

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on the educational program “8D02302 – Translation (western languages)” of Gabdkarimova Gulzhazira on the topic “Semantic and structural correspondence of the original and translated texts of Abai Kunanbaev’s poems”

The relevance of the topic. The dissertation examines the quality of Russian and English translations of the poetry of the great Kazakh poet Abai Kunanbayev, with a particular focus on the semantic and structural correspondence between the original texts and their translations. An important area of Abai studies involves analyzing the quality of translations of his poems. Although there are existing scholarly works on the translation of Abai Kunanbayev’s writings, there remains a lack of research in modern domestic translation studies that systematically investigates semantic and structural equivalence and explores the various methods used in translation.

Abai Kunanbayev is recognized not only as a great poet of the Kazakh people, but also as a creative genius of global significance. Today, many scholars emphasize his status as a thinker of world importance. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has repeatedly highlighted the universal value of Abai’s works in his articles dedicated to the 180th anniversary of the poet. In particular, in the article “*Abai and Kazakhstan in the 21st Century*,” he places Abai alongside world-renowned thinkers and stresses the importance of translating his works into many languages.

The relevance of the research is determined by the need to examine the semantic and structural correspondence between original and translated texts in the process of translating the poet’s works into Russian and English. It also involves identifying and analyzing translation methods, addressing issues of aesthetic and literary interpretation, and applying approaches such as analysis, typification, and classification within an interdisciplinary framework of modern philological studies.

The dissertation studies examine the quality of translations of poetry by the great Kazakh poet Abai Kunanbaev into Russian and English, focusing on the semantic and structural correspondence between the original texts and their translations. A significant area of research on Abai’s work involves evaluating how accurately his poems are rendered in other languages. Although there are existing scholarly studies on translations of Abai Kunanbaev’s works, modern domestic translation studies still lack sufficient research that systematically analyzes the semantic and structural equivalence of original and translated texts, as well as the various methods used in the translation process. Also, the relevance of this research lies in the need to examine the semantic and structural correspondence between original texts and their translations when the poet’s works are rendered into Russian and English. It also aims to distinguish the translation methods used and to address issues of aesthetic and literary interpretation, including analysis, typification, and classification, within an interdisciplinary framework of modern philological studies. Additionally, the study’s relevance is reinforced by its comprehensive review of existing translations of Abai’s poetry into Russian and English, along with the analysis, systematization, and evaluation of their achievements and shortcomings.

The relevance of the dissertation studies is also determined by the need to interpret and describe the aesthetic potential of Russian and English as global communicative systems, which serve as key languages of intercultural interaction in Kazakhstan.

A comparative analysis of Abai's poetry in three languages can further support the effective implementation of Kazakhstan's language policy. In particular, it contributes to the objectives set out in the national language policy concept, the State Program for the Development of Education (2011–2020), the cultural project "Trinity of Languages," and the Roadmap for the Development of Trilingual Education (2015–2020).

Object of the research is the translations of Abai's poems into Russian and English.

Subject of the research is the semantic and structural correspondence between the original poems and their Russian and English translations.

Purpose of the study is to determine the degree of semantic and structural equivalence between Abai's original poems and their translations into Russian and English through comparative analysis.

Research objectives are to achieve the aim, the following tasks were set:

- to establish the theoretical and methodological foundations of the study by reviewing domestic and foreign research relevant to the topic, clarifying the semantic and structural features of poetic texts, and defining both theoretical principles and practical approaches to poetic translation;
- to analyze the concept of equivalence in poetic translation, identify its types and levels, and demonstrate its impact on translation quality;
- to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the poetic meaning and linguistic expression of Abai's poems in translation, focusing on translation transformations, issues of semantic equivalence, and structural and compositional features;
- to evaluate the effectiveness of translation strategies in preserving both linguistic structure and poetic meaning, with particular attention to pragmatic adaptation and semantic and structural correspondence;
- to systematize and comparatively analyze the findings based on Russian and English translations of Abai's poems, identify their key semantic and structural characteristics, and formulate the main scientific conclusions.

Research sources. The dissertation examines the original poems of Abai Kunanbayev, as well as their translations into Russian and English. The analysis focuses on semantic and structural correspondence, which is studied using a comparative method. Key research methods are identified, and both qualitative and equivalence-based analyses are carried out.

