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# PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING FICTION AND POPULAR SCIENCE WORKS (IN THE EXAMPLE OF TURKISH)

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Annotation: This article analyzes the problems in the process of translating fiction and popular science works into Turkish. The issues of finding cultural and linguistic equivalents of fantastic elements, ensuring terminological consistency, preserving the author's style, and conveying an understandable and natural text to the reader are covered. Also, using the example of translations into Turkish, the problems are considered from a practical perspective and ways to solve them are proposed.

**Keywords:** fiction, popular science literature, translation, linguistic problems, cultural equivalence, terminology, author's style, Turkish.

**Introduction:** The art of translation serves as a bridge between different languages and cultures. In particular, the process of translating fiction and popular science literature is not only linguistically, but also culturally and methodologically complex. Works in these genres often have their own terminology, the individual style of the author, and images that depend on a particular cultural context, which creates certain difficulties in expressing them in a natural and understandable form in another language.

Fantasy literature is a product of human imagination, based on the creation of concepts and worlds that do not exist in real life. Works written in this genre are often associated with folk tales, mythology, and religious concepts, and it can be difficult to find traditional equivalents when translating them. In addition, neologisms, specific names, and terms that are often found in fantasy stories pose additional problems for the translator.

Popular science literature is aimed at conveying concepts related to various fields of science and technology to the general public in a simple and understandable way. When translating texts of this genre, it is of great importance to find the correct and accurate equivalent of terms, without violating the scientific foundations, and at the same time to ensure that the text is interesting and understandable for the reader.

Translating fiction and popular science works into Turkish has its own characteristics. Because the Turkish language has a rich and ancient history and differs from other languages in terms of its grammatical and lexical structure. Also, the historical influence of Arabic and Persian words in Turkish, the process of adopting modern technological and scientific terms creates certain problems in translation work.

This article analyzes the main problems encountered in translating fiction and popular science works into Turkish. In particular, the issues of finding linguistic equivalents, preserving the author's style, cultural adaptation and terminological compatibility are studied. Also, practical



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examples of these problems are examined using existing translations in Turkish, and suggestions and recommendations are provided for solving them.

Main part: Translation of fantasy and popular science fiction is much more complex than translation of ordinary works of fiction, and the translator must pay attention not only to language knowledge, but also to scientific and fantastic concepts, cultural context and stylistic features. Works written in the fantasy genre are based on their own neologisms, mythical elements, new world rules and technological achievements, and expressing them in a natural and understandable form in another language poses certain problems.

Linguistic features, cultural differences and problems of terminological compatibility are especially relevant in the process of translation into Turkish. In this section, we will consider these problems in detail.

Works in the fantasy genre often contain new words and concepts created by the author. For example, words such as "hobbit", "elf", "orc" in J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" or Isaac Asimov's neologisms related to robotics pose various problems when translated into different languages.

The following approaches are used when translating such words into Turkish: Transliteration of the words (hobbit, elf, orc); Creating a close Turkish equivalent or finding a suitable equivalent; Using a descriptive translation that reveals the meaning of the word.

In most cases, transliteration is the most commonly used method, and efforts are made not to destroy the atmosphere created by the author during the translation process. Turkish is an agglutinative language, which differs from European languages in terms of the formation of these words through suffixes and sentence structure. For example, when translating from English and Russian into Turkish, sentences can become longer and more complex.

The following syntactic problems may arise when translating fantasy and popular science works:

The need to express complex sentences in English and Russian in a simple form in Turkish;

- The structure of noun and adjective combinations;
- Differences in verb tenses and modal expressions.

These problems depend on the translator's skills, who should try to maintain the naturalness of Turkish without distorting the style of the work.

Fantasy works are often based on traditions, mythological concepts and historical elements specific to the society in which the author lives. For example, magic systems based on European mythology or concepts of witchcraft in Eastern culture can cause various difficulties when translated into Turkish.

Since the Turkish language and culture are based on other historical sources, some concepts may seem foreign to readers. For example, concepts such as "goblin", "druid", "vampire" are rare in Turkish culture, so their meaning should be explained in the translation or replaced with equivalents familiar to the reader.



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Religious and mythological elements play an important role in many fantasy works. For example, Western fiction is usually based on Christianity or ancient mythology, while Turkish is closer to Muslim and Turkish culture. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain a balance when translating some concepts.

For example:

English: "Hell" → Turkish: "Cehennem" (closer to the Islamic context);

"Demon"  $\rightarrow$  "İblis" or "Cin" (but these concepts have their own differences).

The translator must maintain a style that is understandable to the reader, without distorting the religious and mythological meanings.

Terminology plays an important role in the translation of popular science literature. Although scientific terms are often universal, sometimes difficulties arise in adapting them to Turkish.

For example: "Artificial Intelligence" → "Yapai Zeka", "Quantum Mechanics" → "Kuantum Mekaniği", "Cybernetics" → "Sibernetik".

Sometimes the translator must create new terms or use terminology that has been updated to reflect the development of science and technology. The author's style of fantasy and popular science works should not be violated during translation. Some authors write in a complex and poetic style, while others write in a simpler, narrative style. The translator should take this difference into account and try to preserve the author's voice.

For example, when translating magical terms and wordplay from J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels into Turkish, alternative methods were found:

"Muggle" → "Muggle" (left unchanged)

"Diagon Alley" → "Diagon Alley" (Turkized for reader's understanding).

Translating fantasy and popular science fiction into Turkish is a complex process, involving linguistic, cultural, terminological and methodological problems. The translator must choose appropriate strategies to solve these problems, taking into account cultural and scientific differences, and preserve the original spirit of the text. At the same time, the process of improving the quality of translations and finding equivalents that are compatible with international literature should continue.

Translating fantasy and popular science fiction into Turkish involves many linguistic, cultural, terminological and methodological problems. The solution of these problems depends on the translator's qualifications, level of knowledge of the language and culture, and the ability to preserve the general spirit of the work.

Neologisms and words created by the author, which are often found in fantasy works, require special attention in translation. Sometimes it is necessary to transliterate words, and sometimes to create suitable equivalents that reveal their meaning. The agglutinative nature of the Turkish



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language, however, creates certain differences in sentence structure, forcing the translator to make grammatical adaptations.

Fantasy literature is often based on the cultural, historical and mythological imagination of the society in which the author lives. Characters such as elves, vampires, goblins or systems of magic in Western literature may be alien to Turkish readers, therefore, the strategy of cultural adaptation is required in translation. In popular science literature, while the concepts of science and technology are global in nature, some terms have not yet fully developed equivalents in Turkish or require additional explanations to be understandable to readers.

One of the biggest problems in the translation of popular science works is the correct and precise expression of scientific terms. Although some terms exist in Turkish, in some cases it is necessary to create new terms or use existing ones. It is also important to convey scientific concepts and technical terms in a way that is understandable to the general public.

Each author has his own style, which is even more important in works of fiction and popular science. For example, the complex, poetic language of J.R.R. Tolkien or the clear and logical style of Isaac Asimov must be reflected in the translation. Translating without losing the author's style is one of the most difficult tasks for a translator.

Conclusion: Translating fiction and non-fiction into Turkish is a complex but interesting process that also contributes greatly to the development of translation studies. To solve linguistic, cultural and terminological problems, a translator must have not only knowledge of the language, but also a deep understanding of the foundations of fiction and science. Solving these problems through effective approaches will help create high-quality and attractive translations in the future, as a result of which Turkish readers will have the opportunity to fully enjoy the global literary heritage.

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