Translation Peculiarities of Polysemantic Words

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Abstract: *This paper delves into the multifaceted challenges inherent in translating polysemy, a linguistic phenomenon where a single word carries multiple meanings, from English. It underscores the significance of polysemy in enriching language but also highlights the complexities it presents for translators striving for accurate and nuanced renderings. The analysis emphasizes the importance of contextual awareness and cultural sensitivity in navigating the ambiguities that arise when a word's intended meaning is not immediately clear. By examining how translators grapple with polysemic words, particularly in complex literary texts, the study reveals the strategies employed to maintain semantic fidelity while ensuring naturalness and coherence in the target language. Examples drawn from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" are provided to illustrate the specific hurdles encountered when translating idiomatic expressions, figurative language, and specialized terminology that rely heavily on polysemic interpretation. Ultimately, the paper argues that a successful translation of polysemy demands a deep understanding of both the linguistic and cultural landscapes of the source and target languages, as well as a keen awareness of the potential for misinterpretation and the need for creative solutions to preserve the richness and depth of the original text.*

Key words: *Polysemy, polysemantic words, "Hamlet", ambiguity, wordplay, puns, and cultural differences.*

Introduction.

"All translation seems to me simply an attempt to solve an impossible task. Every translator is doomed to be done in by one of two stumbling blocks: he will either stay too close to the original, at the cost of taste and the language of his nation, or he will adhere too closely to the characteristics peculiar to his nation, at the cost of the original. The medium between the is not only difficult, but downright impossible."

(Humboldt, 1796)

Translators frequently face various difficulties arise from the complexities of language and communication. And essential part of these challenges is related to lexicology that often bother language specialists. Translators aiming to create a target language (TL) text that closely mirrors the source language (SL) text must pay careful attention to polysemic words when translating from English into Uzbek or other languages. There are a lot of definitions of the concept of polysemy given by renowned scholars and translators. For example, Roman Jakobson says "**Polysemy** is the

coexistence of several meanings in a single linguistic form, presenting both challenges and opportunities for translators in achieving equivalent expression." Peter Newmark, a well-known translation theorist, also discussed polysemy in his works, though he did not provide an exclusive definition of the concept. In *A Textbook of Translation,* Newmark explained polysemy as: "Polysemy refers to the existence of multiple meanings for a single word, and it is the translator's task to determine the intended sense based on the context, co-text, and cultural background of the text."

He emphasized the importance of contextual clarification, nothing that polysemous words often require translators to examine the surrounding text and the communicative intent in order to choose the appropriate meaning. Polysemous words give rise to problems in translation when they appear in decontextualized sentences, since there is no strongly biasing linguistic context that can remove their ambiguity and specify their meanings.

From these statements, it is pointed out that, polysemy can be defined as a situation where a single word carries multiple meanings, each of which must be learned separately to be fully understood. The following examples from *Hamlet, Shakespeare* demonstrate the given notion:

Methodology.

1. "Play" (**to entertain, have fun):** Has at least 5 multiple meanings;

a) A theatrical performance or drama.

b) A jest or playful action (as in "play on words").

c) To engage in a light-hearted or carefree activity.

d) A manipulation of events or circumstances (as in "the play of fate").

e) A strategic move in a game or competition (often used in political or warfare contexts).

2. Naught (or "Nothing"):

a) The absence of anything.

b) Worthlessness or insignificance.

c) A state of ruin or failure.

d) A pun on sexual connotations in Elizabethan slang.

e) A play on existential themes, as in "to be or not to be."

In *Hamlet*, the word "play" and "naught" carries various meanings, ranging from the literal act of drama to metaphorical uses about the manipulation of situations or words.

Actually, there are a number of challenges bother translator if polysemantic words do not require a careful attention to context, cultural differences, and other aspects. Now, let's look at some problems that translators sometimes have in translating polysemes from English into other languages.

a) Polysemy is frequently used for wordplay or to introduce double meanings in literary works. This becomes especially challenging when translating poetry, novels, or plays, where the multiple interpretations of a word contribute to humor, irony, or dramatic impact. For instance, we can show the given example "play" in *Hamlet, Shakespeare.* He often used polysemous words to create puns, wordplay.

b) To tackle the problem, translators often need to find equivalent idiomatic expressions in the TL, which may not always put in order perfectly with the original phrase but will expresses the same underlying meaning.

c) Polysemous words in the source language might not have direct equivalents in the target language, which becomes especially challenging when the target language lacks a single word that captures all the meanings of the polysemous source term. For instance, English words "get", "take" have more than 100 meanings. It is often impossible to find one word in another language that conveys all these meanings.

d) Furthermore, these words often carry cultural meanings that are difficult to translate into a different linguistic or cultural context. For example, the word "home" can have distinct connotations across cultures. In some contexts, "home" might evoke a sense of physical space or shelter, while in others, it may represent an emotional connection, a sense of belonging, or even a spiritual place.

To address this situation, a translator should choose expressions in the target language that represents the same cultural understanding in the TL. They may also need to include cultural references or explanations to ensure the word is understood as intended in the SL.

Conclusion: Taking everything into account, polysemy remains one of the most complex lexical challenges in translation, requiring translators to hold the delicate balance between accuracy and creativity. Effective translation of polysemous words demands a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as the cultural contexts in which they operate. Translating polysemy presents a formidable challenge for translators, demanding more than just linguistic competence. The inherent ambiguity of polysemic words necessitates a careful consideration of context, cultural nuances, and the author's intent. As demonstrated through the examples from "Hamlet," accurately conveying the multiple layers of meaning embedded in polysemy requires a delicate balance between fidelity to the original text and fluency in the target language. The translator must act as an interpreter, navigating the potential for misinterpretations and employing creative strategies to preserve the richness and depth of the source material. Ultimately, the successful translation of polysemy is a testament to the translator's skill, cultural sensitivity, and ability to bridge the gap between languages while honoring the artistry of the original work.

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