

The Usage of Lexical Transformations in Translating Manuals of Household Appliances from English into Uzbek

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the obstacles and solutions involved in translating instruction manuals for household appliances, notably vacuum cleaners, electric airpots, and meat grinders, from English to Uzbek. The research focuses on implementing various lexical transformation techniques to ensure the accuracy, comprehensibility, and clarity of the translated manuals in the target language. The analysis reveals that translators employed multiple strategies, including concretization, transliteration, transcription, supplementation, omission, and lexical substitution, to convey the intended meaning of the source text effectively. Consequently, the study highlights the importance of contextual information and extra-linguistic factors in the translation of technical documents. The results indicate that lexical substitution is essential for addressing knowledge gaps and ensuring the coherence of translated instructional guides between two languages. The study suggests that a thorough implementation of lexical transformation strategies, combined with a context-sensitive methodology, is crucial for producing precise and user-friendly translations of household appliance manuals in the Uzbek language.

Keywords: Manuals, transliteration, word omission, amplification method, supplementation, linguistic equivalence

1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, there is a consistent rise in demand for the translation of multilingual documents and instructions across various sectors, particularly in the technology products market. Manuals for modern equipment, such as vacuum cleaners, electric airpots, and meat grinders, are essential for ensuring the proper use of these products. Nevertheless, the challenge of accurately and faithfully translating the information and instructions provided frequently arises, which has the potential to reduce user satisfaction. It is essential to outline the most effective methods for translating household appliance manuals, enabling consumers to comprehend and accurately follow the instructions readily.

Translation is the process of generating a document from a source version in one language to a target version in another language. In contrast, cultural adaptation refers to the process of considering any differences between the source and the target culture to preserve semantic equivalence [1]. Translation implies “recognizing how various languages produce different worlds, making these worlds communicate, and disquieting them by playing the one against the other, in such a manner that causes the reader’s tongue to engage with that of the writer” [2]. The majority of research in translation studies concerns either literary translations (literature and poetry) or the unique challenges presented by what is termed “non-literary translations” (technical manuals, medical and scientific articles and information, etc.) [3]. This paper aims to address the challenges associated with translating technical manuals, distinguishing ambiguous terms used in household appliance manuals, and identifying alternative words for these lexemes in the target language through various types of lexical transformations.

The concept of equivalence of translation is key in comprehending various models of translation. Newmark [4] defines equivalence as the reproduction of the closest natural correspondent of the source language message. This article focuses on translating household appliance manuals from English to the Uzbek language, highlighting the distinguishing features and similarities. From this perspective, it is vital to interpret

every detail and instruction in manuals with the appropriate version of the target language, applying lexical transformations, as the primary objective is to achieve linguistic equivalence when translating a written text to a target language. Machine translation, employing artificial intelligence to expedite translation processes, has also undeniably assisted content in the form of texts in various languages [5]. Linguistic equivalence can extend the concept of communicative equivalence, which emphasizes the portrayal of self-report items within the source culture and the comprehension of how these items are represented differently when presented in the context of a target culture [6].

This research work demonstrates the translation process of three different household appliance manuals: a vacuum cleaner, an electric airpot, and a meat grinder. Households acquire appliances based on various considerations, including affordability, availability, the value of appliance use, and the reliability of electricity service [7]. Consequently, translators are responsible for providing reliable and accurate information to the expected users of household appliances by meticulously interpreting the instruction manuals. A group of translators and researchers focused on translating household appliances and their instruction manuals from the source language to the target language. For instance, we examined information regarding household appliance terminology, as well as the lexical and semantic structure of household appliance names, in Campbell's [8] research and in Wong's [9] study, which also explored the linguistic and semantic structure of household appliance names. The semantics and morphology of these lexemes were documented in the research conducted by Whelpton, Beck, and Jordan [10]. Furthermore, a corpus-based theory of translating household appliance instruction manuals has highlighted the importance of lexical patterns in the translation process [11].

