

**LEXICAL-SEMANTIC, GRAMMATICAL, AND FUNCTIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS
OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN TRANSLATION**

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Abstract: Stylistic devices undergo notable lexical-semantic, grammatical, and functional transformations when translated from one language into another. These changes occur due to differences in linguistic structures, cultural codes, and communicative norms that shape meaning construction in each language. The study examines how metaphors, metonymy, idioms, parallelism, inversion, and other stylistic units shift their semantic load, grammatical form, and pragmatic function during translation from English into Uzbek and vice versa. Special attention is given to the translator's strategies—equivalence, modulation, transposition, adaptation, and pragmatic adjustment—as essential tools for preserving stylistic effect and authorial intention. The analysis demonstrates that stylistic transformations are not merely linguistic operations but culturally conditioned processes aimed at maintaining aesthetic value, emotional tone, and communicative impact in the target text.

Keywords: stylistic devices; translation studies; lexical-semantic transformation; grammatical shifts; functional change; equivalence; modulation; adaptation; pragmatic adjustment; cross-linguistic stylistics.

INTRODUCTION

The translation of stylistic devices represents one of the most complex and multidimensional areas within modern translation studies. Stylistic units—such as metaphor, metonymy, irony, allusion, epithet, idioms, and various forms of syntactic deviation—carry not only linguistic meaning but also cultural, emotional, and aesthetic values. When these devices are transferred from one language to another, they undergo a series of lexical-semantic, grammatical, and functional transformations that reflect the structural and cultural differences between the source and target languages. Such transformations are inevitable because languages encode reality in unique ways, and stylistic devices often rely on culturally-specific images, associative meanings, and expressive forms that may not have direct equivalents in another linguistic system. In this context, the translator becomes not merely a linguistic mediator but an interpreter of stylistic meaning and a reconstructor of authorial intention. The challenge lies in ensuring that the translated text preserves the artistic value, emotional coloring, and pragmatic effect of the original. To accomplish this, translators employ a range of strategies such as equivalence, modulation, transposition, adaptation, compensation, and pragmatic adjustment. These strategies enable the translator to convey the stylistic essence even where literal transfer is impossible or would result in misinterpretation. Moreover, the translation process requires sensitivity to the target language's norms, genre conventions, and communicative expectations so that the stylistic device functions naturally within the translated text. The study of lexical-semantic changes focuses on how the expressive meaning of stylistic devices is altered, strengthened, or neutralized during translation. Grammatical transformations, in turn, reflect shifts in sentence structure, word order, or morphological patterns required to maintain clarity and stylistic emphasis in the target language. Functional transformations—perhaps the most crucial—concern how the communicative purpose and stylistic impact of a device are preserved or reinterpreted to suit the pragmatic environment of the receiving culture. Taken together, these transformations

highlight the dynamic and creative nature of translation as a process that bridges linguistic diversity while retaining the stylistic integrity of the source text. Given the growing demand for high-quality translations in literature, media, diplomacy, and cross-cultural communication, understanding the mechanisms of stylistic transformation has become increasingly essential. This research contributes to the field by analyzing the patterns, causes, and consequences of stylistic shifts observed in translations between English and Uzbek. By exploring how stylistic devices adapt to new linguistic and cultural contexts, the study aims to deepen our understanding of translation as both an artistic and scholarly discipline.

MAIN BODY

The translation of stylistic devices involves several interconnected levels of linguistic transformation. First, lexical-semantic changes emerge when culturally loaded or metaphorical expressions do not have direct equivalents in the target language. For example, English metaphors based on Western cultural symbols often require modulation or adaptation to preserve their associative meaning in Uzbek. Similarly, idioms and figurative expressions undergo semantic restructuring to maintain their expressive and emotional effect.

Second, stylistic devices frequently require grammatical shifts during translation. These shifts occur due to differences in syntactic structures, word order, and morphological patterns of the two languages. Translators often apply transposition, sentence restructuring, or part-of-speech change to ensure grammatical accuracy while preserving stylistic tone. For instance, inversion or parallelism in English may need to be reorganized in Uzbek to achieve naturalness and fluency, yet still maintain emphasis and rhythm.

Third, functional transformations play a central role in retaining the communicative purpose of stylistic devices. The pragmatic meaning—such as irony, emphasis, emotional tone, or authorial attitude—must be conveyed adequately in the target language. When direct transfer is ineffective, translators employ compensation, contextual enrichment, or pragmatic adjustment to recreate the intended stylistic impact. These functional strategies allow the translated text to evoke similar responses from target readers as the original text does from its audience. Overall, the translation of stylistic devices demonstrates that linguistic equivalence alone is insufficient. Successful translation requires balancing semantic accuracy, grammatical coherence, and functional expressiveness while considering cultural norms and stylistic expectations of the target language. In addition to these transformations, the translator must also consider the stylistic equivalence that reflects the author's individual style, narrative voice, and aesthetic preferences. Stylistic devices such as repetition, alliteration, rhetorical questions, and emotional-expressive vocabulary often carry a specific artistic function in the source text. During translation, these features may undergo partial modification to align with the phonetic, prosodic, and stylistic norms of the target language. For example, alliteration in English may not reproduce the same sound harmony in Uzbek due to phonological differences; therefore, the translator may seek an alternative expressive technique that preserves the rhythmic and emotional nuance. Similarly, rhetorical questions and expressive constructions may require syntactic reorganization to maintain their persuasive or evocative effect in the receiving culture. These considerations demonstrate that translation is not a mechanical transfer but a creative process aimed at preserving stylistic balance, cultural resonance, and communicative harmony.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of stylistic devices in translation demonstrates that their successful transfer requires a multidimensional approach that goes beyond literal correspondence. Each stylistic unit—whether metaphor, idiom, epithet, inversion, or allusion—encodes semantic depth, emotional tone, cultural imagery, and communicative intent. Because of this complexity, stylistic devices inevitably undergo lexical-semantic, grammatical, and functional transformations when moving from one language to another. These transformations should not be viewed as deviations but as necessary adjustments driven by linguistic structure, cultural worldview, and pragmatic norms. Lexical-semantic transformations play a crucial role in preserving figurativeness and expressive value when direct equivalents are unavailable. Grammatical shifts ensure naturalness and fluency while maintaining stylistic rhythm and emphasis. Functional transformations, meanwhile, allow the translated text to retain the emotional impact and communicative purpose intended by the author. Together, these processes reveal translation to be an act of interpretative creativity rather than mechanical transfer. Moreover, the findings indicate that the transformations of stylistic devices in translation are shaped not only by structural differences between languages but also by the distinct cultural mindsets and communicative traditions that influence meaning-making. The translator's task is not merely to locate linguistic correspondences; rather, it is to recreate the aesthetic energy, emotional tone, and pragmatic force of the original text within the cultural framework of the target audience. This highlights the crucial role of strategic decision-making—modulation, adaptation, compensation, and pragmatic adjustment—in ensuring stylistic integrity across languages. Therefore, a deeper examination of stylistic transformations contributes significantly to both the theoretical and practical development of translation studies. It enhances understanding of cross-linguistic stylistics, strengthens translator competence, and ultimately improves the quality of future translations. In this sense, stylistic transformation functions as a bridge that enables literary, cultural, and communicative values to circulate effectively across languages and cultures.

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