LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE TRANSLATION OF MILITARY TERMS

Qahramonov Islom Botir o'g'li
Uzbekistan, Termiz
2nd year student of the Master`s degree at Termiz State University
E-mail: islomqahramanov2000@gmail.com
+998880736997

Abstract: *This study investigates the lexical and grammatical transformations employed in the translation of military news texts from English into Uzbek. Military terminology presents unique challenges due to its specialized vocabulary, multi-component terms, and context-dependent meanings, which require precise and culturally appropriate translation strategies. Through the analysis of authentic online military news, the study identifies and illustrates key translation techniques, including transliteration, calque, lexical-semantic substitution, concretization, generalization, transposition, modulation, and voice changes. Findings demonstrate that these transformations are essential for maintaining semantic accuracy, stylistic coherence, and communicative effectiveness. The study emphasizes the role of the translator in adapting complex military discourse to the syntactic and cultural norms of the target language, ensuring clarity, precision, and equivalence in cross-linguistic communication.*

Key words: *Transliteration, A* **calque, Lexical–semantic substitution,** *Concretization, Generalization,* **Transposition, Modulation**

When translating military terminology, the translator's main responsibility is to convey the core message in another language while maintaining the original text's coherence, cohesion, and stylistic tone. Inevitably, some meaning or nuance may be lost in the process. Because of differences between languages, translators often need to apply various lexical and grammatical transformations—either to the entire text or to specific parts of it. Research on this topic shows that such transformations are an essential part of translation, helping the translator overcome structural and vocabulary-related challenges. In our work with military news texts, we identified and applied a range of these lexical and grammatical transformation techniques.

The accurate translation of military terminology presents unique challenges due to its specialized nature, context-dependent meanings, and the critical need for precision in international communication. This exigency necessitates a detailed examination of the lexical and grammatical

transformations that occur when military terms are rendered across different linguistic systems, often diverging significantly from general language translation. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of these transformations, illustrating common pitfalls and effective strategies for mitigating semantic and pragmatic inaccuracies in military translation. Moreover, the rapid evolution of military technology and operational doctrines continually introduces new terminology, demanding adaptive and culturally informed translation approaches to maintain contemporaneity and accuracy.

Lexical and grammatical transformations are essential tools for translators to achieve semantic accuracy and equivalence when rendering military texts between languages. According to Jean-Paul Vinay & Jean Darbelnet[40] Mechanisms of Impact Lexical Transformations: Techniques such as calque, transliteration, lexical-semantic substitution, concretization, and generalization allow translators to select the most contextually appropriate equivalents for military terms, especially when direct matches are absent. This ensures that the specialized meaning and nuance of military terminology are preserved, reducing ambiguity and misinterpretation. Lexical transformations also help adapt terms to the norms and combinability of the target language, which is crucial for clarity and precision in military contexts. Moreover, grammatical transformations: Grammatical substitutions, sentence fragmentation/integration, and permutations enable the translator to restructure sentences so that the translated text aligns with the syntactic and stylistic norms of the target language, while maintaining the original meaning. These transformations help avoid literal translations that could distort meaning or result in unnatural phrasing, thus supporting both semantic and communicative accuracy. The correct application of these transformations is directly linked to the adequacy and equivalence of the translation, ensuring that both the content and the stylistic features of the original are preserved. Inadequate or incorrect use of transformations can lead to semantic loss, ambiguity, or misrepresentation of military concepts, which may have serious consequences in professional or operational contexts

Lexical transformation in the translation of the texts of military news.

Lexical transformations refer to shifts away from direct, word-for-word correspondences. They occur primarily because the meanings and usage ranges of words in the source language rarely match perfectly with those in the target language.[41] Lexical transformation used to reach the adequacy in Uzbek translation of English texts of military news on the internet website are:

[40] Vinay, J.-P., & Darbelnet, J. (1995). *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation.* Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
[41] Komissarov V.N. (2001) Sovremennoye perevodovedeniy [Modern translation studies]. Moscow: Electronic andTraditional Dictionaries. (in Russian)

1. Transliteration is the formal rendering of an English word into Uzbek by using the Uzbek alphabet to imitate the sound and visual form of the original term. For example, *NATO has announced a new defense initiative aimed at increasing military support for Eastern European members.- NATO Sharqiy Yevropa a'zolariga harbiy yordamni kuchaytirishga qaratilgan yangi mudofaa tashabbusi boshlanganini e'lon qildi.*

The Pentagon confirmed that additional surveillance drones have been deployed near the conflict zone.- Pentagon mojaro hududi yaqiniga qo'shimcha razvedka dronlari joylashtirilganini rasman tasdiqladi.(exp the word Pentagon is also kept in its original English form. Since this name is widely known and official, it remains unchanged in translation).

