

Translation Problems for Chinese Adjectives Relating to Food Discourse

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ABSTRACT

In this research, it is examined how students learning Chinese translated sentences with adjectives indicating taste from Uzbek into Chinese with a variety of mistakes. To demonstrate the lexical-semantic analysis of adjectives, the limits of their use through examples, and information on where adjectives should be used in their place, sentences with several adjectives of the taste, appearance, and preparation method of food were given to about 60 students with Chinese language proficiency level B2 for the experiment. According to the analysis's findings, it is clear that the future translators who took part in the experiment frequently misused adjective synonyms. Students make a few minor errors when translating the sweet and delectable adjectives employed in Uzbek into Chinese as a result of interference. Our article's conclusion included some suggestions about how to do away with these flaws.

Keywords: Food discourse, taste adjectives, translation problems, taste adjectives in Uzbek, adjectives related to food preparation

INTRODUCTION

There are five primary tastes in Chinese: *bitter, spicy, sweet, sour, and salty*. Since there is a category of taste, it is only natural for translators to run into some problems. If a learner is translating from one foreign language to another without knowledge of the people's culture, customs, food, types of food, or the concepts of taste unique to this country, there will be many translation errors.

Adjectives that describe taste in the Uzbek language include characteristics such as sweet, tasty, bitter, tasteless, and sour. Compared to other sorts of adjectives, there are few adjectives that express taste: *He displayed facial wrinkling as if he had just consumed a tart apple (Sharof Rashidov)*. In Uzbek language and literature there is a lack of taste adjectives. For instance, following nouns sometimes uses as adjectives being derived with suffixes: Sugar (instead of sweet), poison (as bitter taste), and water(as juicy) are among examples. (Kholmonova, 2007)

About “Chinese pleasing to the mouth or pleasant Personality” Yin Zhong and Chu-Ren Huang’s conclusions are descriptions of other types of food in Chinese, with an emphasis on looking into how sensory modalities are interrelated. Comparisons between Chinese and other languages on food also need to be undertaken in order to unveil cultural differences in this subject (Yin Zhong, Chu-Ren Huang, 2018).

This article looks at how adjectives are translated by translators, the difficulties in correcting their errors, and offers some solutions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

G. K. Odilova, a doctor of philology, examined food discourse in Uzbek, issues with menu translation, the expression of food names in fiction, and roughly a hundred works of literature that were translated from English to Uzbek and vice versa. G. K. Odilova made extensive use of adjectives found in food names and adjectives associated with food images in her doctoral thesis, "The theory and practice of linguistic and cultural interpretation of private discourses (in the case of gluttonous discourse)" (G. K. Odilova, 2021)

The limitations and errors in the translation of menus and food names into a second language in Chinese have been the subject of numerous research studies. The research primarily focuses on the errors and shortfalls that were discovered when translating food names from Chinese to English and from English to Chinese. A few of them have been investigated.

A master's degree from Beijing Foreign Languages University «There are currently more than 400,000 overseas Chinese restaurants in Europe, America, and Southeast Asian countries,» wrote Cai Yisu in his dissertation, 蔡一粟 “功能主义理论和跨文化翻译视角下的中国菜名西译研究” («Research on the Western Translation of Chinese Cuisine Names from the Perspective of Functionalism and Cross-cultural Translation») These figures accurately depict Chinese cuisine's quick international development. The success of the Chinese catering industry's international expansion is greatly impacted by language difficulties, misunderstandings, and mistranslations. The author emphasizes the need to avoid using a specific method while translating food names into Spanish. He emphasized that one must thoroughly examine the name's history and be familiar with the mythological figures that are unique to Chinese culture to properly comprehend food names linked with Chinese culture (Cai Yisu, 2017).

Lin Hong conducts sociolinguistic research in his master's thesis titled 林泳 “美国纽约市餐馆招牌的社会语言学调查” on Chinese eateries in New York City (Social Linguistic study and analysis on the Signs of Chinese restaurants in New York, 2010). The researcher chatted with Chinese and foreign customers who visited more than 700 restaurants to learn more about their opinions on food names. The author concludes as a result that it is crucial to translate food names based on each country's cultural ideas, fully explain the meaning of food names, and select the appropriate food names for intercultural communication.

