

PROBLEMS OF PRESERVING NAVOI'S POETICS IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This article analyzes recent achievements and pressing challenges related to the translation of Alisher Navoi's works into foreign languages. Based on the principles of translation theory, the study explores the ways of accurately conveying Navoi's literary heritage to an international audience.

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, translation, foreign languages, literary work, problem, innovation, translator.

Introduction

The creative legacy of the great thinker and poet Alisher Navoi is a priceless treasure not only for Uzbek literature but also for the cultural heritage of all Turkic peoples. His works promote humanism, truth, beauty, and enlightenment — values recognized at an international level. Therefore, the demand and interest in translating Navoi's works into foreign languages continue to grow. However, this process brings with it a number of linguistic, cultural, and poetic challenges. Initially, Navoi's works were translated into Russian. By the mid-20th century, some of his "Khamsa" epics had begun to be published in abridged forms in English, French, German, and other languages. In fact, as early as the 19th century, English scholar Edward G. Browne recognized the significance of Navoi's work [1].

During the Soviet era, most Russian translations were simplified or paraphrased. Today, modern translation theories and technologies are taking this process to a new level.

In 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan initiated a major cultural project in honor of the 580th anniversary of Alisher Navoi's birth. As part of this effort, a complete **electronic version of the "Khamsa" was prepared in English**, aiming to make Navoi's legacy more widely accessible for study and recognition internationally.

The English version was released as an open-source digital publication, enabling access for scholars, literary critics, and the general public.

In 2023, the **Institute of Language and Literature** under the **Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan** initiated modern scholarly translations of Navoi's selected works into Russian and English [2]. This project involved:

- **Selection of major works:** Translating the most significant and renowned pieces.
- **Scholarly methodology:** Employing contemporary linguistic and literary approaches.
- **Cultural context preservation:** Emphasis on maintaining the original historical and cultural background.
- **Translation evaluation:** Comparative analysis between translated and original texts to ensure fidelity and quality.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based translation technologies are being piloted to translate some of Navoi's ghazals [3]. In 2024, Muqaddas Abdurahmonova published a study titled "Challenges in Understanding and Translating Homonyms in AI Systems," which examined test-based translations of Navoi's ghazals using AI technologies such as ChatGPT and Prolog. This study identified both the potential and the limitations of AI in interpreting poetic language and homonyms. These innovations contribute to improving translation quality and integrating Navoi's works into the global scientific and cultural discourse.

Main Challenges in Translating Navoi's Works:

1. **Linguistic Complexity:** Navoi's poetry is written in Old Uzbek (Chagatai), which significantly differs from modern languages in terms of phonetics, morphology, and syntax. His vast vocabulary, synonym usage, and metaphorical language pose serious difficulties for translators [4].
2. **Loss of Cultural Context:** Navoi's texts contain numerous references to Islamic mysticism (Sufism), Eastern philosophy, Quranic verses, Hadiths, and Arabic-Persian terms. Translating these without proper contextual explanations can lead to misinterpretations [5].
3. **Loss of Aesthetic and Poetic Features:** Genres like ghazals and rubaiyat are characterized by rhythm and melody. Literal translation often sacrifices these poetic features, hence requiring creative or literary translation approaches.

4. Methodological Limitations: Some translations use a literal approach, which may fail to fully convey the aesthetic and semantic depth of Navoi's thoughts [6].

Recommendations for Improving Translation Quality

- Implement specialized academic programs for training translators of classical literature.
- Utilize **creative translation** and **annotated translation** methodologies.
- Enrich translations with cultural interpretations and explanatory notes.
- Develop AI technologies as supportive tools in the translation process.

These approaches would help deliver the full artistic, aesthetic, and philosophical essence of Navoi's works to foreign audiences.

Conclusion

Alisher Navoi's literary legacy is one of the treasures of world literature. Translating his works into foreign languages and presenting them to other cultures significantly enriches the spiritual wealth of humanity. However, this requires a deep understanding of language, culture, and literature. Only scientifically grounded and culturally sensitive translations can contribute to a deeper global appreciation of Navoi's legacy.

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