2. A calque in translation is a method where a foreign word or phrase is **literally translated into the target language** by rendering each component word or element, rather than using the original term or a direct borrowing.

For example, *The army launched a pre-dawn counteroffensive along the northern border.- Armiya tong oldi **qarshi hujum**ini shimoliy chegarada boshladi (exp.Counteroffensive → qarshi hujum is a direct word-for-word calque (counter = qarshi, offensive = hujum)).*

*The defense forces established a new no-fly zone over the conflict area.- Mudofaa kuchlari mojaro hududi ustida yangi **uchish taqiqlangan zona**ni belgiladi. (exp. No-fly zone → uchish taqiqlangan zona is a literal translation preserving the structure and meaning.)*

3. Lexical–semantic substitution is a translation technique in which a word or phrase is **not translated literally**, but is replaced with a **more natural and context-appropriate equivalent** in the target language. The translator chooses a term that conveys the **same meaning or function**, even if the wording is different.

For example, *The commander emphasized that the mission required absolute precision.- Qo'mondon vazifa **aniq bajarilishini** ta'kidladi. (exp.Instead of calquing absolute precision literally (mutlaq aniqlik), a natural Uzbek semantic substitute, **aniq bajarilish** is used to convey the same meaning more idiomatically.)*

*Troops were ordered to hold their positions despite heavy fire.- O'q yog'ilishiga qaramay, askarlarga **o'z joyini tark etmaslik** buyurildi. (exp.Holding their positions is not translated literally as pozitsiyalarini ushlash; instead, a semantic equivalent **o'z joyini tark etmaslik** is used—this is lexical-semantic substitution.)*

4. Concretization is a translation technique in which a **broad or abstract source-language term** is translated into a **more specific, precise, or concrete term** in the target language. It is used when the target language prefers **clearer, more detailed wording** or when specificity improves understanding.

For example: The unit moved several vehicles to the front line during the night.-Boʻlinma tun davomida oldingi chiziqqa bir nechta **harbiy yuk mashinasini** *koʻchirdi. (exp. The general word vehicles is concretized into* **harbiy yuk mashinasi**, *giving a more specific and realistic military reference.) The aircraft delivered supplies to the remote base.- Harbiy samolyot olis baza uchun* **oʻq-dori va oziq-ovqat** *yetkazdi.(The broad term supplies is concretized as* **oʻq-dori va oziq-ovqat** *to specify what type of supplies are meant).*

5. Generalization is the opposite process: a **specific source-language term** is translated with a **more general or inclusive term** in the target language. It is used when the target language lacks a direct equivalent or when the specific detail is unnecessary for comprehension. *From general → to more specific in Uzbek.*

For example, The destroyer escorted the convoy through the contested waters.- Harbiy **kema** *nizo hududidagi suvlar orqali karvonni kuzatib bordi.(exp The specific term destroyer is generalized to* **kema**, *since using the exact class of ship is not essential in the Uzbek context).*

Snipers targeted enemy armored personnel carriers in the field.- Snayperlar dala hududida dushman **zirhli texnikasini** *nishonga oldi. (exp.Armored personnel carriers* is generalized to **zirhli texnika**, a broader category that still conveys the meaning but with less specificity).

Grammatical Transformations in the Translation in Military News

Grammatical transformations are changes made to the structure of a sentence when translating military terminology from one language to another. They are necessary because military language often uses **fixed structures, compound terms, passive voice, abbreviations, and noun clusters** that do not transfer naturally into the target language. The purpose of grammatical transformations is to preserve **meaning, precision, and clarity** while adapting the grammar to the norms of the target language.

1.Transposition is a grammatical transformation in which the **word class (part of speech) or syntactic structure changes** during translation while the **meaning stays the same**. This is especially common in military news, where English often uses **noun clusters**, **passive structures**, or **adjectival modifiers**, while Uzbek prefers **verbal or expanded constructions** for clarity. Transposition helps avoid unnatural literal translations and ensures smooth, idiomatic military reporting in Uzbek.