METHODOLOGY

The experimental approach was used to conduct a survey and investigation among students for this work. Translation techniques such interpretative translation, word-for-word translation, equivalent translation, and functional translation were used to translate the sentences from Uzbek to Mandarin.

As a test for the students of the second and third level of the Uzbek group studying at the institute, a few adjectives that

describe the taste, and appearance of food from Uzbek to Mandarin are translated.

RESULTS

1. A typical Chinese food that varies from other cuisines in its way of preparation and aroma is fried noodles.
2. Chicken soup, which is typically consumed hot, is a fairly simple dish.
3. The fragrant and slightly bitter foods of Chinese cuisine are a favorite among Westerners.
4. Spicy cuisine is a favorite among the Chinese.
5. Bread isn't as tasty as dumplings.
6. All Chinese people exchange sweet zongzi with their neighbors during the Boat Festival every year.
7. Sichuan residents eat spicy cabbage that has been added to sour soups. This enhances the flavor of the soup.
8. Several traditional Chinese meals are prepared each year for the Spring Festival.

Table 1. *Descriptors employed in the experiment*

№	Source language	Translation
1.	Aromatic (taste) (Hushxo'r)	香 xiāng
2.	Easy (to cook food) (Oson tayyor bo'ladigan)	简单jiǎndān
3.	Hot (used to describe the adjective of food) (Issiq)	热rè
4.	Peppery; hot (Achchiq)	辣là
5.	Sour (tasting) (Nordon)	酸suān
6.	Delicious (meaning «tasty») (Mazali)	好吃 hào chī
7.	Sweet (Shirin)	甜tián

The following errors were made by students when translating the aforementioned adjectives:

1. *Seaweed is one of the most well-liked foods in China because it is tasty, light, and healthy* - examination of the first clause.

Simple (food) 45 students successfully applied the 清淡 qīngdàn adjective. One student used the term 零食 língshí, while 14 students used 轻 qīng.

清淡 qīngdàn is the original Chinese translation for the «light» character brought about by the food's preparation and digestion process. This adverb is more frequently used when describing cuisine. The term 清淡 qīngdàn “汉语词典” is used bland meals with a mild flavor and color. For instance: The adjective of “清淡” qīngdàn is referenced in the passage “平生不经尝五味丰腴之物，清淡安全，所以致寿” in Ming Zhang Ding's «Conversations of Fang Zhou» - Consume a lot of healthy food regularly rather than heavy meals. The adjective 清淡 qīngdàn in this phrase refers to light fare.

In the third chapter of the fifth chapter of the masterpiece of Chinese traditional literature «A Dream of Red Rose» 清淡 is used as follows:

“晴雯此症虽重，幸亏他素昔是个使力不使心的人，再者素昔饮食清淡，饥饱无伤的。 - «Fortunately, Xing Wen was a guy who did not use his strength even though his illness was severe. Su Xi also ate diet cuisine that was light and healthy. The adjective 清淡 is used in this example's definition as well.

In the 37th chapter of «My Twenty Years of Strange Adventures» it is stated that «雪渔道：我们讲喫酒，何必考究菜，我觉得清淡点的好». Xu Yu remarked: «On vino about that, I believe it would be wiser to purchase something lighter. 清淡 qīngdàn adjective is used in its meaning.

Three definitions of the characteristic 清淡 qīngdàn are provided in the «Dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives». The first one has a light and a strong, not light, meaning: 清淡的花香弥散在小院中。 - A faint floral scent drifted from the little yard.

The second definition is to conduct a modest amount of business: 现在服装业的生意很清淡。-The textile industry's current turnover is very low. 清淡 is the translation of «food without fat, easily digestible» in the third sense of the Chinese word 清淡:我愿意吃清淡的食物- I like to consume modestly.

The comments made about the adjective 清淡 in both dictionaries serve as evidence that this word was generally used properly when the sentence was being translated from Uzbek to Chinese.