A significant number of studies have examined the implementation of lexical patterns [12] and the context-based approach [13] and the significance of vocabulary acquisition in translation theory [14]. In terms of preferences, numerous studies have found a greater preference for the use of lexical

transformation and the acquisition of linguistic patterns over other types of translation. Deveny [15] asserts that transfer of information is successful “if it is accomplished with suitable linguistic, lexical, and stylistic tools without inducing significant distortion to information content.” Translation is generally defined to be “an act of communication that endeavors to transmit, across linguistic and cultural boundaries, another act of communication” [16].

The primary goal of this research article is to comprehensively employ various lexical transformations and thoroughly select the best approaches for translation manuals among other approaches. Lexical transformations are executed through the use of synonyms, precise terminology, and the localization of words and phrases. These transformations preserve the essence of the original text by taking into account the target audience and context during the translation process. Zaki et al. [17] highlights the inherent challenges within translation, emphasizing the complications encountered by both the translator and the translation process itself. One of these challenges is identifying natural equivalents for certain lexical items across languages, which can be particularly difficult for translators. Numerous researchers investigate the most efficient ways of translation, emphasizing the significance of precision, continuous learning, and ethical considerations in translation practice [18]. We analyzed the lexical transformations that transpire during the translation of manuals for vacuum cleaners, electric airpots, and meat grinders. The ideas from this analysis illustrate effective strategies for developing explicit guidelines for users that are both comprehensible and practical to implement.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The linguistic patterns hypothesized to be used in the translation of instruction manuals [19] or technical texts have been empirically examined in numerous studies following foundational research [20] on the features of translation problems in scientific and technical texts [21]. The translation of user

manuals has been the direct subject of several scholarly works, including those by Baretta [22], Hansen et al. [23] Movileanu [24], and Končar [25]. However, translating user manuals of household items from English into Uzbek or vice versa is still essential.

A notable technique is recrescence, which is the generic term for amplification and reduction [26]. He claims that this technique and other procedures will “serve either as tools for the study of completed translation, or as helpmates in the act of translation”. Amplification may involve the inclusion of one or two words inside the text, as well as footnotes and appendices. In contrast, reduction is the omission of information considered unnecessary, of minor importance, or unlikely to be comprehensible to the target-language audience.

This strategy, known as explicitation, refers to the inclination to render implicit information explicit in translation. Explicitation can be achieved by incorporating information into the text at the content level, as well as by explicitly indicating grammatical and propositional relations in the discourse. This feature has been examined, with a focus on the factors influencing its implementation, including translator expertise and the influence of the source language. Another proposed feature is simplification, which entails reducing the complexity of language or message, or both, in translation [27]. Simplification is affected by elements such as the source language, the mode of mediation, and the directionality of the translation process.

This research article examined these types and used the terms “supplementation” and “omission” instead of the technical terms. However, all of them signify the same aspect of lexical changes in translating technical texts and manuals from the source language to the target language.

Concretization, another key feature, translates words more concretely depending on context and desired effect [28]. Concretization is influenced by a wide variety of factors, including word knowledge, reader expectation, information, text type, and the desired effect on the translation process. Furthermore, we applied lexical substitution in this research work to provide a clear and specific translation of instruction manuals.

Transliteration and transcription are also significant techniques for translating household appliance manuals to the expected users of these appliances. This research work examines the feature of source-language influence and the most common and essential types of lexical transformations that can be applied in translating instruction manuals for household appliances from English to the Uzbek language.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Lexical transformations are integral to the translation of household appliance manuals, as they enhance comprehension and improve the overall quality of the translation. “Lexical transformation” refers to the process of alteration of the lexicon and word choices used in the source text to align the target language with the source text closely. Lexical transformations delineate formal and semantic relationships. This group encompasses transliteration, transcription, loan translation, and lexicon-semantic transformations, including concretization, generalization, and modulation [29].

