

# Untranslatability Found in J.K. Rowling's English Novel Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone and Its Uzbek Version

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**Abstract:** The untranslatability issue in J.K. Rowling's work Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is the subject of this study. The goal is to identify the several categories of untranslatability, their root causes, and the translator's approach to resolving them in this work. Using 27 pieces of data, the researcher identifies two categories of untranslatability in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: linguistic and cultural. The novel also contains nine reasons why it cannot be translated. The semantically complicated words or phrases that are distinctive to a culture are the main reason. As a result of the investigation, it was shown that translators frequently utilize the borrowed word or the loan word with explanation technique to tackle the issue of untranslatability in this novel.

**Keywords:** Untranslatability, Linguistic Untranslatability, Cultural Untranslatability, whisperers, bezoar

## Introduction:

In the status quo, there is a huge demand for translation in all walks of life because of fulfilling everyday necessities. As it is cited by Munday (1) The act of translating itself is defined as "the process of interpreting signs, verbal or non-verbal, from one language to another." The objective of translation is to create equivalency between the source language and the destination language.

**Being a translator** involves being knowledgeable and resourceful to be able to convey the meaning of one book from one language into another language. It requires the translator to know the target language, its culture, and the grammatical differentiation of both languages which affect the translation process. One of the most common problems in translating is untranslatability, which causes difficulty for the translators in order to define the equivalence meaning in the process.

There are many differences in the language of both Uzbek and English, such as in word order, grammar, expression, and culture. Therefore, I opted for the term "untranslatability" to study both languages under the novel of Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone. When there are no equivalence terms between the languages which can transfer the meaning of that term into the other language that makes untranslatability happen.

## Materials and Methods:

Untranslatability

"Catford [2] claim that untranslatability or translation failure happens when it is difficult to incorporate contextually significant functional aspects of the circumstance into the target language text's meaning. Despite the fact that Baker [3] referred to this phenomenon as non-equivalence terms, she stated that "non-equivalence at word level means that the target language has no counterpart for a word which is present in the source text." She shows that there are several semantic issues that lead to non-equivalence.

According to Cue's definition in her journal, untranslatability is the quality of a piece of writing or any speech in one language for which there is no corresponding text or utterance in a different language. Despite common assumptions, the terms cannot be translated or cannot be translated. They are merely words, and how easily

or difficulty they translate relies on both the nature of the words and the translator's abilities. There is frequently no one-to-one correspondence between a word, expression, or turn of phrase in the source language and another word, expression, or turn of phrase in the target language, which is why a text or utterance which is regarded to be "untranslatable" refers to a lacuna or lexical gap. Nevertheless, a translator might use a variety of.

There are two types of untranslatability as Catford mentioned, which are linguistic as well as cultural untranslatability. (2)

#### 1) Linguistic Untranslatability

It happens when a source text item has no lexical or syntactic equivalent in the destination text. Linguistic untranslatability occurred as there was no equivalent in the target language because of disparities between the source and target texts. The difficulty in translating Indonesian is a result of grammatical issues. I use Palmer's notion of grammatical categories [5] to draw boundaries around culturally untranslatable concepts. Gender, number, person, tense, mood, voice, and case are all addressed. For instance, the Indonesian language generally omits the particle "the" since it is not recognized in the language and has no bearing on the translation.

#### 1) Cultural Untranslatability

It happens because the target text culture lacks a situational element that is pertinent to the source text. The issue with this kind of untranslatability is the cultural disparity between Indonesian and English. I use Newmark's translation and cultural theory as the indication [6]. Ecology, material culture, social norms, traditions, and habits are all different. 'Phoenix' is one such word; the firebird is another. Even though certain literature usually translates it into "burung API" given its ability, there is no creature in Indonesia that has a comparable capability and look to the phoenix.

According to Baker [3], eleven factors contribute to untranslatability: particular culture concepts, source-language concepts that are not lexicalized in the target language, source-language words that are semantically complicated source, and target languages that generate different meaning distinctions, target language lack of superordinate, target language lack of a specific term, differences in physical or interpersonal perspective, differences in expressive meaning, and differences i.

Additionally, she offers eight solutions to the problem of untranslatable texts: translation by a more general word (superordinate), translation by a more unbiased or less expressed word, cultural substitution, translation using a borrowed word or borrowed word plus clarification, translation by paraphrasing using a related word, translation by paraphrasing using not connected words, omission, and illustration.

### **Result and Discussion:**

Due to the subject content, whisperers were categorized in this study as linguistically untranslatable. In whisperers, the suffixes -er and -s are combined. English's suffix -er serves a variety of purposes. It was once employed to create comparative adjectives and adverbs of one or more syllables, such as hotter and beautifuller when it was paired with an adjective or adverb. Additionally, when it is connected to a noun, such as a traveler or New Yorker, it denotes a person, place, or thing that is related to or linked with that term.

