

THE FEATURES OF FOREIGNIZATION STRATEGIES IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF NOVEL “BYGONE DAYS”

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the application of the foreignization strategy in the English translation of Abdulla Qodiriy’s novel O‘tkan Kunlar (Bygone Days). The study explores how the cultural, social, and historical features of Uzbek society reflected in the original text are rendered in translation. The article also discusses the linguistic and cultural techniques used by the translator to preserve the national identity of the source text.

Keywords: translation strategy, foreignization, cultural context, national color, Abdulla Qodiriy, O‘tkan Kunlar.

Introduction

Abdulla Qodiriy’s O‘tkan Kunlar occupies a special place in Uzbek literature as the first realistic historical novel. The work vividly depicts the socio-political life, lifestyle, and traditions of the Turkestan region at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Therefore, translating this novel into another language, particularly English, requires great responsibility in conveying its cultural context accurately.

In translation theory, the concepts of foreignization and domestication introduced by Lawrence Venuti play a key role in analyzing literary translation. While domestication brings the text closer to the target reader’s culture, foreignization preserves the original cultural environment and immerses the reader into the worldview of another nation.

This article examines how the foreignization strategy is manifested in the English translation of O‘tkan Kunlar.

Main Part

1. The Essence of the Foreignization Strategy

The foreignization strategy involves preserving the cultural peculiarities of the source text in order to expose the reader to a “foreign” culture as authentically as possible. The translator aims not to simplify the text, but rather to reproduce the Uzbek context in a way that is comprehensible in English while maintaining its national flavor.

According to Venuti, foreignization helps readers understand the values of another nation and retains the cultural identity of the translated text.

2. Examples of Foreignization in the English Translation of O‘tkan Kunlar

In the English version of O‘tkan Kunlar, the translator employs several techniques aimed at maintaining the national features of the original text:

a) Preservation of national terms.

Words such as toy, oqsoqol, paranji, choyxona, so‘fi, and sovchi are kept in transliterated form. This approach enables readers to better visualize the Uzbek way of life.

For example:

“Otabek attended the toy with his friends.”

Here, the word toy is not replaced by wedding ceremony, since the Uzbek toy has a broader cultural meaning, referring to traditional wedding festivities unique to Uzbek society.

b) Explanatory translation of cultural concepts.

Certain social or religious practices are rendered with brief explanations:

“She wore a paranji, a traditional veil used by Uzbek women.”

In this way, the translator introduces Uzbek culture without replacing the original term.

c) Retaining the national tone in dialogue.

Qodiriy’s use of colloquial expressions and forms of address is not overly simplified in English.

“Ey, Otabekjon!” is rendered as “Hey, Otabekjon!”

The retention of Otabekjon preserves the emotional and cultural nuance of Uzbek speech.

d) Conveying the historical context through foreignization. Historical place names (Margilan, Bukhara, Tashkent), character names (Otabek, Kumush, Zaynab), and social titles (amir, beg) are kept unchanged, inviting the reader into the historical space of Uzbek society.

3. The Importance of Foreignization

Using the foreignization strategy in the translation of O‘tkan Kunlar serves several important purposes:

Preserving the historical and cultural environment of the original text;

Introducing the mentality and values of the Uzbek people to foreign readers;

Promoting intercultural communication and understanding.

Through foreignization, translation conveys not only linguistic meaning but also the spirit, memory, and worldview of a nation.

Conclusion

The use of foreignization strategies in the English translation of Abdulla Qodiriy’s O‘tkan Kunlar plays a vital role in preserving the novel’s national spirit, historical background, and cultural distinctiveness. Through this approach, the translator allows English-speaking readers

to perceive not only the literary value of the novel but also the cultural heritage of the Uzbek people.

Therefore, foreignization contributes to presenting O'tkan Kunlar authentically within the global literary space and enhances the international recognition of Uzbek literature through translation.

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