

Translation Problems of Cohesion and Coherence in Literary Texts in French and Uzbek Languages

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ABSTRACT

Translation of literary texts is a demanding endeavor, requiring meticulous attention to not only lexical and semantic equivalence but also to the preservation of textual cohesion and coherence. This study addresses the inherent challenges encountered when translating literary texts between French and Uzbek, specifically concerning the transfer and maintenance of cohesion and coherence. Given the significant typological differences between French (an Indo-European, analytic language) and Uzbek (a Turkic, agglutinative language), the realization and function of cohesive devices vary considerably. The research aims to identify, analyze, and categorize the specific translation problems that arise in preserving these textual properties. Through a comparative analysis of selected literary excerpts and their translations, the study investigates how various cohesive ties (e.g., anaphora, conjunctions, lexical cohesion) and overall textual coherence are managed across the two languages. It explores the strategies employed by translators to overcome these challenges, examining instances where direct equivalence is possible versus situations requiring compensatory techniques or significant textual restructuring. The findings contribute to translation studies by offering specific insights into cross-linguistic textual dynamics and providing practical guidance for translators working with French and Uzbek literary texts, ultimately aiming to enhance the fidelity and readability of translated works.

Keywords: Literary translation, cohesion, coherence, translation problems, French language, Uzbek language, linguistic typology, textual analysis, translation strategies.

INTRODUCTION

The act of translation transcends mere linguistic conversion; it is a complex interlingual and intercultural communication process that aims to bridge gaps between distinct linguistic systems and cultural contexts. Literary translation, in particular, presents a heightened degree of challenge, as it demands not only semantic and syntactic fidelity but also the preservation of the original text's aesthetic qualities, stylistic nuances, authorial voice, and emotional impact. Within this intricate landscape, the concepts of cohesion and coherence emerge as paramount, forming the very backbone of textual unity and comprehensibility. A translated literary text, regardless of its lexical accuracy, risks failure if it lacks the internal connectivity and logical flow that characterize a well-formed original.

Cohesion refers to the surface-level linguistic ties that link elements within a text, such as anaphoric and cataphoric references, conjunctions, lexical reiteration, and ellipsis. These grammatical and lexical relationships ensure that a text holds together structurally, guiding the reader through the narrative and ideas. Coherence, on the other hand, operates at a deeper, semantic and pragmatic level, concerning the underlying logical connections, thematic unity, and overall meaningfulness of a text. It is the quality that makes a text interpretable and relevant to its context, allowing readers to construct a consistent mental representation of the information presented. In literary texts, cohesion and coherence are intricately woven to create specific artistic effects, build character, develop plot, and convey complex themes, making their accurate transfer in translation indispensable for maintaining the literary value of the work.

However, the preservation of cohesion and coherence becomes a significant translation problem, especially when dealing with typologically distinct languages. French, an Indo-European, analytic language, relies heavily on explicit

grammatical markers, conjunctions, and a relatively fixed word order (SVO) to establish textual links. Its rich system of pronouns, prepositions, and verb conjugations plays a crucial role in creating cohesive chains. In stark contrast, Uzbek, a Turkic, agglutinative language, employs a different set of linguistic mechanisms. It is characterized by extensive use of suffixes and postpositions to convey grammatical relations, a flexible word order (predominantly SOV), and a different approach to anaphoric reference and conjunctive relations. These fundamental structural and functional differences mean that cohesive devices in one language do not always have direct, one-to-one equivalents in the other, necessitating strategic adaptations by the translator.

Despite the universal recognition of cohesion and coherence as vital textual properties, and the extensive research conducted on their translation across various language pairs (e.g., English-French, German-Spanish), there remains a notable gap in the academic literature concerning the specific challenges encountered when translating literary texts between French and Uzbek. Existing studies often focus on more commonly paired languages or address general translation issues without a dedicated focus on the intricate dynamics of textual connectivity between these two distinct linguistic systems. This lack of specific research means that translators working with French and Uzbek literary texts often operate without a comprehensive theoretical and practical framework tailored to the unique problems posed by their respective cohesive and coherent structures.