While for the suffix -s, as it was previously described, also serves a variety of purposes, including expressing the plural forms of nouns, creating adverbs that signify frequent or repeated behavior, and creating the third-person singular.

Because of the disparities in form, this event was difficult to translate. In this database, the phrase "whisperers" is translated as "shivirlovchilarsh." The pronoun shivirlovchi denotes the third person plural in Uzbekistan. While shivr-shivr refers to a continuous and repetitive activity.

The translator uses a translation by paraphrasing and a related word technique to resolve it. Whisperer is a noun with the suffix -er, which designates whisperers. Additionally, the suffix -s indicates that the action of whispering was ongoing and involved several people. In Indonesian, the word "whisperers" can alternatively be translated as "shivirlovchi," where para denotes the plural marker suffix "-s" and lar denotes the word itself. Additionally, due of the ecological distinctions, bezoar is seen as being culturally untranslatable. A bezoar, as defined in the book, is a substance extracted from an animal's stomach that functions as a poison antidote.

Along with the stomach, the esophagus, large intestine, and trachea can also contain it. For medicinal purposes, however, only bezoar obtained from goats and cows is employed.

Bezoar obtained from cows is frequently used by Chinese herbalists for therapeutic purposes and as an antidote. In contrast, goat bezoar is used by Rowling as the cure in her book.

The usage of borrowed words in the original text, which is derived from the Persian term *pd-zahr* (), which means "antidote," is the reason of this untranslatability. There are two ways to refer to bezoar in Uzbekistan. It was once referred to as bezoar by doctors, pharmacists, tabibs, and other individuals who worked in the medical field.

Even though it uses a familiar term, the translator nonetheless utilized an explanation method in addition to a borrowed word to solve this issue. The translator needs to be more cognizant of the target audience, which consists mostly of young children and teens with limited exposure to scientific and medical terms. If there are no words that can convey its phrase similarly, it will be simpler for the intended reader to grasp bezoar as it is described.

### Conclusions:

According to Catford's theory, which appears in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, there are two sorts of untranslatability. This conclusion comes from the study of untranslatability that was previously stated. Language and culture are the two sorts that cannot be translated. Nine of Baker's proposed eleven reasons for untranslatability can be found in the novel, including the culture-specific concept, the source language word's semantic complexity, the target language's absence of a particular word or superordinate, distinctions in physical or social perspective, the differences in expressive meaning, the differences in form, the differences in frequency and aim of utilizing specific forms, and the source language's use of loan words.

The culturally distinctive terms or phrases that are semantically complicated, which are present in five data points, and the instance where the target language lacks a specific term and variances in form, respectively, are the main causes of untranslatability in this book. The target language also lacks superordinate, as evidenced by three pieces of data. While the usage of loan words in the original text and disparities in physical or interpersonal viewpoint are observed in two data, so are cases of variances in expressive meaning. There was just one study that included data on variations in the frequency and motivation for utilizing particular types of strategy.

The translator employs some of Baker's (1992) suggested solutions to address the issue of untranslatability. In this work, it is discovered that the translator employed five different approaches to deal with the untranslatable parts. First, seventeen data were identified to use the translation with a borrowed word or loan word + explanation technique. Unfortunately, the translator chose to employ a loan word technique to solve the problem even though there are equivalent phrases that may be utilized. The translator should consider the **target** reader's capacity to understand the meaning while using this method because children and teens are the intended audiences.

The second technique is a translation by paraphrasing utilizing a related word strategy that was discovered in five data (in datums 2, 3, 5, 7, and 22). Due to a lack of exact vocabulary matches in the target language, this tactic was adopted. Third, two pieces of data (in datums 1 and 6) translate using a more generic word method. This tactic is employed because the target language lacks a particular phrase, therefore using a broader word will aid readers in following the storyline of the work. Fourth, two data (in datums 4 and 14) were identified to use the translation by omission technique.

Since the word in the source language is not understood in Indonesian, the translator utilized this tactic. Finally, just one data (in datum 8) employs translation utilizing a more neutral or less emotive word approach. Due to disparities in expressive meaning between the source language and the target language, the translator employed this method.

This book is difficult to translate because of grammatical issues and cultural distinctions. When a word from English text is translated into Uzbek text, one or more of the term's meaning components are lost, leading to linguistic untranslatability. And when a term in the English text differs from the Indonesian language in terms

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of word order and articles. If any cultural aspects of English culture cannot be translated, they include those related to ecology, material culture, social culture, conventions, and habits.

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