However, it is incorrect to refer to the dishes' adjective as 轻 qīng, which conveys the load's lightness and is directly translated from Uzbek to Chinese. The definition of the word 轻 qīng is given as follows on page 176 of the «Dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives»: (1995)

1. Lightness: 她的身体很轻。 - It is incredibly light.
2. The lack of quantity, the lightness of the level: - 运动员们奋力拼搏, 轻伤决不下赛场。 - The athletes worked hard and did not leave the field due to minor injuries.
3. Unimportant meaning: 这次你的责任不轻呀! - This time your responsibility is not light!
4. Simple equipment and low load: 内蒙古有支非常有名的轻骑兵。 - There is very popular light cavalry in Inner Mongolia.
5. Easy: 我爱听轻音乐。 - I like to listen to light music.
6. To use less effort: 一定要轻拿轻放, 不可大意。 - Take it slow and put it down slowly, carelessness is not good.
7. Casual, careless, not serious: 切勿轻举妄动。 - Don't do it carelessly.

The use of the adjective 轻 qīng of food in the food discourse has led to rhetorical, methodological, and semantic confusion because there is no information about the easy digestion or preparation of food among the meanings provided in the explanatory lexicon.

The definition of the adjective 香 xiāng is given as follows on pages 232–234 of «The dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives»: emitting a pleasant scent; pleasing to a person.

我喜欢香花，它使我心里感到舒服。 - I enjoy fragrant blossoms because they make me happy. The speech was translated verbatim, and 93.6% of the students made no errors. Additionally, the word 香甜 xiāngtián is used to describe both fragrant and sweet food items: 少年夏令营的营员们吃着香甜可口的饭菜都满意的笑了。 - Vacationers from youth summer camps are odorous While consuming sweet and delectable food, they grinned joyfully. The adjective of xingtián xingtián in this phrase is fragrant.

味道 wèidào was used by 6.4% of students who erred in translation. 味道 is a word linked to the word family 味道 wèidào - noun, which is translated as taste, according to the Chinese online dictionary. (An instance is provided below. See: Sichuan residents season their sour stews with a little spicy kale. This enhances the flavor of the broth.) The translation is incorrect because the word phrase is used. The outcome is displayed in the following table:

Table 2.

No	Aromatic (taste)	The type of translation	Result
1.	香 xiāng	Equivalent translation	Used by 56 students
2.	味道 wèidào	Translation error	Used by 4 students

Chicken soup, which is typically consumed hot, is a very simple meal. In the functional translation technique, 20% of students correctly translated the adjective 简单 jiǎndān, which conveys how simple food preparation is, and 80% of them used the adjective 容易 róngyì, Let's examine how these two synonyms vary below:

The straightforward definition of the first character for the adjective 简单 jiǎndān is found on page 108 of the «The dictionary of Adjectives in Modern Chinese Language»; The 简jiǎn hieroglyphic symbol for «clean, simple, single» is «单dān»:

这道数学题看起来挺简单，做起来却不容易。 - This mathematical problem appears to be very straightforward, but it is not straightforward to answer.

It was established that the adjective 简单jiǎndān is entirely compatible with the experimented sentence based on the definition and the provided example. The term «easy adjective» is used by Chinese folks when preparing food.

The word «容易 róngyì is examined in «The dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives» on page 182:

1. A task that is simple to complete:
攀登科学高峰不是一件容易的事。 - The path to the summit of wisdom is not simple.
2. In situations where an occurrence is more likely:
这件上衣颜色容易退色。 - The hue of this outerwear fades quickly.

Even though the word 容易 róngyì has the characteristic of being easily translated, it is incorrect to use it to describe how simple it is to prepare food. These are the outcomes:

Table 3

№	Easy (to cook food)	The type of translation	Result
1.	简单jiǎndān	Equivalent translation	10 - Number of students who translated correctly
2.	容易róngyì	Functional translation	50 students used the interference method

The results showed that 56 students correctly translated the phrase 香 xiāng «*Westerners love to eat the aromatic and slightly bitter-tasting dishes of the Chinese cookbook given for the experiment*» and 4 students incorrectly translated the phrase. The statistical study reveals that the student misrelated the word 味道wèidào to the noun phrase.

