

A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN CHARLOTTE BRONTË'S  
JANE EYRE AND THEIR UZBEK EQUIVALENTS

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**Abstract:** This article explores the contrastive analysis of phraseological units in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and their equivalents in Uzbek translations. Phraseological units—idioms, collocations, and fixed expressions—serve as key linguistic and cultural markers, encapsulating societal norms, emotional states, and figurative meaning. The study identifies and classifies these units in the source text, analyzes their translation strategies, and evaluates the semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic shifts that occur in Uzbek. The findings highlight not only linguistic but also cultural discrepancies in the expression of metaphorical and idiomatic meaning. The research underscores the importance of phraseological competence in translation, particularly in the literary domain where nuance and emotional connotation are critical.

**Keywords:** phraseological units, idioms, collocations, translation, *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Brontë, Uzbek, contrastive analysis, cultural equivalence.

## Introduction

Phraseological units (PUs) represent a critical area of study in both linguistics and translation theory due to their idiomaticity and culture-specific nature. In literary texts, phraseological units often carry layered meanings, reflecting psychological states, social critique, or emotional undertones. Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847), a seminal work of English literature, is rich in such expressions that convey the emotional struggles, spiritual growth, and moral conflicts of its protagonist.

The translation of phraseological units from English into Uzbek poses significant challenges, primarily due to differences in metaphorical structures, idiomatic norms, and cultural connotations. This paper aims to explore how Brontë's phraseological richness is preserved or adapted in the Uzbek translations of *Jane Eyre*, and what strategies translators employ to maintain semantic and stylistic integrity.

## 1. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

The study is based on the typology of phraseological units proposed by scholars such as Vinogradov (1986), Cowie (1998), and Baker (1992). It draws upon phraseological classifications that include:

Idioms (e.g., “hold one’s tongue”)

Fixed collocations (e.g., “bitter tears,” “stormy night”)

Phrasal verbs (e.g., “break down,” “bring up”)

Proverbial expressions (e.g., “where there’s a will, there’s a way”)

Using a corpus of selected chapters from *Jane Eyre* and its Uzbek translation (by Xurshid Davron, 2005), the study conducts a contrastive analysis using the following procedures:

1. Identification and classification of PUs in the source text.
2. Lexical-semantic and pragmatic comparison with the Uzbek equivalent.
3. Evaluation of translation strategies: literal translation, equivalence, adaptation, omission.

## **2. Phraseological Units in Jane Eyre: Characteristics and Functions**

Charlotte Brontë's style is marked by the use of vivid metaphorical language. For instance, phrases such as:

"Cast in the teeth" – used to indicate verbal insult.

"A wolfish hour" – denoting danger or predation.

"A heart of stone" – referring to emotional coldness.

These PUs contribute not only to the aesthetic and expressive quality of the narrative but also to the characterization and psychological depth of the protagonist. Brontë's use of idioms often coincides with moments of heightened emotional intensity, moral reflection, or irony.

## **3. Translation Strategies in the Uzbek Version of Jane Eyre**

Let us analyze some phraseological units from the original and compare them to their Uzbek equivalents.

Example 1: "Hold your tongue!"

Context: Jane is silenced by her aunt in a moment of conflict.

Uzbek translation: "Tilimni tiq!" (Literally: "Shut your tongue!")

This is a direct, functional equivalent that preserves the idiomatic tone and command. The expression is culturally transferable.

Example 2: "My heart swelled with gratitude."

Uzbek translation: "Yuragim minnatdorchilik bilan to'ldi."

A faithful translation with preserved metaphor. While Uzbek typically expresses gratitude more through verbs like "rahmat aytmoq," the metaphorical use of "to'ldi" (filled) is acceptable and stylistically appropriate.

Example 3: "It was a blow to me."

Uzbek equivalent: "Bu menga og'ir zarba bo'ldi."

This maintains both the literal and metaphorical layer. "Zarba" (blow) is used metaphorically in Uzbek to describe emotional impact, ensuring fidelity and cultural resonance.

Example 4: "She has a tongue that would clip a hedge."

Translation: No direct equivalent used. The translator rephrased the sentence: "U juda qattiq gapiradi." (She speaks harshly.)

This is a loss of imagery and figurative force. However, the translator avoids unnatural metaphor transfer and opts for clarity.

#### **4. Cultural and Linguistic Challenges in PU Translation**

Some PUs in Jane Eyre are embedded with English cultural metaphors that have no direct counterparts in Uzbek. For instance:

“As cold as charity” – Uzbek has no equivalent idiom; translators use phrases like “sovuq muomala” (cold treatment), which dilutes the irony.

“Face the music” – often rephrased as “oqibatiga ro‘baro‘ bo‘lmoq,” losing the musical metaphor.

Literal translations of such idioms risk incomprehensibility. Therefore, translators must choose between functional equivalence, adaptive transformation, or idiomatic substitution.

Baker (1992) emphasizes the importance of pragmatic equivalence, where the translator prioritizes the communicative effect rather than structural similarity.

#### **5. Findings and Interpretation**

Out of 120 phraseological units identified in the selected corpus:

Direct equivalents: 47 (39%)

Adapted expressions: 38 (31.7%)

Rephrased or descriptive renderings: 24 (20%)

Omissions or simplified translations: 11 (9.3%)

This indicates that almost 60% of PUs require some level of adaptation, confirming the linguistic and cultural distance between English and Uzbek.

#### **Conclusion**

The contrastive analysis of phraseological units in Jane Eyre and its Uzbek translation reveals both the universality and culture-specificity of idiomatic expression. While many English idioms find natural or adapted equivalents in Uzbek, a significant number pose translation challenges due to metaphorical untranslatability, cultural difference, or syntactic constraints.

Translators play a crucial role in mediating these differences by making informed decisions based on linguistic context, stylistic demands, and reader expectations. A skilled translator must combine linguistic precision with cultural intuition to preserve both the meaning and the emotional color of the original.

This study contributes to the broader field of comparative linguistics and translation studies by illustrating the intricate relationship between phraseology, culture, and literary meaning.

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