present the clues within texts. However, errors can occur when translators lack pragmatic knowledge or fail to appreciate its role in translation. Given that translation functions as a form of interlingual communication, developing pragmatic awareness is essential. It enhances translators' ability to recognize and convey cultural nuances, ultimately minimizing the risk of misunderstandings and errors in translation.

Robinson (2003) highlights that well-trained translators must be attuned to the multiple layers of meaning in texts, including pragmatic elements. Such awareness enables translators to identify and transfer these elements accurately, which is crucial for achieving effective cross-cultural communication. In this light, pragmatic knowledge helps to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, fostering understanding between different cultures.

Research into the connection between pragmatics and translation, especially concerning language pairs like English-Uzbek, is crucial. Differences at the pragmatic level between these languages can result in errors and miscommunications during translation, making the study of this relationship essential for improving translation practices and outcomes. This research supports the need for a deeper understanding of how pragmatic awareness can refine translators' skills and enhance the effectiveness of translation across different cultural contexts.

Methodology

This section details the tools and methods used for gathering data in the study. It also outlines how the sample was chosen and the steps taken in the statistical and analytical processes for analyzing the data. This includes a description of the specific instrument or tool (such as surveys, questionnaires, or interviews) used to collect information, the criteria for selecting participants, and the techniques applied to interpret the collected data. The focus is on ensuring that the procedures were systematic and appropriate for addressing the research objectives and questions.

Study Instrument

This study utilized an analytical descriptive methodology, aiming to explore the role of pragmatics in translation and identify the challenges faced by translators. A structured questionnaire, consisting of ten items, was developed for data collection. This questionnaire targeted a specific group of translators and was divided into two sections. The first section included five items designed to assess the respondents' understanding and agreement regarding the importance of pragmatics in translation. The second section contained five additional items, focused on identifying the issues and difficulties that translators encounter when rendering pragmatic elements between English and Arabic. This method allowed for a systematic collection of data, providing insights into both the theoretical significance of pragmatics and the practical challenges of translating pragmatic nuances.

Study Subjects

The study's sample included 15 Uzbek translators, both male and female, who possessed significant experience in translation between Uzbek and English. These participants held a Master's degree in Translation Studies from various reputable institutions, including Uzbek State World Languages University and Samarkand State University. Each translator had been practicing professionally in diverse fields such as media, politics, and technical translation for a minimum of three years following their graduation. This background ensured that the respondents had a solid understanding of the practical aspects of translation, particularly in managing the complexities of rendering pragmatic elements between the two languages.

Data Collection Procedures

The questionnaire was distributed to the respondents of the study with some instructions about the topic of the study. The respondents were requested to complete the questionnaire by clicking (√) at the levels of "agree or disagree" before each item. After collecting the questionnaire forms back, an

analytical-descriptive analysis of the responses was carried out. Frequency tables and descriptive statistics were constructed to show the given results with respect to the two hypotheses and the objectives of the study.

Data Analysis

After the questionnaire was administered and the responses collected, the translators' answers were analyzed using computer software for tabulation and calculations. Each category of the questionnaire—specifically, the role of pragmatics in translation and the associated problems and difficulties—was further analyzed and computed to evaluate the two hypotheses established at the outset of the study. The results were then organized and presented in alignment with the study's objectives and hypotheses, offering a clear overview of the findings related to the significance of pragmatics in translation and the challenges faced by translators. This methodical approach ensured that the analysis was thorough and provided valuable insights into the field.

The role of pragmatics in translation

After analyzing the results from the first part of the questionnaire on the role of pragmatics in English-Uzbek translation, the respondents' answers revealed the following insights:

Table 1. Analysis of Frequencies & Percentages –Role of pragmatics in E-U translation

Part One: the role of pragmatic in English-UzbekTranslation	Percent
Pragmatics is vital and significantly impacts the translation process.	97.7%
It enables translators to accurately communicate the intended meanings of the source language.	81.7%
Pragmatics contributes to the creation of high-quality and effective translations.	83.3%
A lack of understanding of pragmatics prevents translators from achieving professional competency.	86.7%
It is a fundamental aspect of translation work.	85.0%
Total	86.7%

The findings from the first part of the questionnaire, as presented in Table 1, indicate that 86.7% of respondents acknowledged the critical role of pragmatics in translation. This suggests that nearly all participating translators recognize the necessity of understanding pragmatics to effectively convey accurate messages in their translation work. Notably, item one regarding the significance of pragmatics received the highest agreement rate at 97.7%, reflecting the respondents' awareness of its essential role in translation.

In contrast, item two had the lowest agreement rate at 81.7%. This lower percentage may stem from the respondents' lack of awareness regarding the significance of pragmatics in comprehending both the source and target languages. Regarding the impact of pragmatics on translation quality, item three garnered a more favorable response, with 83.3% of respondents indicating that incorporating pragmatic considerations enhances their translations.

For the final two items, four and five, agreement rates were close at 85.0% and 86.7%, respectively. This indicates that the translators generally understood the importance of applying pragmatic knowledge in their translations. Thus, understanding pragmatics is vital for effective translation practices.