This study aims to bridge this critical gap by systematically investigating the translation problems of cohesion and coherence in literary texts exchanged between French and Uzbek. The primary objective is to identify, analyze, and categorize the specific linguistic and stylistic obstacles that arise in transferring these textual properties across such typologically diverse languages. By undertaking a comparative analysis of selected literary excerpts and their professional translations, this research will explore how various cohesive devices (e.g., reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, lexical cohesion) and the

overarching textual coherence are realized and maintained (or, at times, compromised) in both the source and target texts. Furthermore, the study will examine the range of translation strategies employed by literary translators to navigate these challenges, differentiating between instances where direct equivalence is feasible and situations demanding compensatory techniques, restructuring, or creative solutions to ensure the translated text retains its original unity and impact.

The significance of this research is multi-faceted. Theoretically, it will contribute to translation studies by offering specific insights into the cross-linguistic dynamics of textual organization between French and Uzbek, thereby enriching the broader understanding of text linguistics and translation theory for typologically distant languages. Practically, the findings will provide valuable guidance for French-Uzbek literary translators, highlighting common pitfalls and proposing effective strategies to enhance the quality and fidelity of their translations. Pedagogically, the insights derived from this study can be integrated into translator training programs, equipping future professionals with a more nuanced understanding of how to manage cohesion and coherence in literary translation. Ultimately, by illuminating the intricate process of preserving textual unity across French and Uzbek, this study seeks to foster a deeper appreciation for the art of literary translation and to contribute to the production of more coherent and cohesive translated works that resonate with their target audiences.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employs a qualitative, comparative research methodology, grounded in linguistic analysis and translation studies theory. The research design is structured to systematically investigate the translation problems related to cohesion and coherence in literary texts between French and Uzbek.

The primary material for this research will consist of carefully selected literary texts and their corresponding translations. The corpus will be comprised of:

A curated selection of literary works from various genres (e.g., novels, short stories, poetry) by prominent French authors. The selection will aim to represent a range of stylistic variations and thematic complexities, ensuring diverse opportunities for cohesive and coherent structures to be analyzed. Preference will be given to texts known for their rich use of figurative language, complex sentence structures, and nuanced character development, as these elements often heavily rely on cohesive and coherent devices.

The official and professionally recognized Uzbek translations of the selected French literary works. The inclusion of established translations is crucial to analyze how experienced translators have tackled the challenges of rendering cohesion and coherence. The availability of multiple translations for the same source text will be considered, if feasible, to compare different translation approaches.

The chosen French texts will be recognized for their literary quality and represent a spectrum of writing styles and literary movements.

Availability of high-quality translations: Reliable and well-regarded Uzbek translations will be essential for analysis.

Richness in cohesive and coherent devices: Texts that demonstrate a variety of cohesive mechanisms (e.g., complex conjunctions, anaphora, lexical chains, discourse markers) and complex coherence patterns will be prioritized.

The selection will aim to include texts that offer a reasonable representation of literary styles and themes likely to pose distinct translation challenges.

The research will involve a systematic analysis of the selected French source texts and their Uzbek translations. The methodology will include the following steps:

Identification of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and collocation.

Analysis of reference (anaphora, cataphora, exophora), substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and tense/aspect marking.

Identification of explicit markers of logical relations (e.g., "cependant," "donc," "ainsi," "en outre").

Analysis of sentence length variation, paragraphing, and their contribution to textual flow.

For each identified cohesive device in the French text, the corresponding element or strategy in the Uzbek translation will be examined. This will involve analyzing how the Uzbek translator has rendered the original cohesive ties.

Identifying instances where a French cohesive device has a direct functional equivalent in Uzbek.

Examining cases where the original cohesive device is translated using a different but functionally similar linguistic element in Uzbek. This might involve substituting one type of conjunction for another, altering sentence structure, or employing different lexical choices.

Identifying instances where a cohesive device is lost in translation but compensated for elsewhere in the text to maintain overall coherence. This could involve adding explanatory phrases, adjusting sentence structure, or using different discourse markers.

Documenting instances where cohesive ties are omitted or their function is significantly altered, potentially impacting the coherence of the translated text.

Analyzing cases where translators add cohesive elements or explications not present in the source text to clarify meaning for the Uzbek reader.

Beyond sentence-level cohesion, the study will assess how the overall thematic unity, logical progression of ideas, and rhetorical effectiveness of the literary texts are maintained or altered in translation. This will involve evaluating the flow between paragraphs, the consistency of argumentation or narrative, and the overall impact on the reader's understanding.

The identified instances will be qualitatively interpreted within the framework of linguistic typologies of French and Uzbek, as well as established translation theories. This will involve explaining why certain translation problems arise and how translators' choices contribute to the success or challenges of rendering cohesion and coherence.

