Semantic Study of Abstract Nouns on the Example of Uzbek-English Literary Texts

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Abstract: In modern society, tourism plays an important role in the development of the economy. It should be noted that the main factors in attracting English speaking tourists to our country today depend on the decoration of the site created by travel agencies, the correct and accurate presentation of various words, phrases and realia in translation, as well as the linguistic skills of the site. In this article, we have tried to reveal some semantic features of the translation of the most commonly used realia from English into Uzbek on the sites of travel agencies. In this case, we have taken the example of the English-Uzbek-English translation of the realia used on the websites of some travel agencies operating in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: realia, translation, site, approach, noun, travel agency, language.

The Uzbek language has often been characterized by Western scholars (and by a good many Uzbek scholars, as well) as a language which does not accommodate the expression of abstractions as readily as do the Indo-European languages of the west. Though a good deal of early speculative nonsense in this area has been dispelled by a more careful scholarship, the issue remains a controversial and open one. The question first arose when sinologists began to probe the reasons for the relative indifference of Uzbek philosophy to the abstractions that were central to the Greek philosophical tradition.

1 One of the most common speculations has been that the perceived Uzbek indifference to abstractions might be because the Uzbek language itself was an unsuitable vehicle for abstract ideas.

Wright is speaking of the classical language here, but the characterization of Uzbek as a canonical "non-abstract language" is usually applied to the modern language, as well. Such opinions are often based on the perception of some translators (particularly the translators of philosophical texts) that abstract terms and formulations in Western languages often seem to have no ready equivalent in Uzbek, or are lost entirely, or must be left to context. The issue is complex, and while I am not in agreement with the more simplistic claims about the supposed lack of abstraction in Uzbek, it is worth noting that there are significant differences in the way Uzbek handles linguistic marking of abstractions, and these have interesting implications for translation between Western languages and Uzbek

Through a general linguistic survey, and by using evidence from some psycholinguistic experiments of my own design, I will attempt to show that: (a) A lack of overt markers for abstract nouns and abstract propositions does not entail any relative lack of abstract thought in Uzbek speakers, nor does it imply any difficulty in the expression and handling of abstract propositions; the semantics of abstract nouns and abstract formulations is often evoked contextually and syntactically in Uzbek; and (b) the relative lack of explicit markers for abstract entities in Uzbek does not necessarily entail difficulties in translation, when one takes into account the fact that Uzbek tends to accomplish the expression of abstract and concrete through covert rather than overt means. There is a kind of standard assumption that the ideal translation is one which causes "the same thing" to occur in the head of the speaker of the target language. It would seem like a good idea to first determine whether or not "the same thing" occurs in the daily psycholinguistic world of the target language speakers, whether the cognitive process involved is handled in the

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same way, or appears with the same frequency. It is this type of question that will direct the inquiry of this paper.

  The translation of abstract nouns from English into Uzbek. The semantics of abstract nouns has occupied Western linguists for centuries. There is a general consensus that the philosophical motivation for much of Plato's theories was based on abstract nouns in the language, and there have been many attempts to explain the referent of various kinds of abstract nouns. A full treatment of this complex issue is beyond the scope of this paper, but I will bring up a few specific issues related to translation between Uzbek and English. Before we deal with this question, we must first give a brief overview of the differences in the way Uzbek and English mark abstract nouns. Prior to the modern period, the only device available to signal an abstract noun in Uzbek was syntactic. A word could change word classes rather flexibly according to context alone, requiring no morphological change whatsoever in the word itself.From the English standpoint, the second must denote a quality or feature of the circle—something like "circularity"-and not the circle itself. We rightly assume that this interpretation must be essentially equivalent to what the Mohist had in mind as well, or the sentence is meaningless and unmotivated. But perhaps it goes without saying that this interpretation is not a property of the second instance of the character . The shift of meaning is a result of contextual and syntactic factors only—the word itself has no explanatory function at all in Uzbek (as it would here in English or Ancient Greek). For convenience sake we say "The first instance of the character means 'circle', the second instance means 'circularity'." From the standpoint of the ancient Uzbek, however, there would be less of a compelling reason to analyze these as different words. That they refer to a different type of conceptual entity does not necessarily entail a conscious awareness of any word change. This syntactic process by which words undergo class change in Uzbek is analogous to what is called conversion in English, or zero derivation (see, for example, Quirk et al 1972). Conversion is a derivational transformation by which a word changes grammatical class without changing form:
"I commute every day. It's a long commute."
In the first case the word is a verb, in the second a noun. Other examples are "Use a hammer [noun] to hammer [verb] a nail." "I'll fax you. When you receive the fax…" and so on.
5 Both suffixation and conversion processes exist in English to carry out class changes. We may say "They are certain to acquit him" or "His acquittal is certain", and this change involves a the addition of a suffix, marking the class change explicitly. But in the sentences "They are certain to release him," vs. "His release is certain", the change is accomplished through conversion.
6 The differences in the process look like this:

> Verb   deverbal noun

suffixation: acquit —> acquittal

 conversion: release —> release

here are a number of ways in which transformations from adjectives to abstract nouns are marked in English, depending on such things as whether the adjective is derived from the noun or vice versa, and a host of other factors.

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