

## Linguistic Interference in the Translation of Political Discourse: A Case Study of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's Independence Anniversary Speech

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### ABSTRACT

*Political speech translation plays a crucial role in projecting national identity, ideology, and policy to the international community. However, linguistic interference can hinder accurate and culturally appropriate communication. This research investigates linguistic interference phenomena in the English translation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's 34th Independence Anniversary speech. Employing a qualitative contrastive analytical framework, the study highlights lexical, syntactic, pragmatic, and semantic types of interference where direct linguistic transference detracts from the original speech's clarity and persuasive force. Key problematic elements include culturally loaded terms like Uchinchi Renessans (Third Renaissance), syntactic calques, and the literal translation of Uzbek patriotic expressions. The paper advocates for adaptive translation strategies incorporating cultural mediation, linguistic flexibility, and explicitation to maintain ideological fidelity and rhetorical impact in cross-cultural political discourse translation. These findings aim to aid translators, policymakers, and scholars engaged in Uzbek-English political communication.*

**Keywords:** Linguistic interference, political discourse, translation studies, Uzbek-English translation, discourse analysis, political speech, cultural mediation

## INTRODUCTION

Translation of political discourse constitutes a high-stakes communicative act that intertwines language, culture, and ideology. Political speeches are crafted with deliberate rhetorical devices, culturally embedded metaphors, and discursive strategies meant to influence domestic and international audiences (Wodak & Meyer 2009). Consequently, interference – defined as the influence of source language structures and lexical items on the target language when inappropriate (Vinay & Darbelnet 1995) – can distort meanings and weaken the communicative power of political texts. This study explores interference in the official English translation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s Independence Anniversary speech, focusing on how lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic interference manifest and affect the transmission of political ideology and cultural identity. The research highlights the challenges posed by the culturally specific Uzbek political lexicon and syntactic complexity, setting a foundation for refining political discourse translation strategies.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study materials include the original Uzbek text of the 34th Independence Anniversary speech and its official English translation. The research methodology employs qualitative contrastive analysis aligning with translation studies and political discourse frameworks (Baker 2018). Textual data were analyzed manually to identify and classify types of linguistic interference manifested in lexical borrowing, syntactic calques, semantic shifts, and pragmatic loss. The theoretical bases draw on the works of Bassnett (2014) on translation studies, Hatim and Mason (1997) on translator as communicator, and political discourse analysis with a focus on intercultural communication and ideological discourse (Fairclough 2010). The analysis traces interference effects on message clarity, rhetorical effectiveness, and ideological fidelity.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Lexical interference*

The research identifies significant lexical interference, primarily through the direct importation of Uzbek cultural and political terms into English without adequate adaptation. A salient example is the translation of *Uchinchi Renessans* as “Third Renaissance.” This term refers to a specific historical-philosophical revival period uniquely contextualized within Uzbek national discourse. The literal translation fails to convey the depth of the term’s cultural and ideological resonance to non-Uzbek audiences, resulting in potential misinterpretation or loss of symbolic valence. Similarly, slogans like *halolmehnat* (honest labor) and *yashiliqtisodiyot* (green economy) require supplementary cultural or political contextualization to impart full pragmatic weight in the target language (House 2015).

*Syntactic interference*

Syntactic interference is evident in the transfer of Uzbek sentence structures to English, generating unwieldy and grammatically marked constructions. For instance, the complex sentence *Biz mahallagachatushib, o‘zini‘zi band qilgantadbirkordantortibiribiznesgacha – barchasinialohidayondashuvasosidaqo‘llab-quvvatlashbo‘yichatizimbarpoetdik* is translated into an English sentence laden with nested clauses and dashes that hinder readability and fluency. This calqued syntax disrupts the natural English rhetorical rhythm essential to effective political communication, thereby risking audience disengagement and miscomprehension (Newmark 1988).

*Pragmatic interference*

Pragmatic interference arises in the translation of culturally laden metaphors and patriotic appeals. The phrase *Vatanuchun, millatuchun, xalquchun!* (“For the homeland, for the nation, for the people!”) constitutes a potent slogan saturated with emotive and collective identity significance in Uzbek culture. The English equivalent, while literally faithful, often lacks comparable

resonance due to differing cultural connotations and rhetorical styles shaping political discourse in English. Such pragmatically colored language requires more than word-for-word translation; it demands creative equivalence or adaptive strategies to achieve authentic communicative effect (Nida & Taber 2003).

*Semantic shifts and cultural realia*

The study also uncovers semantic shifts where political terms suffer nuance attenuation during translation. In particular, neologisms and policy-oriented terms with multifaceted ideological implications may be reduced to simplified glosses in English, undermining conceptual complexity and political intent. Retaining ideological depth necessitates careful balancing of lexical equivalence and explanatory augmentation (Pym 2014).

Together, these linguistic interferences collectively impact the overall effectiveness of the political speech translation. Literal translation strategies predominate, often at the cost of fluency, clarity, and pragmatic power, affirming the need for culturally and linguistically informed translation interventions.

CONCLUSIONS

This research demonstrates that linguistic interference significantly constrains the quality and communicative efficacy of political speech translation, particularly from Uzbek to English. Given the ideological density and cultural specificity inherent in political discourse, straightforward lexical and syntactic transference is insufficient. Translators must adopt a multidimensional strategy encompassing:

1. **Cultural mediation:** Providing explicit contextual support for culturally embedded concepts like *Uchinchi Renaissance* to facilitate comprehension and maintain symbolic depth (Venuti 2012).
2. **Structural adaptation:** Restructuring complex Uzbek sentence constructions to conform to natural English rhetorical and syntactic norms, thereby enhancing readability and listener engagement (Shuttleworth & Cowie 1997).

3. **Pragmatic adjustment:** Employing equivalent culturally resonant expressions or paraphrases in place of direct translations of emotionally charged slogans and metaphors to preserve rhetorical force (Katan 2014).
4. **Terminological clarification:** Supplementing politicized terminology with brief definitions or annotations when necessary to retain ideological precision for heterogeneous audiences (Tymoczko & Gentzler 2002).

These adaptive methods serve to safeguard ideological integrity while optimizing communicative transparency in cross-cultural political interactions. This study contributes to the theoretical framework of political discourse translation by empirically illustrating interference manifestations and recommending practical solutions. The findings hold significance for translators, diplomats, and policymakers engaged in Uzbek-English political exchange, advocating for enhanced training and resource development to address linguistic interference challenges effectively.

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