Chicken soup, which is typically consumed hot, is a very simple meal. 37.6% of the students translated it lexically- semantically as a consequence of interference, while 62.4% of the students accurately translated the adjective of hot in the sentence. Below, we examine them.

On pages 179–180 of the «The dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives» the word 热 rè is described as follows:

1. A temperature that is significantly higher than average: 我国北方的三伏天很热。 - Cancer is extremely hot in the north of our nation.
2. Warm, in-depth human feeling: 妈妈是个热心肠的人。 - Mother is an honest individual.

The adjective «热 rè» is used to describe the heat of food in its first meaning. In the sentences that were translated and evaluated, the adjective 热 rè must be used.

According to the «The dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives» on page 209, 烫 tàng- «hot» is defined as an attribute that denotes an object's elevated temperature:

这是今天夏季里最热的一天，门口的柏油路晒得发烫，人踩上去觉得脚下软乎乎的，好像就要被烈日晒化似的。 - The warmest day of the summer is right now. When you walk outside the door, the asphalt is so warm that it makes your feet feel as though the sun is about to melt.

In this sentence 烫 tàng is a high-adjective, which entails scorching temperatures. In other words, the adjective 烫 tàng has a stronger meaning than the adverb 热 rè hot, while the adjective 热 rè is used to describe how hot the food is in its current form. The analysis's findings are as follows.

Table 4

№	Hot (used to describe the adjective of food)	The type of translation	Result
1.	热 rè	Equivalent translation	39 students translated correctly
2.	烫 tàng	Lexical-semantic translation	Used by 21 students

Additionally, future translators 100% correctly translated the sour taste adjective in the previous phrase. Following is the analysis: 酸 suān novel “汉字资源” («The Origin of Hieroglyphs»), the term sun is described as a pictograph with a single syllable that represents sour taste. Meanings:

1. Have a vinegary aroma or flavor: 酸菜 - sauerkraut.
2. Chemically, a substance that can produce hydrogen ions in the water solution can be categorized into «inorganic acid» and «organic acid» which includes 盐酸- hydrogen-hydrochloric acid.
3. Ironically, the term for impoverished in Chinese is 穷酸 (very helpless).
4. Sad, sad: 酸楚- grief and melancholy.
5. 酸痛- to ache, a sense of weakness brought on by mild pain brought on by fatigue or illness.

The research shows that the adjective «酸suān» is the best choice to describe how sour the soup is:

Table 5

No	Sour (tasting)	The type of translation	Result
1.	酸suān	Equivalent translation	Everyone translated correctly

«Every year at the Boat Festival, all Chinese people share the sweet zongzi food with their neighbors» - in this sentence given to translate from Uzbek to Chinese, the adjective sweet is used, and 92.8% of the students translated it correctly, as a result of interference, 1.6 % translated the word «sweet» into the word «tasty» using the functional translation method, and 1.6% of the students omitted the word «sweet» without translating it. The following is a study of these attributes.

The definition of the adverb 甜tián is given on page 212 of the «Dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives» (2009)

1. Products have a sweet, honey flavor:
妈妈得了糖尿病，医生嘱咐她要少吃甜食。 - The doctor advised my mother, who has diabetes, to consume fewer treats.
2. The following individuals express their extreme comfort:
改革开放以来，党的富民政策使广大农民的生活水平速度提高了，我们村家家户户都添置了电冰箱，彩色电视，录音机等家用电器，小日子过得比蜜还甜。 - Following the reconstruction program, the party's populist policies targeted increasing wealth for the populace and raised the majority of farmers' standard of living. A refrigerator, color TVs, tape recorder, and other household appliances were distributed to every home in our hamlet. As a kid, life is delightful. 甜tián is used in the instances given above to mean sweet.

The 好吃 hào chī case above involved analysis.

Table 6

No	Sweet	The type of translation	Result
1.	甜tián	Equivalent translation	58 - Number of students who translated correctly
2.	好吃 hào chī	Functional translation	1 student in the interference method
3.	-	Not translated	1 student dropped it

The Spring Festival is a time in China when many classic dishes are prepared. 21 students accurately translated the adjective in the sentence that explained what 佳肴jiāyáo delicious meant. 27 students used the adjective incorrectly because 肴 yáo is a noun, not an adjective. 肴 yáo- as previously stated. Above is a description of 美味儿 - měiwèi er.

