

TRANSLATION CHALLENGES OF ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS

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Abstract: This study explores the challenges that arise when translating the names of architectural monuments between English and Uzbek. Monument names not only refer to tangible objects, but also serve as carriers of cultural memory, national spiritual identity, and symbolic meanings. In the process of translation, it is essential to consider both linguistic and cultural nuances, as direct equivalents are often lacking. The study analyzes selected examples to demonstrate how semantic clarity, cultural connotations, and historical context influence the translation process. Strategies such as transliteration, domestication, and foreignization are examined in terms of their ability to preserve cultural content and ensure accessibility for the target audience. The findings indicate that successful translation requires a balance between linguistic accuracy and the preservation of cultural heritage. This research contributes to the fields of translation studies and linguoculturology, emphasizing the role of translation in intercultural communication and in safeguarding the intangible aspects of architectural heritage for future generations.

Keywords: Translation, Architectural monuments, Cultural heritage, Linguoculturology, Uzbek–English translation

Аннотация: Данное исследование рассматривает трудности, возникающие при переводе названий архитектурных памятников между английским и узбекским языками. Названия памятников обозначают не только материальные объекты, но также являются носителями культурной памяти, национальной духовной идентичности и символических значений. При переводе необходимо учитывать как лингвистические, так и культурные нюансы, так как прямые эквиваленты часто отсутствуют. В исследовании анализируются отдельные примеры, показывающие, как семантическая ясность, культурные коннотации и исторический контекст влияют на процесс перевода. Такие стратегии, как транслитерация, доместикация и фореинизация, рассматриваются с точки зрения сохранения культурного содержания и обеспечения удобства для целевой аудитории. Результаты показывают, что успешный перевод требует баланса между языковой точностью и сохранением культурного наследия. Настоящее исследование вносит вклад в переводоведение и лингвокультурологию, подчеркивая роль перевода в межкультурной коммуникации и в сохранении нематериальных аспектов архитектурного наследия для будущих поколений.

Ключевые слова: перевод, архитектурные памятники, культурное наследие, лингвокультурология, перевод узбекский–английский

Annotatsiya: Mazkur tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek tillari o'rtasida arxitektura yodgorliklari nomlarini tarjima qilishdagi vujudga keladigan qiyinchiliklarni o'rganadi. Yodgorlik nomlari faqatgina moddiy ob'ektlarni ifodalab qolmay, balki madaniy xotira, milliy ma'naviy o'zlik va ramziy ma'nolarning ham tashuvchisi hisoblanadi. Ularni tarjima qilishda lingvistik va madaniy nozikliklarni hisobga olish zarur, chunki ko'pincha to'g'ridan-to'g'ri ekvivalent yano o'rnini bosa oladigan ma'lumotlar mavjud emas. Tadqiqotda ayrim misollar tahlil qilinib, unda semantik



tushunarlilik, madaniy konnotatsiyalar va tarixiy kontekstning tarjima jarayoniga qanday ta'sirini ko'rsatishi ko'rsatib beriladi. Transliteratsiya, domestikatsiya va xorijlashtirish kabi strategiyalar madaniy mazmunni saqlash hamda o'quvchi uchun qulaylik yaratish nuqtai nazaridan tahlil qilinib xisobga olinadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, muvaffaqiyatli tarjima til aniqligi va madaniy merosni saqlash o'rtasida muvozanatni talab etadi. Ushbu tadqiqot tarjimashunoslik va lingvokulturologiyaga hissa qo'shib, tarjimaning madaniyatlararo muloqot hamda arxitektura merosining nomoddiy jihatlarini asrashdagi va kelachakda saqlash o'rnini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima, arxitektura yodgorliklari, madaniy meros, lingvokulturologiya, o'zbek–ingliz tarjima.

Architectural monuments are more than physical structures; they are cultural symbols that preserve history, identity, and collective memory. The names of such monuments often carry deep cultural and symbolic meanings, making their translation a complex task. In the context of English and Uzbek, linguistic differences and cultural specificities create significant challenges for translators. Literal translation often fails to convey the cultural depth, while inappropriate adaptation may distort historical or symbolic value.

This research addresses the translation difficulties of architectural monument names, with a focus on linguistic equivalence, cultural connotations, and historical context. By examining translation strategies such as transliteration, domestication, and foreignization, the study aims to identify effective ways of preserving both linguistic accuracy and cultural authenticity. The significance of this research lies in its contribution to translation studies and linguoculturology, as well as in its practical implications for safeguarding intangible aspects of cultural heritage through translation.

