

PAPER

PRAGMATIC STUDY OF THE IMAGE OF “BOBUR” IN TRANSLATIONS OF HISTORICAL NOVELS

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Abstract

This article examines the linguo-pragmatic interpretation of the image of “Bobur” in historical novels. The central focus is on how Bobur’s personality, his historical role, and his psychological portrait are represented through artistic devices in literary texts. Particular attention is given to the challenges of preserving national-cultural connotations in translation and accurately conveying the pragmatic dimensions of the image. The study also highlights possible solutions from a scholarly perspective. Moreover, on the basis of comparative-pragmatic analysis, the article explores the role of the image of “Bobur” in translations in expressing national spirit and historical context, as well as its effectiveness in influencing readers.

Key words: Bobur, historical novel, translation, linguo-pragmatics, artistic image, national-cultural connotation, comparative analysis.

Introduction

Historical novels serve as a powerful medium for transmitting national memory, chronicling the stages of historical development, and representing eminent figures to future generations through artistic interpretation [1]. In this regard, the image of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur has been reflected not only in Uzbek literature but also widely in the literary imagination of many nations. Bobur’s multifaceted identity—as a statesman, commander, and poet—has been vividly portrayed in numerous

works of fiction, and through their translations his reputation has gained international recognition [2].

In translation studies, the correct pragmatic interpretation of a character and the faithful transmission of national-cultural elements as in the original text remain crucial issues. In literary translation, it is not sufficient to reproduce only the lexical-semantic meaning of words; their stylistic and cultural load must also be rendered effectively. The case of Bobur’s image is particularly challenging because the translator is responsible for conveying the intricate interplay of historical

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reality, national spirit, and individual qualities. This task demands not only linguistic accuracy but also cultural sensitivity and pragmatic awareness.

This article aims to investigate the pragmatic dimensions of Bobur's image in translations, considering linguistic, artistic, and cultural perspectives. It further analyzes the theoretical and practical aspects of character construction in historical novels and the complexities of transferring these elements into another language.

Literature Review

The question of how historical figures are artistically interpreted in novels has been the subject of extensive research by literary scholars and translation theorists. Scholars emphasize that a historical character in fiction may be created either on the basis of authentic facts or shaped by the author's creative imagination. This duality generates debate on the balance between historical accuracy and literary artistry.

In literary traditions concerning Bobur, two primary approaches are most frequently observed [3]:

1. As a statesman and commander. This approach highlights Bobur's political leadership, military campaigns, governance experience, and central role in historical processes. Such portrayals depict him as an active force shaping history rather than a passive participant.

2. As a creator and an individual of high moral values. Here, Bobur's literary heritage, especially as the author of the *Boburnama*, is foregrounded. His creative ability, human virtues, emotional states, psychological experiences, and family life are portrayed, revealing him as a figure of both cultural and moral significance.

In translation research, the preservation of national-cultural components and the retention of the pragmatic effect are consistently emphasized [4]. Translators are tasked not only with transferring words but also with transmitting cultural codes embedded in the original text. To elicit in the reader the same emotional and intellectual response as in the source text, the translator must employ not only linguistic equivalents but also stylistic and cultural ones. Consequently, at the intersection of literary studies

and translation studies, the interpretation of Bobur's image and its recreation in new cultural contexts emerge as critical scholarly concerns [5].

Methodology

The study employs a comparative-pragmatic analysis method to examine how the image of Bobur is represented in both original Uzbek historical novels and their translations. Selected fragments from the source and target texts were compared systematically to determine the extent to which the pragmatic effect of the original was preserved.

Additionally, the research utilized a discourse analysis approach, focusing on several dimensions:

- Artistic devices used in shaping Bobur's image (epithets, metaphors, dialogues, historical references);
- Cultural connotations associated with the character, including national customs, traditions, historical terminology, and religious concepts;
- Semantic layers of meaning, identifying which aspects of the image were fully preserved in translation and which were reduced, omitted, or adapted into alternative cultural codes.

The methodology also analyzed translator strategies such as literal translation (*calque*), adaptation, and explanatory translation. Each strategy was assessed in terms of its effectiveness in reflecting the pragmatic dimensions of Bobur's image. As a result, the study identified both the social and cultural attributes of Bobur as they appeared in the original texts and as they were reshaped in translation, evaluating their impact on the target audience.

Conclusion

The exploration of Bobur's image in historical novels and its recreation in translations reveals the complexity and multidimensionality of this phenomenon. The findings indicate that in the original works Bobur is consistently portrayed in dual roles: as a statesman and military leader, and as a creative personality endowed with profound human qualities. In translations, however, these two dimensions are often unequally emphasized: some highlight his socio-political role more

strongly, while others provide insufficient attention to his creative and human aspects.

Pragmatic analysis demonstrates that in many translations, national-cultural elements are either condensed or replaced with alternative cultural codes, which diminishes the emotional and aesthetic impact of the image to some extent [6]. Nevertheless, it was observed that some translators sought to preserve the pragmatic effect through strategies such as explanatory translation or adaptation, thereby ensuring that the translated text retained a measure of the original's expressiveness.

Based on these observations, several scholarly conclusions can be drawn:

- To fully represent Bobur's image in translation, linguistic equivalents alone are insufficient; cultural and stylistic equivalents must be extensively employed.
- Preserving the pragmatic effect requires balanced attention not only to Bobur's socio-political role but also to his creative and human qualities.
- The translator's strategic choices are decisive in shaping the reception of historical figures in new cultural environments; inappropriate strategies may lead to one-sided or distorted interpretations of the image.

In conclusion, the study of Bobur's image in historical novels and its interpretation in translations constitutes an important scholarly task. It contributes not only to literary studies and translation studies but also to the broader mission of transmitting national-cultural heritage to other nations. Through such research, the enduring legacy of Bobur can be reinterpreted and conveyed across languages and cultures, strengthening intercultural dialogue and deepening the global appreciation of shared historical memory.

Literature

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