In summary, the overall result from the first part of the questionnaire demonstrates that pragmatics is an essential component of translation, with an agreement rate of 86.7%. Diagram one below illustrates that item one achieved the highest percentage at 96.7%, reinforcing the idea that pragmatics plays a crucial role in English-Uzbek translation. Overall, these results substantiate the first hypothesis of this study, with a total percentage of 86.7%.

Challenges and Difficulties of Pragmatics Faced by Translators

For the analysis of the second part of the questionnaire, the respondents answered the five items as given in table 2 below.

Table 2. Analysis of Frequencies & Percentages –translators' problems and difficulties in rendering pragmatics

Part Two Problems and Difficulties in Practice Faced by Translators	Percent
Intercultural differences pose challenges in the interpretation of pragmatics.	87.6%
Translators' lack of awareness regarding pragmatics is a significant challenge they face.	77.4%
Insufficient practical experience with native speakers of the source language adds another layer of difficulty for translators.	85.0%
Existing environment of learning pragmatics is not conducive for translators..	75.0%
Lexical and semantic pragmatic issues also present challenges for translators.	90.7%
Total	83.3%

The findings from the second half of the questionnaire revealed that 83.3% of respondents agreed that intercultural differences, lack of practical experience, lack of awareness among translators, the current learning environment for pragmatics, and lexical and semantic issues are challenges faced when translating pragmatics.

Specifically, the fifth item concerning lexical and semantic pragmatics received the highest agreement at 91.7%. Despite the translators acknowledging the importance of pragmatics in their work, they still spend significant time and effort addressing lexical and semantic aspects. These aspects are considered obstacles due to the cultural and structural disparities between English and Uzbek. Conversely, the respondents viewed the impact of the learning environment on their pragmatic studies as minimal, as indicated by the lowest agreement rate of 75.0% for this item. This suggests that translators believed their extensive translation practice mitigated the effects of the learning environment on their ability to recognize and apply pragmatic principles, especially for English, which they consider a foreign language in this context.

Similarly, regarding the second item, the respondents did not view their lack of awareness about pragmatics as a significant issue, giving it a 78.3% agreement. They felt that any gaps in their pragmatic knowledge could be compensated for by their practical successes in translation.

In conclusion, the results of the second part of the questionnaire, which explored the second hypothesis, indicated that translators indeed face substantial challenges in rendering pragmatics from English to Uzbek, with a total percentage of 83.3%. These challenges arise from intercultural differences, insufficient pragmatic practice, lack of awareness among translators, an unsuitable learning environment, and lexical and semantic issues.

Conclusion

Every translation or interpretation inherently involves a pragmatic component to some degree. A solid understanding of pragmatics can greatly enhance both the study and practice of translation. By leveraging their knowledge of pragmatics, translators can effectively capture and convey the non-linguistic aspects of verbal communication within properly contextualized scenarios.

This study aimed to test two hypotheses: (1) Pragmatics plays a vital role in English-Uzbek translation, and (2) Translators face challenges and difficulties in conveying pragmatics. An analysis involving 15 Uzbek translators revealed results that support these hypotheses. The first part of the questionnaire indicated that pragmatics significantly influences English-Uzbek translation, with an agreement percentage of 86.7% and an average score of 2.6 out of 3. In the second part, which examined the pragmatic challenges faced by translators, the findings indicated that translators encounter real difficulties, primarily due to intercultural differences, lack of awareness regarding pragmatics, insufficient practical experience, an inadequate learning environment, and

challenges in dealing with lexical and semantic aspects. The respondents indicated a 83.3% agreement with an average score of 2.5 out of 3.

Thus, translators should possess both linguistic and paralinguistic competencies, as well as a bicultural perspective. Pragmatics allows translators to understand the minds of their target audiences and produce an equivalent impact, facilitating a response similar to that elicited by the source language. In summary, acquiring pragmatic knowledge not only enriches but also streamlines the translation process.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of professional translation:

1.   Increase Awareness: Translators should improve their comprehension and awareness of pragmatics as it relates to translation.
2.   Broaden Teaching Methods: Pragmatics should be integrated more comprehensively into translation curricula and practice sessions.
3.   Explore Cultural Differences: Translators must invest more effort into understanding the intercultural differences and the lexical and semantic challenges that exist between the target language (TL) and the source language (SL).
4.   Create Supportive Learning Environments: It is important to establish environments conducive to learning pragmatics effectively.
5.   Encourage Further Research: Additional studies should be conducted to explore more solutions to pragmatic challenges in translation.

Pedagogic Implications

Enhance Translation Programs: Translation departments should incorporate pragmatic courses into their programs to help students effectively contextualize situations and accurately capture and translate the non-linguistic aspects of verbal communication.

Focus on Cultural Context: Given that pragmatics is deeply connected to cultural values, it is essential to emphasize the translation of culturally specific expressions, as different cultures may have differing or even conflicting values.Integrate Translation and Pragmatics: Translation and pragmatics should be taught as interconnected subjects rather than separate modules. The relationship between them should be explored through various translation tasks to enhance practical understanding.

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