



THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION IN TEACHING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (ON THE EXAMPLE OF "O'TGAN KUNLAR" BY ABDULLA QODIRIY)

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Abstract: This paper explores the role of translation in foreign language teaching, using Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tgan kunlar" as a case study. It investigates how translation facilitates vocabulary acquisition, grammatical understanding, and cultural literacy, while acknowledging challenges such as semantic loss and over-reliance on L1. The study argues for a balanced approach integrating translation with communicative methods for optimal foreign language acquisition.

Keywords: translation in language learning, foreign language acquisition, literary translation, O'tgan kunlar, lexical development.

INTRODUCTION

Translation has historically played a significant role in foreign language pedagogy, offering learners a bridge between linguistic and cultural systems. While communicative approaches have gained prominence, the value of translation in reinforcing vocabulary, grammar, and cultural awareness remains relevant. Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tgan kunlar," a cornerstone of Uzbek literature, provides a rich context for examining the role of translation in language learning. This paper investigates how literary translation, using "O'tgan kunlar" as a primary source, contributes to linguistic competence, cultural literacy, and cognitive development in foreign language learners. It also explores the inherent challenges and potential benefits of incorporating translated texts into language instruction.



METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative approach, analyzing the linguistic and cultural features of "O'tgan kunlar" and their potential impact on foreign language learners. The analysis focuses on specific examples from the novel to illustrate how translation can be utilized to:

- **Reinforce Lexical and Grammatical Structures:** By comparing and contrasting the original Uzbek text with its translation, learners can gain a deeper understanding of grammatical rules, syntactic patterns, and vocabulary nuances.¹
- **Develop Cultural Understanding:** "O'tgan kunlar" is replete with cultural references, idioms, and historical context. Translation can help learners access and interpret these elements, fostering cultural literacy.
- **Enhance Critical Thinking and Interpretation:** The act of translation requires learners to analyze and interpret meaning, promoting critical thinking skills.²
- **Improve Memory Retention:** Associating foreign language words and phrases with their L1 equivalents can aid memory and recall.

The study also acknowledges the potential drawbacks of relying solely on translation, such as over-dependence on L1 and the risk of semantic loss. It advocates for a blended approach that integrates translation with other language learning activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

"O'tgan kunlar" serves as an excellent resource for language learning due to its rich linguistic and cultural content. The novel's vocabulary, including archaic terms, poetic expressions, and regional dialects, provides learners with opportunities to expand their lexicon and understand nuances in meaning. For example, the phrase "Shariat hukmiga binoan" (According to the ruling of Sharia) offers a window into both linguistic complexity and historical context. The novel's abundance of idiomatic expressions, such as "Ko'z tegmasin" (May the evil eye not touch), presents a challenge and an opportunity for learners to grasp figurative language and cultural



values. Furthermore, the structural differences between Uzbek (SOV) and many target languages (SVO) can be effectively explored through translation exercises, enhancing learners' understanding of sentence construction.³

However, the study also recognizes the challenges associated with translation. Over-reliance on L1 can hinder learners' ability to think directly in the target language. The translation of culturally specific concepts can lead to semantic loss or misinterpretation.⁴ The inherent ambiguities in literary texts can make it difficult to achieve accurate translations. Finally, the translation process can be time-consuming. To mitigate these challenges, the study recommends a balanced approach that combines translation with communicative activities, immersion techniques, and interactive exercises.

CONCLUSION

Translation remains a valuable tool in foreign language teaching, particularly when used in conjunction with literary works like "O'tgan kunlar." The novel's rich linguistic and cultural content provides a valuable resource for learners. This study demonstrates that translation can enhance lexical knowledge, grammatical accuracy, and cultural awareness. However, it is crucial to integrate translation with communicative and immersive techniques to develop well-rounded language skills. Future research could explore the potential of AI-assisted translation tools in language learning and further investigate the optimal balance between translation-based and communicative approaches.

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