佳肴 - jiāyáo - which means «delicious, tangy, sweet dishes and appetizing foods,» refers to how delectable the food is. Usually, it is employed in book format.

一桌的美味佳肴把他馋得垂涎三尺。 He salivated at the mouthwatering food on the table.

“宇宙飞船把蔬菜种子带到了太空，用这些种子培育的太空蔬菜已经进入千家万户，成为普通人家餐桌上的美味佳肴。” -

Vegetable seeds were carried into space by spacecraft, and from there, the cultivated space veggies reached thousands of homes and rose to the status of delicacy on the tables of the common people.

Findings from the adjective analysis.

Table 7

№	Dainty; delicious	The type of translation	Result
1.	佳肴jiāyáo	Equivalent translation	21 students were able to translate correctly
2.	肴yáo	Translation error	27 students used the word incorrectly
3.	美味儿měiwèi er	Functional equivalent	11 students in an interference method
4.	-	Not translated	1 student dropped it

The most frequently used adjective in Chinese is 好吃 - hào chī which can be rendered as «delicious» or «sweet»: 这蛋糕还挺好吃的。 - This dessert has a lot of sugar.

我能给你另一块好吃的棉花糖吗? - Could you please lend me another sweet cotton piece? 好吃的 is used to refer to sweetness in phrases. In essence, it is a term indicative of the oral style. Among the translations used in the trial, all students used the phrase «Dumplings are a little tastier than bread» with the appropriate adjective 好吃 hào chī. The chart displays the findings of the analysis.

Table 8

№	Delicious (meaning «tasty»)	The type of translation	Result
1.	好吃hào chī	Equivalent translation	Everyone translated correctly

Sichuan people prepare sour soups with spicy cabbage and consume them. The soup has a delectable flavor as a result.

The term «delicious» is translated as «好吃hào chī» in the speech. This translation is being used by 21 students. Four

students used 好味hǎo wèi, seven students used 美味儿 měiwèi er, eight students used 鲜美 xiānměi, 19 students used 味道可口 wèidào kěkǒu, and one student used 香味 xiāngwèi. The following provides a study of these traits.

The phrase 好味hǎo wèi is made up of two syllables. 好-hǎo provides a reliable transcript. 味wèi - is an abbreviated version of the word «taste,» wèidào. The literal translation of «味道 wèidào» is «good taste» which is different from the meaning of «好味hǎo wèi- deliciousness»: 食物好味-good-tasting food.

In our paper, the adjectives 美味儿 (měiwèi er) and 鲜美(xiānměi) were examined. These adjectives are methodologically incompatible with the sentence that is being examined.

The word 味道 wèidào in the online dictionary means «an abstract feeling and meaning that a person can feel based on the ability to taste» The expression «the taste is delicious» is 味道可口 wèidào kěkǒu. These flavors include salty, sour, bitter, and sweet.

可口的-kěkǒu de is used to mean «delicious» «appetizing» or «edible» and is most often used to describe the delectable flavor of fast food, coffee, pizza, and other snacks:

他供应茶，咖啡和可口的小吃。 - She provides tasty refreshments as well as tea and coffee.

你知道... 看起来满可口的。 - Yes, it appears to be very delicious.

金黄的油菜花散发出一阵阵浓郁的味道。 - Marigold blossoms are golden in color and smell wonderful.

The following are the translations of «delicious adjective» into Chinese. The soup's flavor cannot be characterized by the 可口 kěkǒu. The word combination 味道可口 wèidào kěkǒu which means «delicious» is rendered as such, violates lexical and grammar conventions.

In general, the word for taste, 香味 xiāngwèi means to hit the nose with a pleasant and comfortable scent, establishing human taste through smell. The noun, which is a member of the word

family, is rendered as a pleasant odor. It cannot be used in the translation of the statement.

