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THE REPRESENTATION OF EMOTIONAL AND EXPRESSIVE UNITS BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ENGLISH–UZBEK TRANSLATION

Abdug'aforova Mehrangiz Orifjon qizi

The teacher of Asia International University

Bukhara, Uzbekistan

mehrangizabdugaforova@gmail.com

Abstract. The rapid development of artificial intelligence has significantly influenced contemporary translation practices and created new possibilities for processing multilingual texts. At the same time, the translation of emotional and expressive language remains challenging because such language conveys not only lexical meaning but also emotional intensity, evaluation, stylistic colouring, communicative intention, and culturally specific associations. This study examines the representation of emotional and expressive units in English–Uzbek translation produced with the assistance of artificial intelligence. The main aim is to determine how effectively AI-mediated translation preserves the semantic content, emotional intensity, expressive colouring, and pragmatic meaning of emotionally marked English expressions when rendered into Uzbek. The study employs a qualitative comparative approach based on descriptive and contextual analysis. Particular attention is given to emotionally evaluative vocabulary, intensifiers, interjections, idiomatic expressions, figurative language, irony, and context-dependent expressive constructions. The analysis considers semantic correspondence, emotional equivalence, pragmatic appropriateness, stylistic naturalness, and cultural compatibility. The findings indicate that AI-based translation systems can generally reproduce the basic semantic content of emotional expressions, while the preservation of emotional intensity, expressive force, and context-dependent pragmatic meaning is less consistent. Literal rendering, reduction of emotional intensity, inappropriate lexical choices, and loss of cultural associations may affect the communicative effect of the translated text. The study argues that AI-generated translation should therefore be evaluated through a multidimensional framework that extends beyond lexical and grammatical accuracy. The findings are relevant to translation studies, AI-assisted translation, translator education, and post-editing practices in English–Uzbek translation.

Keywords: English–Uzbek translation, artificial intelligence, emotional and expressive units, emotional meaning, expressiveness, pragmatic meaning, translation strategies, machine translation, translation equivalence, linguocultural studies.

Introduction. Artificial intelligence has become an increasingly important component of contemporary translation practice. Neural machine translation and generative language technologies allow large amounts of multilingual material to be processed within a short period of time. However, technological efficiency does not necessarily guarantee the preservation of all dimensions of meaning. This is particularly evident in the translation of emotional and expressive language.

Emotional and expressive units communicate more than factual information. They may express approval, disappointment, enthusiasm, irritation, admiration, irony, affection, or other subjective attitudes. Their meaning is frequently determined by context, interpersonal relationships, cultural conventions, and the communicative intention of the speaker. As a result, a translation may be grammatically accurate and semantically understandable while failing to reproduce the emotional effect of the original. This issue is especially relevant to English–Uzbek translation. The two languages differ in their grammatical structures, lexical systems, and conventional ways of expressing emotions and interpersonal attitudes. A form that sounds natural in English may require a different lexical or grammatical construction in Uzbek. Direct lexical substitution is therefore not always sufficient to achieve functional equivalence. An important distinction in this context is that between semantic and emotional equivalence. Semantic equivalence concerns the preservation of the basic propositional meaning, whereas emotional equivalence involves the preservation of emotional intensity, evaluation, expressive force, and the attitude conveyed by the original expression. For example, “I am absolutely delighted” communicates a stronger emotional reaction than “I am happy.” If this distinction disappears in translation, the basic meaning remains understandable, but an important part of the original message is weakened.

Context is equally important. The expression “Great!” may indicate genuine approval in one situation and irony in another. Similarly, “You are very clever” may function as sincere praise or sarcasm depending on the context. Such examples demonstrate that successful translation requires interpretation of communicative intention rather than simple word-for-word correspondence. The present study examines the representation of emotional and expressive units in AI-mediated English–Uzbek translation. It focuses on semantic, emotional, pragmatic, stylistic, and linguocultural dimensions of translation quality.

The study addresses the following research questions:

1. To what extent does AI-mediated English–Uzbek translation preserve the semantic meaning of emotional and expressive units?
2. How effectively are emotional intensity and expressive colouring maintained?
3. What pragmatic and contextual changes may occur during translation?
4. Which translation strategies are most appropriate for preserving emotional and expressive meaning?

Materials and Methods. The study employs a qualitative comparative research design. The analytical material consists of English-language examples containing emotionally and expressively marked units and their Uzbek translations produced with the assistance of an

AI-based translation system. Where possible, AI-generated translations are compared with professional or carefully revised human translations.

The material can be divided into several categories: emotionally evaluative vocabulary, intensifiers, interjections, idiomatic and figurative expressions, ironic statements, and context-dependent expressive constructions. Each example is examined according to five criteria: semantic correspondence, emotional intensity, expressive colouring, pragmatic appropriateness, and naturalness in Uzbek. Semantic correspondence refers to the preservation of the central meaning of the source expression. Emotional intensity concerns the strength of the emotion conveyed in the source and target texts. Expressive colouring reflects the stylistic and evaluative force of the expression, while pragmatic appropriateness concerns the preservation of communicative intention and interpersonal meaning. Naturalness refers to the extent to which the resulting Uzbek expression corresponds to normal usage in the relevant context. The analysis also considers translation strategies such as literal translation, functional equivalence, paraphrase, contextual adaptation, generalization, specification and omission. These strategies are evaluated according to their ability to preserve the communicative function of the source expression. Particular attention is given to context because emotionally marked expressions may acquire different meanings depending on the surrounding discourse.

