

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Traditional And Modern Approaches In Translation Studies: Interpretation Of Phraseological Units In Uzbek And German Languages

Gulshan Ergasheva

PhD Candidate at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (TOSDU), Lecturer at the Department of German Language, Chirchik State Pedagogical University (CSPU), Uzbekistan

Received: 13 October 2025 **Accepted:** 09 November 2025 **Published:** 30 November 2025

ABSTRACT

This article examines traditional and modern approaches in translation studies. The study analyzes the approaches utilized in the translation of phraseological units, focusing on their linguo-cognitive and intercultural features, using Uzbek and German languages as the primary examples. Traditional approaches (literal and equivalent translation) are compared with modern functional-cultural theories (Skopos theory, adaptation). The study emphasizes the role of culture, mentality, and target audience in the translation of Uzbek and German phrasemes, and proposes criteria for selecting appropriate translation strategies. The findings contribute to enhancing translators' intercultural competence and ensuring semantic-pragmatic equivalence in phraseological translation.

Keywords: Translation studies, traditional approach, modern approach, phraseology, intercultural translation, equivalence, adaptation, functional approach, Uzbek and German languages.

Introduction

Translation and the field of translation studies encompass a complex process that operates at linguistic, cultural, lexical-syntactic, and socio-cultural levels. Translation studies is an interdisciplinary field that covers several areas such as linguistics, literary criticism, cultural studies, and terminology. Approaching translation from the perspective of linguistic translation studies allows for the following definition:

Translation, as a complex form of human activity, is a creative process consisting of recreating a speech expression (text) generated in one language, while preserving its unity of form and content, using the resources of another language. Thus, the speech expression (text) created using the resources of the source language is replaced by a similar expression created based on the norms of the target language. This is how the semantic-

stylistic adequacy between the source and target language texts is achieved.

METHOD

Traditional approaches in translation studies are the linguocentric, or language-based, theoretical schools that developed until the mid-20th century. The primary focus of these schools was the word, form, and grammatical structure. That is, translation was viewed as "the replacement of words and structures of one language with corresponding units in another language". In these approaches, cultural, pragmatic, or cognitive factors were not yet considered important.

These approaches primarily emphasize the language—its lexical and syntactic aspects, the language structure, and an as close as possible translation of the source text. For

example, methods such as word-for-word (literal) or verbal translation belong to this type. In these approaches, the translator strives to preserve the structure of the source language and to find the word-for-word or closest equivalent.

Traditional approaches have several distinct characteristics. For instance, the maximum similarity or closeness to the language and structure of the text being translated. This, of course, requires the text to be adapted to the structure of the target language. Furthermore, greater attention is paid to the elements and structures of the source language during the translation process. Culturally marked units, such as phraseological units, are expressed through a "close equivalent" or sometimes through transliteration. Otherwise, their meaning and content may be lost. The translator often adheres to the principle of "fidelity": the content, structure, and linguistic features of the source text are preserved as much as possible.

In this way, traditional translation began to expand and spread. The translation style is primarily governed by the level of language: the word, phrase, and syntax. This approach has been applied, particularly in the translation of classic literary texts, legal, and scientific texts. Thus, we can see the specific and appropriate characteristics of the traditional approach to translation.

LIMITATIONS OF TRADITIONAL APPROACHES

Traditional approaches also have several limitations, which prevent the translation norms from being exceeded. As is known, the differences between languages and cultures (lexical, syntactic, phraseological) often make word-for-word translation impossible. This is because every nation has its own unique culture, views, and customs. Directly translating such national specifics often leads to awkwardness. Phraseological units or culture-specific idioms may "leak through" in word-for-word translation, resulting in a text that is incorrect or difficult to understand. The translator fails to convey the author's original intent. In this case, the translator's own opinion and understanding take precedence. Cultural contexts, the function (purpose) of the text, audience, and cultural factors are not adequately taken into account.