Translation Challenges of Monument Names

Translating monument names between English and Uzbek involves linguistic, cultural, and historical difficulties. Below are two examples from each language that illustrate these challenges:

English Monuments. Stonehenge usually transliterated into Uzbek as Stounhendj. While this preserves the international identity of the monument, Uzbek readers may not understand the cultural meaning of “henge” (a prehistoric stone circle). A descriptive translation such as Tosh aylana majmuasi could explain the concept, but it risks losing the monument's recognized name.

Challenge: Choosing between global recognition and cultural explanation.

Big Ben. Often left untranslated as Big Ben. However, the name refers specifically to the bell inside the tower, not the tower itself. A literal translation (Katta Ben or Katta qo'ng'iroq) would sound awkward and misleading.

Challenge: Preserving iconic identity while clarifying cultural meaning.

Uzbek Monuments Registan Square (Samarkand). Internationally recognized as Registan, which literally means “sandy place.” Translating it into English as Sandy Square would strip away its historical and cultural depth. Keeping the original form maintains authenticity, but foreign readers may not grasp the meaning without explanation.

Challenge: Maintaining historical resonance versus providing semantic clarity.



Shah-i-zinda Ensemble (Samarkand) Literally translated as Living King. This name is deeply tied to religious and legendary narratives. A direct translation risks oversimplifying these cultural layers. Retaining Shohizinda with explanation is often the best solution.

Challenge: Conveying symbolic and spiritual significance across cultures.

Cultural Considerations the translation of architectural monument names is not only a linguistic process but also a cultural one. Monument names often embody layers of history, religion, mythology, and collective memory, which makes them culturally loaded terms. Direct translation without considering these cultural aspects can lead to semantic loss or even misinterpretation.

For instance, Registan Square represents more than a “sandy place”; it symbolizes the historical and cultural heart of Samarkand, associated with Islamic architecture and Central Asian heritage. Similarly, Shohizinda is deeply tied to religious beliefs and legends, which cannot be fully conveyed through a literal equivalent such as Living King.

In English contexts, monuments like Stonehenge or Big Ben also reflect cultural identity. Stonehenge connects to prehistoric rituals and myths, while Big Ben has become a symbol of British tradition and political life. These cultural associations are essential for understanding the monuments beyond their physical form.

Therefore, translation must account for cultural dimensions by balancing fidelity to the original name with accessibility for the target audience. Explanatory notes, retention of original terms, and culturally sensitive strategies are often necessary to preserve the symbolic and historical depth of monument names.

The translation of architectural monument names requires a careful balance between linguistic accuracy and cultural preservation. To achieve this, translators may apply a range of strategies depending on the context and purpose of translation.

Retaining the original name in the target language script ensures authenticity and global recognition. For example, Registan and Stonehenge are often kept unchanged. However, transliteration alone may leave cultural meanings unexplained.

In some cases, a word-for-word translation clarifies meaning for the target audience. For instance, rendering Shohizinda as Living King conveys the basic sense, though it reduces the depth of cultural connotations. Literal translation works best when names are descriptive and not heavily symbolic.

This strategy adapts names to the cultural norms of the target language, which makes them more familiar to readers. Although this method creates ease, cultural adaptation risks distorting historical or cultural value. For example, translating “Big Ben” as “Katta qo‘ng‘iroq” (Big Bell) would be cultural adaptation, but it would not sound natural.

Foreignization. In the foreignization approach, the external element is preserved, which emphasizes the monument's unique cultural identity. For instance, leaving the name “Registan” unchanged but providing explanatory notes can help readers understand its identity and context.

Conclusion



Translating architectural monument names between English and Uzbek is a complex task shaped by linguistic, cultural, and historical factors. These names are not merely physical place names but carriers of identity, symbolic meaning, and collective memory. As shown in examples like “Stonehenge,” “Big Ben,” “Registan Square,” and “Shah-i-Zinda ensemble,” literal translations often fail to preserve cultural depth, while full transliteration may obscure meaning.

Effective translation requires a balanced use of transliteration, foreignization, and explanatory strategies. This approach makes monument names recognizable to an international audience while reflecting their cultural and symbolic significance. Recognizing monument names as elements of intangible heritage, translators carry an important responsibility in preserving cultural identity and fostering intercultural understanding.

Ultimately, translation should connect not only languages but also cultures, allowing monuments to serve as universal symbols of human history and shared heritage.

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