The translations of Abai's poems analyzed in this study were taken from the works of a number of translators, including S. Tileubaev, B. Kairbekov, M. Petrov, M. Adibaev, A. Gatov, M. Sultanbekov, O. Zhanaidarov, A. Kodar, V. Nalimov, Dragoman, Yu. Gdovsky, Z. Pakharukova, V. Kigot, Vs. Rozhdestvensky, D. Rottenberg, A. Globa, A. Shteinberg, D. Brodsky, Yu. Kuznetsov, M. Zenkevich, M. Silchenko, K. Doszhan, A. Zhovtis, M. Lukonina, B. Momyshuly, L. Dligach, M. Tarlovsky, E. Shekhtman, R. McCain, and Tom Botting.

These translations were selected from a range of published sources, including collections and editions of Abai's works in Kazakh, Russian, and English, such as *Abai: Poems and Translations* (Vols. I–II, 2002), R. Seisenbaev's *Abai's Book of Words* (1995), A. L. Zhovtis's *Selected Poems* (1985), the two-volume complete collection of Abai's works (2003), *Selected Works* (1970), *Book of Words* (2005), *Collected Works* (1994), *Thirty-Seven Poems* (2006), and other published translations and compilations.

Research methods. In the theoretical section of the dissertation, modern approaches to poetic translation were reviewed, particularly theories addressing the translation of Abai's poetry into Russian and English, the semantic and structural correspondence between original and translated texts, and the representation of various translation techniques. During the process of collecting information and sources, methods of purposive selection and systematization were applied. To identify the poems for analysis, classification and interpretation methods were used for Abai's Russian and English translations. For the main analysis, comparative and contrastive methods were employed, including lexical-semantic analysis and various types of translation transformations, in order to examine the preservation of semantic and structural equivalence between the original poems and their translations. Finally, qualitative analysis and equivalence-based evaluation methods were used to summarize the results of the study and formulate the main conclusions.

Theoretical and methodological foundations of the dissertation.

The theoretical basis of this study draws on a wide range of scholarly works in both domestic Abai studies and international translation studies. In Kazakh Abai studies, special attention was given to the works of Z. Akhmetov, R. Syzdykova, B. Kenzhebeyev, Zh. Ysmagulov, Zh. Dadebayev, A. Tarakov, R. Sadykova, A. Zhaparova, and others. Issues related to the translation of poetic works were also examined through the research of A. Aldash, A. Zhaksylykov, T. Esenbekov, N. Sagandykova, G. Kazbek, and L. Mussaly.

In the field of world and Russian translation studies, the research is based on the works of V. Humboldt, E. Sapir, B. Whorf, M. Heidegger, and A. Potebnya, as well as key figures in translation theory such as J. Nida, P. Newmark, L. Venuti, K. Schäffner, U. Wiesemann, F. Schleiermacher, S. Harvey, I. Higgins, J. Mounin, A. Neubert, K. Reiss, H. Vermeer, J. Catford, E. Prunc, M. Baker, C. Nord, I. Gambier, J.P. Vinay, J. Darbelnet, A. Malblanc, M. Cronin, S. Bassnett, L. Sobolev, Vl. Rossels, G. Tomakhin, E. Vereshchagin, V. Kostomarov, L. Barkhudarov, V. Latyshev, Ya. Retsker, S. Vlahov, V. Komissarov, A. Shveitser, N. Garbovsky, M. Gasparov, and S. Florin.

From the perspective of linguoculturology, the study also draws on the works of A. Wierzbicka, V. Maslova, V. Teliya, as well as Kazakh scholars A. Saliknbay and Z. Sabitova.

In addition, the content and theoretical findings of doctoral and candidate dissertations devoted to Abai Kunanbayev's creative heritage and its translations were also widely utilized.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research.

The results of this study contribute to the development of Kazakh literary translation, comparative literary studies, translation studies, and lingo culturology. They also help to further improve the relationship between language, intercultural communication, and translation theory within the national academic context. In addition, the research provides a basis for theoretical generalizations about poetic translation, showing that the rendering of original texts is influenced by various factors, including the author's worldview and the translator's experience, and that different translation strategies can be justified through these considerations.

