



TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR ENGLISH EPONYMS IN UZBEK: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL CHALLENGES

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 20 th December 2025 Accepted: 14 th February 2026	Eponyms constitute a significant component of English vocabulary and frequently appear in scientific, cultural, and everyday discourse. Since eponyms are derived from proper names, they often carry historical, cultural, and semantic connotations that may create difficulties in translation. This paper examines translation strategies used for English eponyms in Uzbek and analyzes the linguistic and cultural challenges that arise during the translation process. The research applies a comparative and descriptive method to analyze selected English eponyms and their Uzbek equivalents in dictionaries, media texts, and scientific literature. The findings show that translators mainly employ strategies such as transliteration, calque translation, descriptive translation, and borrowing. The study concludes that successful translation of eponyms requires not only linguistic competence but also cultural awareness and knowledge of the historical background of the term. The results of this research may contribute to translation studies, lexicography, and contrastive linguistics.

Keywords: eponyms, translation strategies, Uzbek language, linguistic challenges, cultural translation, lexical borrowing

INTRODUCTION

The vocabulary of modern English includes a large number of words derived from proper names. Such lexical units are commonly known as eponyms. In linguistics, an eponym is defined as a word derived from the name of a person, place, or character that becomes associated with a particular object, concept, or phenomenon. Eponym terms are widely used in many fields, including medicine, science, politics, literature, and technology.

The process of eponym formation reflects both linguistic creativity and cultural influence. Many eponyms are associated with famous historical figures, scientists, inventors, or literary characters whose names have become symbols of certain qualities or discoveries. Examples include *Darwinism*, *Parkinson's disease*, and *Boycott*, all of which originated from personal names but are now widely used as common nouns or technical terms.

Despite their widespread use, eponyms often present difficulties in translation. Translators must decide whether to preserve the original name, adapt it to the phonological system of the target language, or replace it with an explanatory equivalent. These decisions become particularly complex when translating between languages with different cultural traditions, such as English and Uzbek.

The translation of eponyms has attracted increasing attention in modern translation studies. Scholars

emphasize that the meaning of an eponym is not always transparent because it often reflects cultural associations and historical references. Consequently, the translator must consider both linguistic and extralinguistic factors when selecting an appropriate translation strategy.

The aim of this study is to analyze the main strategies used to translate English eponyms into Uzbek and to identify the linguistic and cultural challenges that arise in this process. The research addresses the following questions:

What types of English eponyms are commonly translated into Uzbek?

Which translation strategies are used most frequently?

What linguistic and cultural difficulties arise when translating eponyms?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of eponyms has been widely discussed in linguistics and lexicology. Researchers define eponyms as lexical units derived from proper names that acquire new semantic meanings. According to linguistic research, the term originates from the Greek words *epi* "upon" and *onoma* "name" (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, n.d.).

In translation studies, the concept of equivalence plays a crucial role in determining how lexical units should be rendered in another language. One of the most influential translation theorists, Eugene Nida (1964), introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, which



emphasizes producing a translation that conveys the same meaning and effect to the target audience as the original text.

Another prominent scholar, Peter Newmark (1988), described translation as the process of "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way the author intended." He also identified eponyms as lexical units derived from proper names and noted that their translation often requires additional explanation when cultural references are not familiar to target readers.

Translation strategies have also been analyzed by Mona Baker (1992), who classified several procedures for dealing with lexical non-equivalence. These include borrowing, paraphrasing, using a more general word, or omitting the expression when necessary.

Recent linguistic studies emphasize that translating eponyms requires both linguistic competence and cultural knowledge. Eponyms often function as international scientific terminology, particularly in medicine and technology. However, their interpretation may differ across languages depending on cultural and historical factors.

Although several studies have examined eponyms in English and other languages, research on the translation of English eponyms into Uzbek remains relatively limited. This gap highlights the need for further investigation in the context of Uzbek translation studies.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs several linguistic and translation-oriented research methods.

Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive analysis is used to compare the structure and meaning of English eponyms with their Uzbek equivalents. This method helps identify similarities and differences in lexical formation, grammatical structure, and semantic interpretation between the two languages.

Through contrastive analysis, the study examines how English eponymic expressions are adapted to the phonological, morphological, and lexical systems of Uzbek.

Descriptive Linguistic Analysis

Descriptive analysis is applied to investigate the structural and semantic characteristics of the selected eponyms. Each example is analyzed in terms of:

- its etymological origin
- its semantic meaning in English
- its functional usage in context
- its translation equivalent in Uzbek

This method allows the researcher to observe how the meaning of an eponym evolves during the translation process.

Classification Method

The classification method is used to group the analyzed examples according to the translation strategies applied. Based on existing translation theory (Baker, Newmark, and Nida), the eponyms were categorized into several strategy types such as transliteration, borrowing, calque translation, descriptive translation, and explanatory translation. This classification makes it possible to identify which strategies are most frequently used and in which contexts they appear.

Contextual Analysis

Contextual analysis is also employed to examine how eponyms function within specific textual environments. Since the meaning of many eponyms depends on context, analyzing their usage in authentic texts helps clarify how translators interpret and render them in Uzbek.