MODERN APPROACHES IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

Due to the recent rise of translation studies, modern

functional approaches in linguistics and translation studies are identifying these limitations and proposing new methodologies. Alongside traditional views in translation studies, modern approaches are increasingly developing.

Modern translation approaches focus not only on the structure of language but also on factors such as culture, text function, target audience, economic, and social conditions. For example, the functional approach, systemic approach, linguistic-cultural approach, and phraseological approach are considered the most modern approaches in translation studies. The main goal of these approaches is for the translated text to be as clear and simple for representatives of the target language as the author intended it to be.

Many world scholars have demonstrated their theoretical views based on modern approaches in translation studies in recent years. The German linguist Hans Vermeer proposed the "Skopostheorie" or "Skopos theory" approach. Vermeer considers the main principle of the purposeful action—which determines the translation strategy—to be the purpose, instructions, and rules of the translation action stated in the translated text, which serve as the main indicators to help the translator achieve the intended goal.

The principles of modern approaches include:

- Taking into account intercultural differences and the socio-cultural context of the text during the translation process.
- Adapting not only to the language structure but also to the lexis, stylistics, and text type (scientific, literary, advertising).
- Applying the strategies of "domestication" and "exoticisation" (i.e., preserving the source text's culture while making it suitable for the reader).
- Placing special emphasis on phraseological units, idiomatic expressions, and culture-bound elements during the translation process.

ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS OF MODERN APPROACHES

The advantages of modern approaches include:

- They take into account the relationship between text and culture.

- They improve the intercultural appropriateness of the translation.
- They provide greater flexibility when working with phraseological units and idiomatic expressions.
- Translation is approached not only at the language level but also at the functional and audience level, which positively impacts the quality of the result.

The disadvantages and limitations are:

- The translation process becomes more complex.
- The translator requires deep knowledge of the language, culture, and text type.
- There is a risk of the text deviating too much from the source language (i.e., the original meaning or cultural sign may be lost).
- The functional approach is not always acceptable for all text types (especially in cases where "literal" translation is strictly required).

Traditional and modern approaches in the translation process provide the main principles for conveying the translation to the reader in a meaningful, simple, and original-preserving manner.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Speaking about approaches in the translation of phraseological units in Uzbek and German, let us focus on the term phraseologism.

Phraseologisms are language-specific, often metaphorical or idiomatic expressions that are semantically linked to the lexical and cultural layers of the language. The adequate interpretation of phraseological units—which are linguistic tools with a more complex structure compared to the lexical units of the language—is one of the most complex and, at the same time, highly responsible issues in translation practice.

This is because phraseological units, as artistic-expressive tools of speech, participate in expressing a variety of stylistic functions more than a simple, neutral statement of thought. The attempt to interpret them elegantly in translation, taking these functions into account, is closely linked to the effort to recreate the figurative and emotional-

expressive value of the literary text. It is only through scientific-textual analysis that it is possible to determine whether a specific phraseological unit chosen in the target language corresponds to the phraseologism found in the original text in terms of meaning and stylistic function.

German and Uzbek languages have different typological and cultural-linguistic aspects:

- In German, phraseologisms are often linked to Germanic culture and metaphorical symbols within the language.
- In Uzbek, they are closer to folk oral creativity, the national character, the mentor-apprentice relationship, and the social sphere-relationships.

In the translation process (German ↔ Uzbek or Uzbek ↔ German), it is crucial to determine the cultural-linguistic "depth" of the phraseologism. The meaning, metaphor, internal symbol of the language, and the reader's perception must be taken into account. Some phraseologisms may have become archaic within the language or their meaning may have undergone evolution during the process of cultural exchange—the translator must be prepared for such situations.

The translator must be able to identify the base unit and the aspects of "origin," "cultural sign," and "metaphor" when translating a phraseologism.