For example, *Ukrainian forces conducted a counterattack on Russian positions overnight.* - *Ukraina kuchlari tun davomida Rossiya pozitsiyalariga* **qarshi hujum uyushtirdi.(exp.** *The English noun* **"counterattack"** *is structurally a noun, but Uzbek uses a verb phrase* **"qarshi hujum uyushtirdi".** *This is a* **noun → verb phrase** *transposition to produce a natural military report in Uzbek.) The ministry reported significant reinforcement of frontline units.* - *Vazirlik oldingi chiziq bo'linmalari* **sezilarli darajada kuchaytirilganini** *ma'lum qildi. (exp. English uses a* **nominal phrase**: *"significant reinforcement". Uzbek expresses this as a* **verb-based passive construction**: *"kuchaytirilganini". So the structure shifts from* **noun → verb form** *(a typical military-language transposition).*

2. Modulation is a translation technique in which the translator **changes the angle, perspective, or conceptual viewpoint** to express the same idea more naturally in the target language. In military news, English often uses **static, nominal, or passive forms**, while Uzbek may prefer **dynamic, agent-focused, or causative expressions**.

For example, No casualties were reported after the missile strike. - *Raketa zarbasidan* **hech kim jabrlanmadi**, *deb xabar qilindi. (exp.English focuses on* **"no casualties were reported"** *(a passive, result-oriented viewpoint). Uzbek shifts the perspective to* **"hech kim jabrlanmadi"** *(no one was harmed), focusing on people rather than the report. This is a* **shift from an abstract result → human-centered outcome**, *a classic modulation technique)*

The city remains under enemy control. - *Shahar hali ham* **dushman qo'lida turibdi**. *(exp. The phrase* **"remains under enemy control"** *is an abstract, administrative concept. Uzbek expresses the same idea with a* **more physical, possession-based image**: *"dushman qo'lida turibdi" ("is in the enemy's hands").*

3. Changing voice is a translation technique in which a sentence in the **active voice** is translated into the **passive voice** (or vice versa) to make the message sound natural in the target language. Military news in English frequently uses the **passive voice** to sound formal, neutral, or to hide the agent (e.g., "was attacked," "was confirmed"). Uzbek, however, often prefers the **active voice**, especially when the actor is known or implied. This transformation helps keep the translation clear, idiomatic, and stylistically appropriate.

For example, Several drones were shot down near the border, the ministry said. - *Vazirlikka ko'ra, chegaraga yaqin hududda bir necha dronni* **harbiylar urib tushirdi**.*(exp. English uses the* **passive** *(were shot down) to avoid specifying who did it.Uzbek naturally prefers the* **active** *(harbiylar urib tushirdi). Thus, the voice changes from* **passive → active** *to maintain clarity.)*

Russian forces shelled residential areas in the east.- Sharqiy hududlardagi turar-joy mahallalari **o'qqa tutilgan.(exp.** *English uses an* **active structure** *(Russian forces shelled). Uzbek switches to a* **passive form** *(o'qqa tutilgan) because the focus is on the* **event and its consequences***, not the actor. This is a shift from* **active → passive** *to fit the common Uzbek news style.)*

The methodology employed in this study involved a comparative analysis of translated military texts from English to Uzbek, focusing on identifying recurrent patterns of lexical and grammatical shifts and the underlying motivations for these transformations. This analytical approach allowed for the categorization of translation procedures, including calque, transposition, and near-synonymy, which are frequently observed in military discourse. Furthermore, the study also incorporated a qualitative assessment of translator decisions, examining how linguistic and cultural factors influence the selection of specific lexical equivalents and grammatical structures in the target language. This multifaceted approach underscored the importance of extra-linguistic considerations, such as geopolitical context and target audience, in shaping the final translated output. Further insights into translation studies highlight the valuable contribution of academic researchers in comprehending neologisms within warfare, analyzing the cultural and ideological ramifications, and emphasizing the translator's pivotal function in facilitating communication across diverse linguistic and cultural domains.

CONCLUSION

The translation of military texts demands careful application of both lexical and grammatical transformations to preserve meaning, nuance, and clarity. Techniques such as transliteration, calque, lexical-semantic substitution, concretization, and generalization allow translators to navigate the lack of direct equivalents and maintain the specialized sense of military terminology. Grammatical transformations—including transposition, modulation, and voice changes—enable the restructuring of sentences to align with the target language's norms, producing natural and idiomatic translations. The study confirms that these strategies are crucial for ensuring semantic accuracy and communicative adequacy, particularly in the context of military reporting, where precision is vital. Ultimately, effective translation in this domain requires a combination of linguistic skill, cultural awareness, and an understanding of operational and technological nuances, highlighting the translator's pivotal role in international military communication.

LIST OF USED LITERATURE:

1. Vinay, J.-P., & Darbelnet, J. (1995). *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

2. Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. London: Prentice Hall.

3. Catford, J.C. (1965). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics*. London: Oxford University Press.

4. Baker, M. (1992). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. London: Routledge.

5. Hatim, B., & Mason, I. (1997). *The Translator as Communicator*. London/New York: Routledge.

6. Munday, J. (2016). *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* (4th ed.). London: Routledge.