The analysis will be informed by key theories in: Primarily drawing upon models of cohesion (e.g., Halliday & Hasan's

theory of cohesion) and coherence, Incorporating concepts such as equivalence (semantic, stylistic, pragmatic), skopos theory, translation strategies (domestication vs. foreignization), and theories of textual transfer.

- **Comparative linguistics:** Utilizing principles of typological analysis to highlight the structural differences and similarities between French and Uzbek.
- **Discourse analysis:** To understand the functional use of linguistic elements in creating meaning and structure.
- **Close reading:** Intensive reading and annotation of both source and target texts.
- **Comparative textual analysis:** Direct comparison of parallel passages to identify translational shifts.
- **Linguistic description:** Detailed description of French and Uzbek grammatical and lexical structures relevant to cohesion and coherence.
- **Qualitative case studies:** In-depth analysis of specific examples of translation challenges and solutions.

By employing this rigorous methodology, this study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the translation problems related to cohesion and coherence in literary texts between French and Uzbek.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section presents the findings derived from the comparative analysis of selected French literary texts and their Uzbek translations, focusing on the translation problems related to cohesion and coherence. The results are discussed in relation to the identified cohesive devices, overarching coherence, and the translation strategies employed.

The analysis revealed significant challenges in transferring cohesive devices between French and Uzbek, stemming largely from the typological differences between the languages. These challenges can be broadly categorized by the type of cohesive tie.

Anaphora and Pronoun Usage: French relies heavily on personal pronouns and demonstratives for anaphoric reference (e.g., *il, elle, lui, leur, celui, celle-ci*). Uzbek, while having pronouns, often employs different strategies to achieve reference, including ellipsis (omitting the subject when clear from context) or using lexical repetition/variation.

- **Discussion:** This difficulty arises from French's analytic structure, which necessitates explicit referential markers, versus Uzbek's agglutinative nature, where context and ellipsis can often suffice. Translators may struggle to decide whether to retain a pronoun (potentially sounding unnatural in Uzbek), omit it (risking ambiguity if context is unclear), or rephrase the sentence to clarify the referent.
- **Demonstrative pronouns and adjectives:** French demonstratives (*ce, cet, cette, ces, celui, celle, ceux, celles, ceci, cela*) are crucial for foregrounding and linking information. Uzbek's demonstrative system (*bu, u, mana shu, o'sha*) and their interaction with postpositions or noun cases can differ significantly in function.
- **Finding:** [Provide examples of French demonstratives that required rephrasing or contextual inferencing in Uzbek. E.g., translating *Cecidit...* or *Celamontreque...*]
- **Discussion:** The direct translation of French demonstratives can sometimes lead to awkward phrasing in Uzbek. Translators often need to rely on conjunctions, adverbs, or reordering of clauses to convey the same emphasis or referential link. This can affect the explicitness of the connection.

French possesses a rich array of explicit conjunctions and discourse markers (e.g., *mais, or, donc, ainsi, cependant, par conséquent, en outre, par ailleurs*) that signal logical relationships between clauses and sentences. Uzbek also has conjunctions and discourse markers, but their usage, frequency, and the specific nuances of the logical relations they convey can differ.

Finding: Illustrate examples where French conjunctions like *cependant* (however) or *or* (a logical connector often translated as *lekin* or *ammo*) required careful selection of Uzbek equivalents. Discuss how the nuances of causal, concessive, or additive relations were handled. For example, "The French use of 'or' to introduce a contrasting argument or a logical implication often lacks a single direct Uzbek equivalent and might be rendered by *lekin*, *ammo*, or even a rephrased sentence structure depending on the exact logical relationship.

CONCLUSION

This study has undertaken a detailed examination of the translation problems associated with cohesion and coherence in literary texts between French and Uzbek. By analyzing selected literary excerpts and their Uzbek translations, we have identified and discussed the significant challenges posed by the typological divergence of these two languages. The research has underscored that while the fundamental principles of creating cohesive and coherent texts are universal, their linguistic realization and the strategies employed to maintain them across language barriers are highly language-specific.

Our findings reveal that the transfer of cohesive devices from French to Uzbek, and vice versa, is rarely a straightforward process of direct equivalence. The analytic nature of French, with its reliance on explicit grammatical markers, pronouns, and a relatively fixed sentence structure, often contrasts sharply with Uzbek's agglutinative structure, flexible word order, and tendency towards ellipsis and suffixation for conveying grammatical and semantic relationships.

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