



THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TRANSLATING UZBEK FOLK TALES INTO ENGLISH

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ANNOTATION

This article explores the role of artificial intelligence in translating Uzbek folk tales into English. Uzbek folk tales contain culturally specific expressions and symbolic meanings that often create difficulties in translation. The study examines how AI-based translation tools assist in processing folklore texts and generating preliminary translations. Particular attention is given to issues of semantic equivalence, cultural adaptation, and stylistic preservation. The research shows that artificial intelligence can increase translation efficiency and support translators in working with large volumes of texts. However, human translators remain essential for preserving cultural and artistic nuances in folklore translation.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, machine translation, Uzbek folklore, folk tales, cultural translation, semantic equivalence, language technologies.

Folk literature represents one of the most valuable components of a nation's cultural heritage. Uzbek folk tales, which have been transmitted orally for centuries, reflect the worldview, traditions, moral values, and social norms of the Uzbek people. These tales not only entertain readers and listeners but also preserve historical memory and cultural identity. With the increasing globalization of culture and communication, translating national folklore into widely spoken languages such as English has become an important task for scholars and translators.

However, translating folk tales is not a simple linguistic operation. It requires the accurate transfer of cultural meanings, stylistic features, and symbolic elements embedded in the original text. Uzbek folk tales often contain idiomatic expressions, culturally specific metaphors, and references to traditional customs that may not have direct equivalents in English. These linguistic and cultural complexities create significant challenges for translators¹.

In recent years, the rapid development of artificial intelligence technologies has significantly influenced the field of translation. Machine translation systems based on neural networks, natural language processing, and deep learning algorithms have improved the speed and accessibility of translation processes. Artificial intelligence tools such as neural machine translation systems are increasingly used to assist translators in processing texts and generating preliminary translations.

The application of artificial intelligence in translating Uzbek folk tales opens new possibilities for the global dissemination of Uzbek cultural heritage. At the same time, it raises important questions regarding the accuracy, cultural adequacy, and stylistic

¹ Baker, M. (2018). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. Routledge.

authenticity of AI-generated translations. This article aims to examine the role of artificial intelligence in translating Uzbek folk tales into English and to evaluate its effectiveness in preserving cultural meaning and narrative style.

Uzbek folk tales represent a rich layer of oral literature characterized by imaginative storytelling, moral lessons, and symbolic imagery. These narratives often include mythical creatures, heroic characters, and magical elements that reflect the cultural beliefs and values of the Uzbek people.

One of the defining features of Uzbek folk tales is the use of culturally specific expressions and idioms. For example, references to traditional family structures, hospitality customs, and social hierarchies frequently appear in the narratives. Such expressions are deeply rooted in the national culture and may be difficult to translate into English without losing their original meaning.

Another characteristic of Uzbek folklore is its stylistic simplicity combined with expressive imagery. Storytellers often use repetition, rhythmic structures, and metaphorical language to create a memorable narrative style. These stylistic devices contribute to the aesthetic value of the tales and play an important role in engaging the audience.

From a linguistic perspective, Uzbek folk tales also include archaic vocabulary and dialectal expressions that reflect historical stages of the language. Translators must carefully interpret these elements in order to convey both the literal meaning and the cultural atmosphere of the story.

Consequently, the translation of Uzbek folk tales requires not only linguistic competence but also a deep understanding of cultural context. Without such knowledge, important symbolic and emotional nuances may be lost in translation.

Artificial intelligence has transformed many aspects of language technology, including translation, speech recognition, and text analysis. In the field of translation studies, machine translation systems have evolved from rule-based models to advanced neural networks capable of producing relatively fluent translations.

Neural machine translation systems operate by analyzing large corpora of bilingual texts and learning patterns of linguistic correspondence between languages. These systems are able to generate translations based on contextual analysis rather than simple word-for-word substitution. As a result, modern AI-based translation tools can produce more natural and coherent texts compared to earlier machine translation models.

In the context of Uzbek-English translation, artificial intelligence offers several advantages. First, AI systems can process large volumes of text quickly, making them useful for translating extensive collections of folklore materials. Second, machine translation tools can assist translators by providing preliminary drafts that can later be edited and refined.

Furthermore, artificial intelligence can help identify patterns in narrative structures, vocabulary usage, and stylistic features across different texts. Such analytical capabilities can contribute to linguistic research and comparative studies of folklore.

Despite these advantages, AI translation systems still face limitations when dealing with culturally complex texts. Folk tales often rely on symbolic meanings, humor, and metaphorical expressions that require interpretative understanding.

²Artificial intelligence may struggle to capture these subtleties without human guidance.

One of the main difficulties in translating Uzbek folk tales lies in rendering culturally specific elements into English. These elements include traditional customs, historical references, and culturally embedded metaphors that may not exist in the target language.

For instance, expressions related to hospitality and respect for elders play an important role in Uzbek culture. When such expressions appear in folk tales, they carry not only linguistic meaning but also cultural significance. Machine translation systems may translate the literal meaning of these expressions but fail to convey their cultural implications.

Another challenge involves the translation of metaphorical language. Uzbek folk tales frequently use symbolic imagery to represent moral values and social ideals. Artificial intelligence systems may misinterpret these metaphors or produce translations that sound unnatural in English.

Additionally, stylistic elements such as repetition and narrative rhythm are important features of oral storytelling traditions. AI translation tools may overlook these stylistic nuances, resulting in translations that lack the expressive quality of the original text.

Therefore, while artificial intelligence can assist in the translation process, it cannot fully replace the interpretative role of human translators in handling culturally rich literary texts.

A promising approach to translating Uzbek folk tales involves combining artificial intelligence tools with human expertise. In this collaborative model, AI systems can generate initial translations that serve as a foundation for further refinement by professional translators.

Human translators can evaluate the AI-generated text, correct inaccuracies, and adapt culturally sensitive expressions to ensure that the translation accurately reflects the meaning and tone of the original story. This process allows translators to save time while maintaining high standards of quality.

Moreover, the integration of artificial intelligence can contribute to the preservation and digitalization of folklore materials. By translating and publishing Uzbek folk tales in English, researchers can make these cultural treasures accessible to international audiences.

The collaboration between AI technologies and human translators also encourages interdisciplinary research involving linguistics, computer science, and cultural studies. Such cooperation can lead to the development of more advanced translation tools capable of handling culturally complex texts.

The translation of Uzbek folk tales into English plays a crucial role in promoting Uzbek cultural heritage on the global stage. Artificial intelligence technologies have introduced new possibilities for improving translation efficiency and facilitating cross-cultural communication. AI-based translation tools can process large amounts of text quickly and provide valuable assistance to translators.

However, the translation of folklore involves more than linguistic accuracy. It requires the preservation of cultural meanings, stylistic features, and symbolic imagery that define the original narrative. Artificial intelligence systems, despite their

2 Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a science of translating: With special reference to principles and procedures involved in Bible translating*. Brill. <https://brill.com/display/title/1894>

technological sophistication, still face limitations in interpreting these cultural nuances.

Therefore, the most effective strategy for translating Uzbek folk tales involves a collaborative approach that combines artificial intelligence with human expertise. Such cooperation ensures that translations remain both linguistically accurate and culturally meaningful.

As artificial intelligence technologies continue to evolve, their integration into translation practice will likely become more sophisticated. Future research should focus on improving AI systems' ability to recognize cultural context and adapt translations accordingly. By doing so, scholars and translators can ensure that the rich tradition of Uzbek folklore reaches a wider international audience while preserving its authentic cultural essence.

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