Results. The analysis demonstrates that the translation of emotional and expressive language involves several recurring difficulties. The first concerns the relationship between lexical accuracy and emotional intensity. AI-generated translations may successfully convey the general meaning of an expression while reducing or altering its emotional force. This is particularly relevant to intensifiers and strongly evaluative vocabulary. Expressions such as “absolutely delighted,” “deeply disappointed,” and “extremely frustrated” contain both an emotional meaning and an indication of degree. If the intensifying element is weakened or omitted, the translation becomes less expressive even though its general meaning remains understandable. The second difficulty concerns expressive colouring. An expression may be informal, enthusiastic, dismissive, sarcastic, affectionate, or strongly evaluative, and a direct Uzbek equivalent may not reproduce the same stylistic effect. This problem is especially noticeable in dialogue, literary texts, advertising, and digital communication.

Pragmatic meaning presents another challenge. Emotional expressions often perform interpersonal functions such as complimenting, criticizing, complaining, apologizing, refusing, or expressing disagreement. When the pragmatic function is weakened, the translated sentence may remain grammatically correct but fail to produce the intended communicative effect. Irony provides a clear example because the surface meaning may differ considerably from the intended meaning. The analysis also indicates the importance of cultural compatibility. English and Uzbek do not always use identical linguistic resources to express emotional states and interpersonal attitudes. Consequently, a formally accurate translation may sound unnatural or culturally inappropriate. In such cases, functional equivalence or contextual adaptation may be more effective than literal translation.

Idiomatic and figurative expressions require particular attention because their emotional meaning is frequently embedded in metaphorical or phraseological structures. Literal translation may preserve individual lexical components while failing to communicate the intended meaning. Paraphrase or a functionally equivalent Uzbek expression may therefore provide a more adequate solution. The results suggest that AI-mediated translation performs more consistently when emotional meaning is relatively explicit and lexically stable. Greater difficulties arise when interpretation depends on context, irony, cultural conventions, metaphor, or interpersonal relationships. Human post-editing is therefore particularly important in texts containing highly expressive or culturally marked language.

Discussion. The findings demonstrate that AI-generated translation should not be evaluated exclusively through lexical and grammatical accuracy. Emotional language challenges the assumption that meaning can be transferred through direct lexical correspondence. A translation may be semantically accurate while remaining emotionally inadequate if it weakens the intensity, evaluation, or expressive force of the source.

The distinction between semantic and emotional equivalence is particularly important in English–Uzbek translation. When an emotionally strong expression is rendered through a neutral target-language equivalent, the informational content may remain intact, but the communicative effect changes. The same applies to pragmatic meaning. If an expression functions as irony, criticism, praise, or an indirect request, preserving its literal meaning without its communicative function may result in a significant pragmatic shift. The findings also highlight the importance of cultural competence. Emotional expression is influenced by social norms and culturally established patterns. A translation that is acceptable from a purely linguistic perspective may still sound unnatural to Uzbek readers. This is one reason why human translators continue to play an important role in AI-assisted translation. Rather than replacing human expertise, AI can function as a useful preliminary translation and drafting tool. Human translators can then evaluate the generated text and revise expressions that do not adequately reproduce emotional intensity, pragmatic intention, stylistic tone, or cultural meaning. Such post-editing should therefore involve more than correcting grammatical or lexical errors.

The study has several limitations. A larger bilingual corpus, multiple AI systems, and independent evaluation by professional translators would provide stronger empirical evidence. Future research could also compare different genres, since emotional language functions differently in literary texts, journalism, advertising, social media, and interpersonal communication.

Conclusion. The translation of emotional and expressive units is a complex aspect of English–Uzbek translation because emotional meaning emerges through the interaction of vocabulary, context, discourse, cultural conventions, stylistic choices, and communicative intention. AI-based systems can effectively reproduce the general semantic content of many emotional expressions, but the preservation of emotional intensity, expressive colouring, pragmatic intention, irony, and cultural associations remains less consistent. For this reason,

AI-mediated English–Uzbek translation should be assessed through a multidimensional framework that includes semantic accuracy, emotional equivalence, expressive force, pragmatic adequacy, stylistic naturalness, and linguocultural compatibility. Human post-editing remains particularly valuable when the source text contains context-dependent, figurative, or culturally marked expressions.

The growing use of artificial intelligence does not eliminate the role of the human translator; instead, it changes the nature of that role. The translator increasingly acts as an evaluator, editor, and cultural mediator who determines whether an automatically generated translation adequately represents both the meaning and communicative effect of the original. Further research based on larger corpora and systematic human evaluation can contribute to the development of more reliable criteria for assessing emotional and expressive meaning in AI-assisted English–Uzbek translation.

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