KEY PERSPECTIVES AND LEVELS OF EQUIVALENCE IN TRANSLATION

Kayimova Mohinur

Student of the Faculty of English Philology and Translation Studies,
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages
mohinurqayimova7@gmail.com

Abstract. *This study investigates the concept of equivalent in translation, focusing on its significance in retaining the meaning, function, and effect of the original text across languages and cultures. Key ideas from well-known academics such as Vinay and Darbelnet, Peter Newmark, Eugene Nida, and Mona Baker are reviewed to show different methods to establishing equivalence. The study demonstrates that equivalence occurs on numerous levels—lexical, grammatical, textual, and pragmatic—and emphasizes the necessity of cultural sensitivity and context in creating correct and successful translations.*

Keywords: *Equivalence, dynamic equivalence, semantic translation, communicative translation, translation strategies.*

Equivalence in translation refers to keeping the meaning, function, and effect of the source material in the target language [5; p. 99]. It indicates that the translated text should convey the same message as the original, even if the language or structure are different. The fundamental criterion of equivalence is to find the closest natural equivalent in terms of meaning and style, while accounting for language and cultural variances. This notion ensures that translations are accurate, meaningful, and acceptable for the intended audience.

The field of translation began to see significant development primarily in the latter half of the 20th century. As a result, the concept of equivalence has been the subject of scholarly analysis from that period to the present day. At this point, it is essential to revisit the notion of equivalence through the perspectives of some of the most influential theorists from the United States and Europe—such as Vinay and Newmark, Mona Baker and Nida. Each of these scholars approached the issue of equivalence within the translation process from different theoretical angles, contributing valuable insights that have enriched further academic discussion. Their contributions will be reviewed in chronological order to clearly trace the progression and development of this fundamental concept.

According to **Vinay** and **Darbelnet**, equivalency is a translation approach that transmits the same circumstance or content in the source language (SL) but in entirely distinct grammatical forms in the target language. They suggest that this strategy is particularly useful for translating fixed phrases like as *idioms, proverbs,* and *onomatopoeic words* [3; pp. 45-47], which do not translate well directly. The idea is to keep the origina's impact and communication effect, not its identical words.

They underline that actual equivalency extends beyond just searching up phrases in a bilingual dictionary. While dictionaries may contain *"full equivalents,"* Vinay and

Darbelnet contend that such resources are never really thorough. To select the most appropriate TL counterpart, the translator must analyze the SL expression's context and function. This requires a thorough mastery of both languages, as well as sensitivity to cultural subtleties that influence meaning and reception.

However, **Peter Newmark** introduced the ideas of *semantic* and *communicative translation* as alternatives to equivalence [4; pp. 39-41]. Semantic translation aims to transmit the exact contextual meaning of the source text while adhering to its semantic and syntactic structures. In contrast, communicative translation seeks to generate the same impression on the target audience that the original did on its readers, emphasizing naturalness and clarity in the target language. Newmark noted that both strategies are appropriate depending on the text type and context, and translators should pick the way that best suits the translation's aim.

Furthermore, **Eugene Nida** established the idea of *dynamic equivalence,* also known as *functional equivalence* [5; pp. 99-101]*,* which focuses on expressing the content and intent of the source text in a way that evokes the same response from the intended audience. Nida's method focuses on the message's purpose rather than a literal translation of words, with the goal of producing a natural and culturally acceptable rendition in the target language. It is contended that translation should prioritize the receptor's comprehension and reaction over strict conformity to the source language structure.

Mona Baker broadened the definition of equivalent by recognizing different levels at which equivalence might occur in translation [2; p. 99]. They are followings:

a)	*Word level or above word level* refers to finding equivalent meanings for individual words or fixed expressions like collocations and idioms. Translators must consider context because direct word-for-word matches are not always possible.

b)	*Grammatical level.* This involves adjusting for differences in grammatical structures between languages, such as tense, number, gender, or voice, to maintain accurate meaning.

c)	*Textual level.* Focusing on preserving coherence and cohesion in the translation so the text flows logically and naturally in the target language.

d)	*Pragmatic level.* This deals with translating implied meaning, cultural references, politeness, and tone to match the communicative intent of the original message [2; p. 43].

Baker emphasized the difficulties that translators encounter when structural variations across languages result in changes in meaning, such as through grammatical categories like tense, number, and voice. Scholar underlined the significance of addressing these discrepancies in order to keep the integrity and clarity of the translated content.

All things considered, equivalence in translation refers to expressing the same meaning and impact of the source material in the target language while taking into account linguistic and cultural variations. This ensures that the translated message is understandable and

effective to the new audience. Vinay and Darbelnet prefer to translate idioms and fixed statements by altering their form to retain meaning rather than translating word for word. Peter Newmark proposed two approaches: semantic translation, which adheres to the original phrasing, and communicative translation, which strives for naturalness and clarity in the target language. Eugene Nida's dynamic equivalence stresses eliciting the same emotion in the intended audience as the original text, with a concentration on meaning rather than exact language. Mona Baker divided equivalence into four levels: word, grammar, text, and pragmatics, emphasizing the difficulties translators encounter in retaining correctness and cultural relevance.

References:

1.   Abiyatova, M. M. (2025). A Comparative Analysis of Challenges in Literary Translation. *American Journal of Language, Literacy and Learning in STEM Education*, *3*(2), 356-360.

2.   Baker, M. (1992). *In other words: A coursebook on translation*. Routledge.

3.   Darbelnet, J., & Vinay, J.-P. (1995). *Comparative stylistics of French and English: A methodology for translation* (J. C. Sager & M.-J. Hamel, Trans.). John Benjamins. (Original work published 1958)

4.   Newmark, P. (1988). *A textbook of translation*. Prentice Hall.

5.   Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a science of translating*. Brill.

6.   Khalova, M. (2014). SKILL OF CREATING EPITHETS IN MODERN UZBEK POETRY. The Way of Science, 44.

7.   Холова, М. (2015). МАСТЕРСТВО СОЗДАНИЯ ПОЭТИЧЕСКИХ СИМВОЛОВ В ЛИРИКЕ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ ПОЭЗИИ ФАХРИЁРА). In Современная филология: теория и практика (pp. 114-119).

8.   Rustamovna, H. F. (2020). KEY CONCEPTS OF SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION. В научный сборник вошли научные работы, посвященные широкому кругу современных проблем науки и образования, вопросов образовательных технологий 2020.-436 с., 232.

9.   Халимова, Ф. Р. (2021). КОГНИТИВ ПОЭТИКА. Academic research in educational sciences, 2(12), 133-142.