To attain equivalence, despite the differences in formal and semantic systems of two languages, the translator is obliged to apply three elementary types of lexical transformations:

1. Lexical substitution;
2. Supplementation;
3. Omissions/dropping

This study aimed to employ lexical substitution, supplementation, omission, concretization, transliteration, and transcription methods to translate instruction manuals for household appliances, thereby producing a comprehensible and essential version for intended users and learners. Although identifying these lexical transformations in the translation process helps clarify its meaningful components, it is hardly possible to choose only one or two techniques for translators to interpret different texts and technical terms, as they cannot be the exact solution for any translation work. The present study is

therefore best described as the effective use of some lexical transformations for three different household appliances: a vacuum cleaner, an electric airpot, and a meat grinder. To identify the most relevant patterns of use, the translation of challenging and inappropriate parts of instruction manuals for other language users is examined, and the most appropriate information is retrieved and reported in tables preceding every explication analysis. The purpose of the study is not to describe types of transformation, but to develop a translation process of technical texts in manuals from English to the Uzbek language. Each analysis includes details on the top frequencies included, the usages excluded, and the additional searches performed. Finally, an extensive study of individual examples was conducted to enhance the implementation of transformations, resulting in the creation of the most effective translated versions of household appliance manuals for users in other countries. To anticipate, in the present study, we propose that several tables include the number of implementing types of lexical transformations: lexical substitution, omission, supplementation, concretization, transcription, and transliteration, which will be explained and justified in detail. Finally, an analysis of the results was conducted in Fig. 1 to assess quality and efficiency, based on the provided examples and implemented transformations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Translation can be characterized as the outcome of a linguistic and textual process whereby a text in one language is converted into a text in another language. However, this linguistic-textual operation is subject to and substantially impacted by several extra-linguistic factors and situations. Translation is a complex phenomenon due to the interaction between “inner” linguistic-textual and “outer” extra-linguistic contextual factors [30].

We analyzed the challenges associated with translating vacuum cleaner manuals and employed various lexical transformations to make these manuals more comprehensible for users.

Table 1. *The usage of lexical transformations in translating the instruction manual of the vacuum cleaner*

No.	Text in the instruction manual of the vacuum cleaner	Translations of the instruction manual of the vacuum cleaner	Types of lexical transformations
1	Dust bag	<i>chang yig'ib oluvchi qopcha</i>	Supplementation
2	Slide to the "STOP" position	<i>Dastadagi holatni "STOP" holatiga o'zgartiring.</i>	Supplementation
3	Automatically shuts off the current when overheating	changyutgich qizib ketganda	Omission
4	Do not use the vacuum cleaner when the rug or floor is wet	changyutgichni <i>nam polda</i> ishlatishga yo'l qo'ymang.	Omission
5	If your vacuum cleaner is not operating correctly	<i>changyutgich yaxshi ishlamasa</i>	Lexical substitution
6	Switch off the power supply	<i>Uni o'chiring</i>	Concretization

As indicated in Table 1, during the implementation of types of lexical transformations, supplementation and omission types were used more than other types of transformations. This significant point of usage suggests that the implementation of supplementation and omission enhances translation accuracy. The analysis of sentences and lexical terms in instruction manuals, which were translated with the help of lexical transformations, was conducted with a thorough explanation of contexts.

- Do not use the vacuum cleaner without the dust bag.
Changyutgichdan chang yig'ib oluvchi qopchasiz foydalanmang.

The term "dust bag" is translated as *chang yig'ib oluvchi qopcha* in the target language for enhanced clarity and comprehensibility.

Translating without any additional words may perplex or seem unusual to readers. The phrase *yig'ib oluvchi*" represents a supplementary component in this translation, demonstrating the method of lexical supplementation.

- Slide to the "STOP" position before inserting a plug into the electrical outlet.
Tarmoq shnuri vilkasini rozetkaga tiqishdan avval dastadagi holatni "STOP" holatiga o'zgartiring.

Supplementation is required during the translation of the vacuum cleaner instructions. In this case, the line *dastadagi holatni*, which is absent from the original text, is added through supplementation to guarantee that the instruction's meaning is fully conveyed.

