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TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH IDIOMS INTO AZERBAIJANI

Abstract

Idioms in English are one of the colorful and rich features of the language. These idioms go beyond the meanings of the words and express a certain integrated idea or concept. Translating English idioms into Azerbaijani sometimes requires translating them (in)directly or in the closest possible sense. Such translations should take into account both the structure of the language and cultural differences. Translating English idioms into Azerbaijani can be both a difficult and interesting process for language learners. This is because many idioms do not have exact equivalents in Azerbaijani, and therefore, it is important to convey the meaning correctly before translating. Some idioms can be translated (in)directly, based on identical or similar concepts in the cultures of both languages, while others may be metaphorical or stylistically different. This article will provide examples and explanations of the translation of some famous English idioms into Azerbaijani. Such translations can help language learners better understand both English and Azerbaijani.

Keywords: *idioms, translation, opinions, English language, Azerbaijani language.*

Assessment and Criticim of the translated idioms from Jack London`s "White fang" into Azerbaijani.

Jack London's White Fang is a novel that explores the struggle between nature and civilization, the instincts for survival, and human-animal relationships. While the novel itself does not heavily rely on idiomatic expressions, its themes align closely with many idioms in both English and Azerbaijani. This makes the translation of English idioms into Azerbaijani an interesting and complex subject, requiring an understanding of linguistic structures, cultural contexts, and stylistic choices. The existing opinions on this topic emphasize different translation approaches, highlighting the challenges of literal or word-for-word translation and the importance of maintaining meaning, readability, and cultural relevance. As a basic tool, contrastive descrptive as well semantic approach have been used, which enabled us to find corresponding Azerbaijani equivalents of the discussed English idiomatic expressions.

One of the main challenges in translating idioms is that a literal (word-for-word) translation often results in a loss of meaning or an unnatural phrase. Idioms are deeply rooted in the cultural and historical backgrounds of a language, duete which they often do not have direct equivalents in another language. For instance, the English idiom "a lone wolf" refers to an independent person who prefers solitude, but a direct translation such as "yalnız canavar" may not fully convey the intended meaning in Azerbaijani. A more natural equivalent would be "tənha qurd" or "tək gəzən canavar", which reflect similar metafhoric imagery but are more idiomatically appropriate in Azerbaijani. Similarly, the English phrase "to weather the storm", meaning to endure a difficult situation, does not work well when translated as "fırtınanı keçmək", as it sounds unnatural. Instead, a more effective Azerbaijani equivalent would be "çətinlikləri aşmaq" or "çətin dövrləri geridə qoymaq", which retain the intended meaning rather than focusing on the literal imagery of a storm [1, s 56].

In some cases, idioms in English and Azerbaijani do not have exact translations, but alternative expressions with the same meaning. For example, the English idiom "Survival of the fittest", which describes the principle that only the strongest and most adaptable individuals survive, has no direct word-for-word equivalent in Azerbaijani. However, phrases such as "Güclü olan qalib gəlir" or "Meşənin qanunu" carry the same message and are more suitable in translation. Similarly, "Let sleeping dogs lie", which advises against stirring up old conflicts, has a close Azerbaijani equivalent in "yatmış iti oyatmazlar". Another strong example is "A wolf in sheep's clothing", which describes a dangerous person who pretends to be harmless. In Azerbaijani, the closest equivalent would be "Qoyun dərisinə

girmiş canavar, yenə canavardır", preserving both the imagery and the warning contained in the original idiom [2, s 112].

The process of translating idioms also involves recognizing cultural differences in how languages express ideas. Some idioms are deeply tied to specific historical or environmental experiences, making direct translation difficult. For instance, the phrase "the elephant in the room", referring to an obvious issue that people avoid discussing, does not have a direct equivalent in Azerbaijani. Instead, translators might use a phrase like "Hamının bildiyi, amma danışmadığı mühüm məsələ", which conveys the same idea but removes the unfamiliar elephant imagery. Additionally, while English often uses metaphors from sports or hunting, Azerbaijani idioms frequently come from nature, folk wisdom, and traditional expressions. This means that a direct translation may not always capture the connotation intended in the original language, requiring creative adaptation rather than strict linguistic accuracy [3, s 78].

When translating idioms, translators typically choose between word-for-word translation and meaning-based translation. The first method, word-for-word translation, may retain the original structure but often results in unnatural or confusing phrasing. The second method, meaning-based translation, prioritizes the intended message while adapting the wording to fit the target language naturally. For example, the English idiom "To kill two birds with one stone", meaning to achieve two goals at once, can be directly translated as "Bir daşla iki quş vurmaq". While understandable, this phrasing is not commonly used in Azerbaijani. Instead, the more natural equivalent would be "Bir güllə ilə iki dovşanı vurmaq", which aligns better with Azerbaijani linguistic and cultural norms [4, s 23].