The findings of the study can be used in the preparation of textbooks, teaching manuals, and methodological guidelines in translation studies. They are also applicable in lectures and seminars on translation studies, Abai studies, and related specialized courses. Furthermore, the results may be integrated into elective courses in higher education curricula and used in methodological work in both translation theory and translation practice.

Scientific novelty of the research.

The novelty of this study is reflected in the following:

- a review and systematization of theoretical and practical literature that forms the basis for identifying semantic and structural correspondence between the original texts and Russian and English translations of Abai's poems;
- identification of the translation transformations used to achieve semantic equivalence between the original poems and their translations;
- analysis of semantic correspondence between original and translated texts, with emphasis on the features of pragmatic adaptation in Russian and English versions of Abai's poetry;
- a comparative and contrastive analysis of Russian and English translations produced by a wide range of translators, including S. Tileubaev, B. Kairbekov, M. Petrov, M. Adibaev, A. Gatov, M. Sultanbekov, O. Zhanaidarov, A. Kodar, V. Nalimov, Yu. Gdovsky, Z. Pakharukova, V. Kigot, Vs. Rozhdestvensky, D. Rottenberg, A. Globa, A. Shteinberg, D. Brodsky, Yu. Kuznetsov, M. Zenkevich, M. Silchenko, K. Doszhan, A. Zhovtis, M. Lukonina, B. Momyshuly, L. Dligach, M. Tarlovsky, E. Shekhtman, R. McCain, and Tom Botting; for the first time, the translations of Abai Kunanbayev's poems by Orynbay Zhanaidarov (based on the book *"Abai. Selected Poems and Poems"*) have been analyzed;
- identification and illustration, with concrete examples, of both correspondences and discrepancies in semantic and structural features between original and translated texts;
- summarization of the theoretical and practical findings obtained from the analysis of Russian and English translations of Abai's poetry.

The statements submitted for the defense:

1) In the theory of poetic translation, preserving the meaning (semantics), the author's intention, structure, rhyme and rhythm, as well as the national cultural coloring and the spirit of the era is of primary importance. Translating a literary work is not merely the substitution of linguistic units, but a complex process of conveying both content and form as a whole. The analysis of Russian and English translations of

Abai's poems shows that structural correspondence with the original is often disrupted, and the composition is not always fully preserved.

2) Translating Abai's poetry is a complex and creative process, as his works are deeply meaningful and layered, and even for Kazakh readers they are not always easy to interpret. Therefore, a professional translator must conduct a thorough pre-translation analysis of the original text. While translators strive to preserve content and structure, as well as to accurately convey national identity, nomadic culture, traditions, religious beliefs, and ethnocultural markers, insufficient preliminary analysis can lead to semantic and structural discrepancies between the original and the translation.

3) A comparative analysis of Russian and English translations of Abai's poems demonstrates that semantic and structural equivalence is achieved through different strategies. Russian translations often employ simile, literal translation, and expansion of meaning, whereas English translations tend to use a freer verse approach. Although there is an effort to preserve the core meaning, various transformations are applied in accordance with linguistic and stylistic differences.

4) The study compares Russian and English translations of Abai's poems with the original texts and analyzes their semantic correspondence. The findings show that while the general content of the poems is conveyed, the author's intent and communicative purpose are not always fully expressed, and a high level of semantic and structural equivalence is not consistently achieved. Equivalence is realized through techniques such as calque, specification, generalization, semantic development, compensation, omission, addition, explication, and literal translation. The frequent use of free verse in English translations also contributes to the loss of the original structure.

5) Many English translations of Abai's poems are produced indirectly through Russian versions, which leads to the repetition of errors from the intermediary text. More accurate results could be achieved if translators worked directly from the original or from interlinear translations and aimed for a deeper understanding of the poet's ideas. A comprehensive pre-translation analysis that considers historical, semantic, and structural features is essential. The lack of such preparation negatively affects translation quality and highlights the need for careful and consistent scholarly oversight.

Research approbation.

The main scientific results and conclusions of the study have been published in both domestic and international outlets, as well as presented at international scientific, theoretical, and practical conferences. In total, 11 academic articles have been published, including 2 articles indexed in the Scopus database, 3 articles in journals approved by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and 6 articles presented at international conferences.

The structure and volume of dissertation.

This dissertation is structured into an introduction, three sections, a conclusion, a list of references.