When translating instruction manuals from the source language to the target language, translators must understand the cultural nuances and linguistic characteristics of the target language. In the Uzbek language, it is natural to utilize foreign phrases and terms without translation when they are prevalent and extensively used among the population. Consequently, several words on sensor labels of household appliances are translated from the English language to the target language, as they are comprehensible to both experts and users of these instruction manuals.

- Do not use the vacuum cleaner when the rug or floor is wet
Changyutgichni nam polda ishlatishga yo'l qo'ymang.
- The vacuum cleaner is provided with a self-resetting thermal cut-out protection that automatically shuts off the current on overheating.
Changyutgich qizib ketganda elektr ta'minotini uzib qo'yib qayta tiklanuvchi termik himoyaga ega.

The translation utilizes the lexical transformation method of word omission, excluding the term "rug" in the Uzbek version. The term "automatically" has been excluded from the translation of the subsequent sentence in the instruction manual. These types

of word omissions are not intended to cause any comprehension issues for users to utilize this household appliance. However, it is recommended to include the translation of these omitted words in the translated version of the instruction, as it would be more comprehensible.

- If your vacuum cleaner is not operating correctly, switch off the power supply and consult an authorized service agent.
Changyutgich yaxshi ishlamasa, uni o'chiring va xizmat ko'rsatish vakili bilan maslahatlashing.

The concretization technique has been applied in translating the English pronoun “uni” into the Uzbek language, specifically in the context of power supply. This method is regarded as standard for translating the terms that are used multiple times in the context of translating manuals. At the same time, translating the adverb “correctly” as a synonym for “well” in English. Furthermore, when the phrase “switch off the power supply” is translated into Uzbek as *uni o'chiring*, the term “power supply” is replaced with the pronoun “uni,” representing a lexical transformation in translation.

We may face several challenges while translating the manual of an electric airpot and employ various forms of lexical transformation to address these issues.

Table 2. *The usage of lexical transformations in translating the instruction manual of the electric airpot*

No.	Text in the instruction manual of the electric airpot	Translations of the electric airpot instruction manual	Types of lexical transformations
1	“BOIL” lamp lights up	<i>“BOIL” lampasi yonadi</i>	Transliteration
2	serve the hot water	<i>issiq suvni ta'minlab beradi</i>	Concretization
3	Remove the plug and the lid	<i>rozetkadan uzing va qopqoqni ochib...</i>	Lexical substitution
4	the body	<i>Idish</i>	Lexical substitution
5	ion scrub	<i>ion skrab</i>	Transcription

Table 2 presents the usage of lexical transformations employed in the translation process of instruction manuals for electric airpots. This shows a high degree of similarity in the implementation of transliteration, transcription, and concretization types with only one usage point. The results also indicate that lexical substitution has been utilized more frequently than other methods and is deemed the most essential and effective way for translating the electric airpot manual with the highest degree of accuracy into Uzbek.

- When you plug in, the “BOIL” lamp lights up.
Rozetkaga ulaganingizda “BOIL” lampasi yonadi.

In particular, the transcription technique of lexical transformation is considered suitable for translating the section regarding the boiling function of an electric airpot. In the translation process of these texts, the term “lamp” is translated as “lampa” by using the transliteration method of lexical transformation. In addition, the term “boil” remains untranslated, but it is directly transmitted to the target language. The primary reason for this method is that the sensor labels on this household appliance are written in English; therefore, providing the Uzbek versions of these terms in the manual may be confusing for consumers.

- An electric pump *serves* the hot water
Elektr nasos issiq suvni ta'minlab beradi.

Transformation can be employed to translate words with diverse meanings or those that are ambiguous and challenging to interpret. It is imperative to translate the verb “serve” with a contextually appropriate synonym. The phrase “service” in English, as defined by the *Cambridge Free English Dictionary & Thesaurus*, includes several meanings: “to provide food or drinks,” “to work for,” “to assist in achieving something,” “to deliver a legal document,” “to hit the ball in sports” and “to supply something that is needed”. This translation employs a concretization method of transformation, interpreting the term “serve” as “to supply something that is needed.”