Linguists and translators generally agree that idiomatic expressions should be translated using the closest cultural equivalent rather than relying on a direct, literal approach. However, there are differing opinions on the best strategies for idiom translation in literature, particularly in White Fang. Some experts argue for adaptation, where the idiom is replaced with a culturally similar phrase that conveys the same message, even if the exact words differ. Others believe in providing a literal translation with explanatory footnotes, especially in literary works, to preserve the original imagery and stylistic choices of the author. A third approach is hybrid translation, where a literal version is presented alongside a more natural equivalent, allowing readers to understand both the original structure and the intended meaning [5, s 44-46].

For example, in a translated version of White Fang, an idiom like "a dog-eat-dog world", which describing a ruthless and highly competitive environment, could be translated using the semantic type producing the "hər kəsin bir-birini məhv etdiyi dünya" equivalence in the TL. Moreover, a footnote might be included to explain that this phrase originates from the aggressive behavior of dogs fighting for dominance. This approach balances fidelity to the source text with clarity for the target audience, making it easier for Azerbaijani readers to grasp the meaning without losing the original expression's impact [6, s 71].

The successful translation of English idioms into Azerbaijani, particularly in a novel like White Fang must balance linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and readability. While literal translations can sometimes work, in most cases, finding an equivalent expression or adapting the meaning is the best approach. The existing opinions on this subject emphasize that idiom translation should preserve the original meaning rather than just the wording, consider cultural differences to ensure the idiom makes sense in Azerbaijani, and use dynamic and natural translation techniques to keep the text fluid and engaging [7, s 89].

By applying these principles, translators can ensure that the themes and messages of White Fang remain powerful and meaningful for Azerbaijani readers duetn maintaining the richness of idiomatic language. The novel's deep connection to survival, adaptation, and human-animal relationships makes it particularly well-suited for exploring the challenges of idiom translation. Whether through word-for-word, meaning-based semantic or hybrid translation types, the goal remains the same: to preserve the emotional and thematic depth of C. London's writing for making the TL language resonate with a new audience.

Conclusion. Translating English idioms into Azerbaijani is sometimes not possible directly, as idioms are often associated with specific linguistic and cultural features. For this reason, many idioms must be understood not only structurally but also semantically, pragmatically and contextically context.

Since the structure and culture of both languages are different, the equivalent translation of English idioms into the TL requires attention to better and more effectively take into account the above mentioned factors.

Literature

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İNGİLİS DİLİNDƏ İDİOMLARIN AZƏRBAYCAN DİLİNƏ TƏRCÜMƏSİ

XÜLASƏ

İngilis dilindəki idiomlar, dilin rəngarəng və zəngin xüsusiyyətlərindən biridir. Bu idiomlar, sözlərin mənalarından kənara çıxaraq müəyyən bir fikri və ya konsepti ifadə edirlər. İngilis dilindəki idiomları Azərbaycan dilinə tərcümə etmək, bəzən onları birbaşa və ya ən yaxın mənada çevirməyi tələb edir. Bu cür tərcümələrdə həm dilin quruluşu, həm də mədəniyyət fərqlilikləri nəzərə alınmalıdır. İngilis dilindəki idiomların Azərbaycan dilinə tərcüməsi, dil öyrəniciləri üçün həm çətin, həm də maraqlı bir proses ola bilər. Çünki, bir çox idiomların Azərbaycan dilində tam qarşılığı olmur və buna görə də tərcümə etməzdən əvvəl, mənanın doğru ötürülməsi önəmlidir. Bəzi idiomlar, hər iki dilin mədəniyyətindəki oxşar anlayışlara əsaslanaraq birbaşa tərcümə oluna bilər, digərləri isə metaforik və ya stilistik cəhətdən fərqli ola bilər. Bu məqalədə, İngilis dilindəki bəzi məşhur idiomların Azərbaycan dilinə tərcüməsi ilə bağlı misallar və izahlar veriləcək. Bu cür tərcümələr, dil öyrənicilərinin həm İngilis dilini, həm də Azərbaycan dilini daha yaxşı anlamalarına kömək edə bilər.

Açar sözlər: *Azərbaycan dili, İngilis dili, idiomlar, tərcümə, rəylər.*

ПЕРЕВОД АНГЛИЙСКИХ ИДИОМ НА АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

РЕЗЮМЕ

Идиомы в английском языке — одна из самых ярких и богатых особенностей языка. Эти идиомы выражают определенную идею или концепцию, выходящую за рамки значений слов. Перевод английских идиом на азербайджанский язык иногда требует их прямого перевода или перевода в максимально близком значении. Такие переводы должны учитывать как структуру языка, так и культурные различия. Перевод английских идиом на азербайджанский язык может быть одновременно сложным и интересным процессом для изучающих язык. Поскольку многие идиомы не имеют точных эквивалентов в азербайджанском языке, важно правильно передать смысл перед переводом. Некоторые идиомы можно перевести напрямую, основываясь на схожих концепциях в культурах обоих языков, в то время как другие могут отличаться метафорически или

стилистически. В этой статье будут приведены примеры и пояснения перевода некоторых популярных английских идиом на азербайджанский язык. Такие переводы могут помочь изучающим языки лучше понимать как английский, так и азербайджанский язык.

Ключевые слова: *азербайджанский язык, английский язык, идиомы, перевод, мнения.*