- If the phraseologism is very close in the source and target languages—e.g., "mit einem blauen Auge davonkommen" (German) which means "to escape with a slight setback" (Uzbek: "kamchilik bilan qutulish")—the traditional approach (equivalent or literal) may be applied.
- If the phraseologism is culturally and linguistically distant, modern approaches are applied, such as adaptation, cultural adjustment, or adjustment to the target audience's consideration.
 - o For example, the Uzbek idiom "qoshining ostida kulmoq" (literally: "to laugh under the eyebrow") may not have a full equivalent in German. Such expressions primarily arise due to the nation's worldview. The meaning of this idiom is understood as "to laugh secretly, condescendingly". Suitable equivalent phrases in German could include "unter der Augenbraue lachen" or "hinter dem Rücken lachen".

o The German phraseology "den Mund nicht halten können" (literally: "cannot hold one's mouth") is translated as "cannot keep silent, always talking".

o Possible Uzbek translation variants include: The traditional method: "og'zini ushlab qola olmaslik" (cannot hold one's mouth), and the modern adaptation method: "bir lahzalik jim tura olmaslik" (cannot remain silent for a moment) or "tiniq tura olmaslik" (cannot stand still/quiet).

Thus, determining the meaning and stylistic function of the phraseological unit used in the original text based on text analysis, and choosing a pragmatically suitable linguistic tool in the translation, creates communicative equivalence between the units of the two languages.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, traditional and modern approaches in translation studies are complementary, and the appropriate approach should be selected based on the context and situation of each text, language, and phraseological unit.

In the translation of phraseologisms (especially in the Uzbek ↔ German language pair), intercultural aspects, language typology, and the metaphorical and functional aspects of the phraseology are of central importance. The translator must make decisions according to the text's function, rather than just the structure and lexicon level.

Although modern approaches (e.g., Skopos theory, cultural-linguistic approaches) serve to enhance the quality of translation, they must not lose respect for the source language. The most successful translation is one that provides a result that is clear, communicatively adapted for the reader, while simultaneously preserving the meaning and culture.

Furthermore, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the translation of phraseologisms in Uzbek and German:

- A deep analysis of the phraseologisms' cultural-specificity is necessary.
- If an equivalent expression does not exist, the adaptation strategy should be applied.
- The type of text being translated, its purpose (literary, scientific, advertising), and the audience must be taken into account.

- It is important for the translator to have deep knowledge of both their own language and the target language, and to be familiar with the phraseological units, cultural symbols, and metaphors within the language.

REFERENCES

1. Katharina R, Hans J. Vermeer. Grundlagen einer allgemeinen Translationstheorie. Tübingen, 1984.
2. Greiner N. Übersetzung und Literaturwissenschaft. Gunter Narr Verlag Tübingen, 2004.
3. Musayev K. Tarjima nazariyasi asoslari: Darslik (Fundamentals of Translation Theory: Textbook). T.: Uzbekistan Respublikasi FA «Fan» nashriyoti, 2005.
4. Fleischer W. Phraseologie der deutschen Gegenwartssprache. Tübingen: Niemeyer. 1997
5. Teliya V. N. Russian Phraseology: A Cognitive View. Moscow: Languages of Russian Culture. 1996
6. Burger H. Phraseologie: Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen. Berlin: De Gruyter. 2007
7. Piirainen E. Widespread Idioms in Europe and Beyond. De Gruyter Mouton. 2007
8. Ergasheva G. Nemis tili frazeologiyasida "frazeologizm" va "frazema" tushunchalari tahlili (Analysis of "Phraseologism" and "Phraseme" Concepts in German Phraseology), O'zMU xabarları. 2025 [1/5].
9. Ergasheva G. Nemischa frazeologizmlarning struktur-semantik tahlili (Structural-Semantic Analysis of German Phraseologisms). Science problems.uz. 2024.
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skopos_theory
11. <https://redfame.com/journal/index.php/smc/article/viewFile/6034/6109>