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- Before cleaning, *remove* the plug and the lid, and throw away the remaining hot water
Tozalashdan oldin rozetkadan uzing va qopqoqni ochib qolgan issiq suvni to`kib tashlang

The primary findings regarding the comprehension of the ambiguous term “remove” indicate that it is employed in two distinct contexts, with only one instance of its use in the manual. The collocation “remove the plug” signifies the meaning of unplugging or disconnecting from power, which is translated as *rozetkadan uzmoq*. The collocation “remove the lid” refers to opening or taking off the cover, which could be translated as *qopqoqni ochib* in the target language. Consequently, lexical substitution is employed in the translation process as a form of linguistic transformation.

- Clean *the body* and lid with a damp well-squeezed cloth.
Idishni va qopqog`ini siqilgan namli mato bilan tozalang.

We encountered another instance of the ambiguous term “body”, which requires an exploration of its various meanings as defined in the *Cambridge Free English Dictionary & Thesaurus*. These meanings encompass: “the whole physical structure that forms a person or animal,” “dead person,” “the painted metal shell of a vehicle,” “person,” “a large amount of something,” “the main part of a book or article,” “a separate object or mass,” and “a strong or thick quality” among others. In this instance, the interpretation of the word is not primarily determined by the initial choice of meaning; instead, it is enhanced through a more deliberate reinterpretation. This process generates an alternative equivalent term, “dish,” by employing the lexical transformation technique of lexical substitution.

- Rub with any *ion scrub* and rinse thoroughly.
Har qanday ion skrab bilan ishqalang va yaxshilab chaying.

In the following example, we have found that the transcription method is used to translate “ion scrub” from the source language

into Uzbek as *ion skrab*. Transcription is a recording of foreign words using the historically established orthographic system of the recipient language for use in ordinary texts [32].

The translation process of the meat grinder instruction manual involves several lexical transformations.

Table 3. *The usage of lexical transformations in translating the instruction manual of the meat grinder*

No.	Text in the instruction manual of the meat grinder	Translation of the meat grinder instruction manual	Types of lexical transformations
1	Come into contact with food	<i>oziq-ovqat solinadigan</i>	Lexical substitution
2	the head class	<i>bosh qismi</i>	Lexical substitution
3	Ingredients	<i>Ingredientlar</i>	Transliteration
4	The amount of water	<i>Suv</i>	Omission
5	The motor mount	<i>vosita moslamasini</i>	Lexical substitution
6	the position	<i>Pozitsiya</i>	Transcription

Table 3 presents a statistically significant implementation of lexical substitution for translating challenging parts and phrases in the section of the instruction manual for the meat grinder. It suggests that the lexical substitution method was effective in enhancing the translated version of manuals from the source language. To further visualize the substantial usage of each type of lexical transformation in detail, with a clear explanation and analysis of sentences, thoroughly.

- Before using the product for the first time, thoroughly clean the parts that come into contact with food
Mahsulotni birinchi marta ishlatishdan oldin, oziq-ovqat solinadigan qismlarni yaxshilab tozalang
- Before machining, remove the ribs, bones, and skin from the head class before processing
Ishlatishdan oldin, jarayonni boshlashdan avval qovurg'a, suyak va terini bosh qismidan olib tashlang

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The first translation employs a lexical transformation, replacing the collocation “come into contact with” with the participle *solinadigan*, which conveys a distinct connotation in the target language. This transformation employs a method of lexical substitution.

The lexical transformation technique of lexical substitution is employed in the subsequent sentence to translate the collocation “the head class,” resulting in the translation *bosh qism*. Although the original denotative meaning of “class” refers to “a group of students who are taught together at school, college, or university,” its use in the context of a household appliance manual would result in an unclear translation. Consequently, it is translated as *qism* by contextual considerations, similar to the English term “part”.

- Place the meat grinder into the cup, cut the *ingredients* into 1-2 pieces, and place them into the cup along with the vegetables.

The amount of water should be added to the fruit ingredients.