Table 8

№	Delicious	The type of translation	Result
1.	好吃hào chī	Equivalent translation	21 - Number of students who translated correctly
2.	好味hǎo wèi	Translation error	Used by 4 students
3.	美味儿 měiwèi er	Lexical-semantic translation	Used by 7 students
4.	鲜美xiānměi	Lexical-semantic translation	Used by 8 students
5.	味道可口wèidào kěkǒu	Annotated translation	Used by 19 students
6.	香味xiāngwèi	Translation error	Used by 1 student

“The 'Sour and Sour Soup (酸辣汤)” soup is a must-try for all tourists touring China. Because the acidity and sourness of bitter and sour soup set it apart from other soups. Among the food discourse adjectives used in this sentence, the translation of the word sour was correctly translated by all the students who participated in the experiment, but because the word bitter has a synonym in Chinese, 54 students correctly used the adjective 辣 là, but 6 of them used 苦 kǔ adjective due to interference. The following are the variations between the two adjectives:

According to the definition given in the online dictionary, the adjective 辣 là is a word used to express a spicy taste, such as onion, garlic, and pepper. In the Uzbek language, the adjective «辣 là is correct when expressing the burning, burning bitterness of such products when consumed.

Lu Sun, one of the most famous writers of modern Chinese literature, wrote in his book «Free from myself» 鲁迅《伪自由书》) “辣椒虽辣，辣不死人。-Although pepper is bitter, it kills people. In the sentence « Pepper is not very spicy» he applied the adjective 辣 là to pepper.

The definition of the adverb 苦 kǔ - acrid is given on page 122 of «The dictionary of Modern Chinese Adjectives» as follows:

1. Acrid a Chinese medication ingredient, tastes like 黄连 huánglián: 这瓜是苦的。 - This fruit is astringent.
2. Agony: 解放前，他家的生活很苦。 Before their liberation, his family's existence was extremely painful.
3. With all of his power and ability: 由于他勤学苦练，他的游泳成绩很出色。 - His swimming performance is excellent because he studies with all of his might.

It is no secret that the Chinese use the spicy pepper to describe foods and to prepare them, so the adverb 辣 là suits the translation perfectly. Because the word «辣 là is used in the name of the Chinese people's favorite soup, «Bitter-sour soup (酸辣汤)» the translation 苦 kǔ does not suit this context. (Of course, this word was not given in characters to the translated texts.) The translation analysis's findings are:

Table 9

№	Peppery; hot	The type of translation	Result
1.	辣là	Equivalent translation	54 students translated correctly
2.	苦kǔ	Functional translation	6 students translated using the interference method

DISCUSSION

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- The following factors make problems with translating taste adjectives in Uzbek and Chinese more prevalent:
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- Although the Uzbek language has such adjectives as delicious, sweet, which express the taste of food, in the oral style it is used as food, food is sweet (like sweet because of a lot sugar).

- Although the Uzbek language has such adjectives as bitter, which express the taste of food, this causes many errors in the translation of the Chinese adjectives 辣 là and employed and utilized the adjective of 甜 tián rather than the adjective in the translation.
- The students failed to pay attention to where to use narrative style and where to utilize the oral style among the stylistic options offered in both languages.
- Also, neither Uzbek language textbooks nor textbooks created for Uzbek students studying Mandarin provide much information on the adjectives of taste.

CONCLUSION

The results of the research conducted among students showed that every foreign language student, translator, should be familiar with the culture of both countries. Future translators should be clearly explained which situations are used to explain each word in the course of the lesson and translation practice. As adjectives are not extensively covered in textbooks, the primary cause of errors and deficiencies in sentences translated from Uzbek to Chinese is that there are different chapters in Chinese and Uzbek textbooks devoted to adverbs of taste. It's very topical because, Uzbekistan receives a lot of businessmen, investors, and tourists from China. This necessitates the direct translation from Uzbek into Chinese of restaurant menus, adjectives defining gluttony, and culinary words. The growth of scientific collaboration demonstrates the need for classic works of our fiction literature to be translated into other languages in order to make them accessible to a global audience. Our primary finding is that Chinese and Uzbek languages need dictionaries of flavor adjectives.

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