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## THE REPRESENTATION OF NATIONAL AND CULTURAL ELEMENTS IN TRANSLATION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF "IKKI ESHIK ORASI")

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**Abstract.** This article examines the representation of national and cultural elements in translation on the example of O'tkir Hoshimov's novel "Ikki eshik orasi" and its English version "Between Two Doors". The study focuses on the translation of culture-specific items, including traditions, customs, forms of address, proverbs, and social values. Particular attention is paid to the strategies employed by translators to preserve the national identity and artistic value of the original text. The research reveals that transliteration, descriptive translation, functional equivalence, and adaptation are among the most effective methods used to convey cultural meanings and ensure intercultural communication.

**Keywords:** translation, culture, national identity, literary translation, O'tkir Hoshimov, culture-specific items, equivalence.

Translation is regarded as one of the most important instruments of intercultural communication. In literary translation, the task of the translator goes beyond the transfer of lexical and grammatical meanings, since literary texts embody the historical experience, traditions, beliefs, and worldview of a particular nation. Therefore, the representation of national and cultural elements is considered one of the major challenges in translation studies. The issue of cultural transfer has attracted considerable attention among scholars such as Eugene Nida, Peter Newmark, Mona Baker, and Susan Bassnett. Their studies emphasize that language and culture are inseparable and that the successful translation of literary works depends largely on the translator's ability to preserve the cultural identity of the source text.

O'tkir Hoshimov's novel "Ikki eshik orasi" occupies a special place in Uzbek literature due to its rich portrayal of Uzbek traditions, customs, and moral values. Consequently, the English translation entitled "Between Two Doors" provides an appropriate basis for investigating the ways national and cultural elements are represented in translation. National and cultural elements constitute an integral part of literary works. They reflect the social life, customs, and mentality of a nation and contribute to the uniqueness of artistic expression. Such elements include forms of address, traditions, ceremonies, proverbs, idiomatic expressions, and culture-bound concepts.

In "Ikki eshik orasi," O'tkir Hoshimov presents numerous examples of Uzbek cultural realities. Family values occupy a central position in the novel. Respect for parents and elders, mutual support among relatives, and the importance of maintaining strong family ties are repeatedly emphasized throughout the work. Terms such as "ota", "ona", "aka", "opa", "bobo", and "buvi" are not merely lexical units; they represent social relationships and express respect and affection. Although these words may be translated into English as "father", "mother", "elder brother", and "elder sister", the emotional and cultural connotations associated with them are often difficult to convey fully. Another prominent feature of the novel is hospitality, which has traditionally been regarded as one





of the fundamental values of Uzbek society. Guests are treated with honor and generosity, and hospitality is considered an essential moral obligation. Such cultural aspects may not be entirely familiar to English-speaking readers; therefore, translators often resort to descriptive methods to clarify their significance.

Traditional ceremonies and customs are also widely represented in the novel. Events such as weddings, family gatherings, and celebrations illustrate the social and spiritual life of the Uzbek people. Culture-specific terms such as "to'y", "mahalla", "sumalak", and "Navruz" have no exact equivalents in English. Consequently, transliteration is frequently employed in order to preserve their national character. By retaining these lexical units in their original form, translators enable foreign readers to become acquainted with unique aspects of Uzbek culture. Proverbs and idiomatic expressions constitute another important category of national elements. They embody the wisdom and life experience of generations and enrich the language of literary works. However, their translation often presents considerable difficulties because literal rendering may lead to semantic distortion. In such cases, translators attempt to employ functional equivalence or explanatory translation to reproduce the intended meaning and stylistic effect.

According to Eugene Nida's theory of dynamic equivalence, the translator should strive to achieve the same response among target readers as that experienced by the audience of the original text. Peter Newmark also emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural meanings and proposes several procedures for translating culture-bound words. These theoretical approaches are particularly relevant in the translation of "Ikki eshik orasi," where maintaining the national spirit of the work is of paramount importance. Among the most common translation techniques used in rendering national and cultural elements are transliteration, descriptive translation, functional equivalence, and adaptation. Transliteration preserves the authenticity of culture-specific terms, while descriptive translation provides explanations necessary for understanding unfamiliar concepts. Functional equivalence enables translators to convey communicative functions rather than literal meanings, whereas adaptation facilitates comprehension by adjusting certain elements to the cultural background of target readers. Nevertheless, excessive adaptation may result in the loss of national identity and artistic originality.

The analysis demonstrates that the translator performs not only linguistic but also cultural mediation. Successful translation requires profound knowledge of both source and target cultures. The translator must preserve the author's style and intentions while ensuring that the text remains accessible to foreign readers. Therefore, literary translation should be viewed as a process of intercultural dialogue rather than a mere linguistic operation.

In conclusion, the study of O'tkir Hoshimov's "Ikki eshik orasi" and its English translation "Between Two Doors" indicates that national and cultural elements play a decisive role in preserving the artistic and ideological value of literary works. Such elements reflect the traditions, customs, and worldview of the Uzbek people and contribute to the uniqueness of the novel. The findings reveal that various translation strategies, including transliteration, descriptive translation, functional equivalence, and adaptation, are employed to represent culture-specific items. Although certain cultural nuances may be difficult to reproduce completely, an appropriate combination of these methods makes it possible to preserve the national spirit of the original text and facilitate intercultural communication.





Consequently, the representation of national and cultural elements in translation contributes not only to the preservation of cultural identity but also to the enrichment of world literature and the promotion of mutual understanding among different nations.

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