- *Go'sht maydalagichni stakan ichiga joylashtiring, ingredientlarni 1-2 bo'lakka kesib oling va ularni stakanga soling, sabzavotlarni qo'yning. Meva mahsulotlariga suv qo'shilishi kerak.*

Regarding the significance of the transliteration method in lexical transformation, we can translate the term “ingredients” into Uzbek as *ingredientlar* in the manual instructions for the meat grinder.

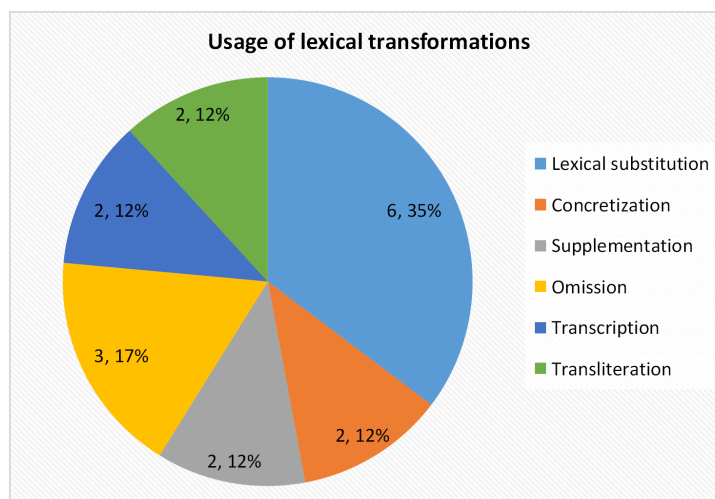
In translating the phrase “the amount of water,” we employ the omission method of lexical transformation for the expression “the amount of,” as its translation is considered superfluous in this context. Consequently, the instructional text is rendered as “suv” in the target language.

Place *the motor mount* on the transparent cover and fully seat it in place
Vosita moslamasini shaffof qopqoq ustiga joylashtiring va uni joyiga to'liq joylashtiring

The term “motor mount” is translated as “vehicle attachment” (*vosita moslamasi*) to ensure clarity and precision in the translation process. It exemplifies the implementation of lexical substitution, a form of lexical-semantic change, in the context of linguistic transformation.

- Cover with a transparent cover, *the position* requires alignment
Shaffof qopqoq bilan yoping, pozitsiyani moslashuvni talab qiladi

The transcription method was employed when the term “position” was interpreted as *pozitsiya*. This method is a fruitful and effective technique for translating instruction manuals of various household appliances, as technical devices and appliance manuals often contain technological words and phrases.



This study aimed to investigate how the implementation of lexical transformations contributes to the improvement of the translation process for instruction manuals of certain household appliances, specifically a vacuum cleaner, an electric airpot, and a meat grinder. It evaluates the best techniques for translating the contexts of manuals from English to the Uzbek language and

determines that lexical substitution is the most effective way to translate technical terms and texts of manuals written in English into the target language appropriately. The findings in Fig.1 reveal that the effectiveness of lexical substitution equaled 35%, which is the highest point among others, based on the results of collecting usage points of different lexical transformations in translating instruction manuals of three household appliances to serve users and manufacturers with appropriate, easy, and user-friendly translations in the Uzbek language. Word omission is also considered highly effective (17%) for translators to interpret contexts into the source language. Other types are also utilized to translate usage sections of instruction manuals. However, according to the results of researching their implementations, the percentage of these types is slightly ineffective, with only 12%, which is the same for all of them.

CONCLUSION

This article discusses the challenges and techniques involved in translating instruction manuals for household appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, electric airpots, and meat grinders, from English to Uzbek. The research article emphasizes the significance of lexical transformations in ensuring clarity and comprehensibility in translated texts. Various types of lexical transformations were employed, and lexical substitution was believed to be the most effective way of translating instruction manuals for household appliances by using additional words when there was no suitable equivalent for some technical terms in the Uzbek language. The examples provided demonstrate how these transformations are applied to specific phrases and words in the context of the user manuals, taking into account the linguistic and cultural differences between the source and target languages. We emphasize the importance of considering the context and intended meaning when selecting the appropriate lexical transformations to convey instructions accurately and effectively to the target audience.

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