Data Collection

The data were collected from the following sources:

- English-Uzbek bilingual dictionaries
- Scientific and medical terminology databases
- English-language media and literary texts
- Academic publications.

A corpus of approximately 60 English eponyms was selected for analysis.

The selected eponyms met the following criteria:

- The lexical unit originated from a proper name.
- The term is commonly used in modern English discourse.
- The eponym has an existing or possible translation equivalent in Uzbek.

The term represents one of several semantic domains, including science, technology, culture, or everyday language.

RESEARCH METHODS

The following methods were applied:

Contrastive linguistic analysis – comparing English eponyms with their Uzbek equivalents.

Descriptive analysis – identifying the structural and semantic characteristics of the translations.

Classification analysis – grouping translation strategies used for eponyms.

These methods made it possible to identify patterns in the translation of eponymic vocabulary.

Types of English Eponyms Encountered in Translation

English eponyms appear in different semantic domains. For the purposes of this study, they were classified into four main categories.



Scientific and Medical Eponyms

Scientific terminology frequently includes eponyms named after researchers or discoverers.

Examples:

Parkinson's disease → Parkinson kasalligi

Darwinism → Darvinizm

These terms are often international and are usually translated through transliteration or direct borrowing.

Cultural and Literary Eponyms

Some eponyms originate from literature or historical figures and represent specific character traits or behaviors.

Examples:

Machiavellian → Makiavellizmga xos

Sherlock Holmes → Sherlok Xolms

Such eponyms often require cultural knowledge for correct interpretation.

Technological Eponyms

Certain inventions or technologies are named after their inventors.

Examples:

Diesel engine → Dizel dvigateli

Watt → Vatt

In many cases, these eponyms have already become standardized international terms.

Idiomatic Eponyms

Some eponyms are used metaphorically in everyday language.

Example:

Boycott → boykot qilmoq

These eponyms often lose their connection to the original person over time and become ordinary lexical items.

Translation Strategies for English Eponyms

The analysis revealed several major strategies used in translating English eponyms into Uzbek.

Transliteration

Transliteration is one of the most common strategies. It involves adapting the pronunciation of the original name to the phonological system of the target language.

Examples:

Darwinism → Darvinizm

Parkinson → Parkinson

This strategy is widely used when the eponym refers to scientific discoveries or internationally recognized names.

Calque Translation

Calque translation involves translating the components of a term literally.

Example:

Humboldt Current → Gumboldt oqimi

This method is particularly common in geographical or scientific terminology.

Descriptive Translation

In some cases, a descriptive explanation is used when a direct equivalent does not exist.

Example:

Kafkaesque → Kafkaga xos g'ayrioddiy yoki absurd vaziyat

Descriptive translation helps the target reader understand the meaning of the eponym.

Borrowing

Borrowing occurs when the original word is preserved in the target language with minimal modification.

Example:

Diesel → Dizel

Borrowing is common in technical vocabulary and international terminology.

Explanatory Translation

Some translators combine transliteration with explanation.

Example:

Parkinson's disease → Parkinson kasalligi (asab tizimi kasalligi)

This strategy ensures both accuracy and clarity.

Linguistic and Cultural Challenges in Translating Eponyms

The translation of eponyms involves several difficulties.

Lack of Direct Equivalents

Many eponyms do not have direct equivalents in the Uzbek language. As a result, translators must rely on descriptive translations or borrowing.

Cultural Differences

Eponyms often reflect cultural knowledge that may not be familiar to Uzbek readers.

For example, literary eponyms related to Western literature may require explanation.

Semantic Shift

Some eponyms gradually lose their connection with the original name and acquire a broader meaning. This semantic shift may complicate translation.

Standardization Issues

Different dictionaries sometimes provide different Uzbek equivalents for the same eponym, which may lead to inconsistency in translation.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this research demonstrate that transliteration and borrowing are the most common strategies used in translating English eponyms into Uzbek. This tendency can be explained by the international nature of scientific and technological terminology.



However, cultural and literary eponyms require more complex translation strategies. In such cases, descriptive translation or explanatory notes may be necessary to ensure comprehension by the target audience.

The results also indicate that translators must consider both linguistic and cultural aspects when dealing with eponyms. The historical background of the proper name and the semantic development of the term should be carefully analyzed before selecting an appropriate translation strategy.

CONCLUSION

Eponyms represent an important part of English vocabulary and play a significant role in scientific, cultural, and everyday communication. Their translation into Uzbek presents various linguistic and cultural challenges due to differences in language structure, cultural background, and lexical systems.

The present study has identified several translation strategies commonly used for English eponyms, including transliteration, borrowing, calque translation, descriptive translation, and explanatory translation. Among these strategies, transliteration and borrowing are the most frequently used in scientific and technical contexts, while descriptive methods are more common in cultural and literary texts.

The study also highlights the importance of cultural knowledge in the translation of eponyms. Translators must understand the historical and cultural context of the proper name in order to convey its meaning accurately in the target language.

Future research may focus on expanding the corpus of analyzed eponyms and investigating their use in specific fields such as medical translation, media discourse, or literary translation.

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