

Article

Giving Semantic and Pragmatic Meanings in Translation on The Example of Chulpan's Novel "Night and Day"

Jumanova Orzigul Sa'dulla kizi*¹

1. Assistant Teacher of Karshi State Technical University

*Correspondance: jumanovaorzigul@gmail.com

Citation: Sa'dulla kizi, J. O. The Language and Style of the Novel "Realm of Separation". International Journal of Language Learning and Applied Linguistics 2026, 5(3), 25-28.

Received: 15th Mar 2026

Revised: 05th Apr 2026

Accepted: 20th Apr 2026

Published: 14th May 2026



Copyright: © 2026 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

Abstract: This article examines the issue of conveying semantic and pragmatic meanings in literary translation based on the example of Cho'lpon's novel "*Night and Day*" and its English translation by Christopher Fort. The study focuses on the analysis of lexical units, cultural realia, and emotional-expressive elements that form different layers of meaning in the source text. The findings reveal that while denotative (semantic) meanings are largely preserved in translation, pragmatic aspects such as emotional intensity, cultural specificity, and stylistic nuances are partially reduced or adapted. The research identifies key translation strategies, including equivalence, descriptive translation, and adaptation, as effective tools for maintaining meaning. The study contributes to translation studies by highlighting the importance of integrating semantic and pragmatic analysis in literary translation.

Keywords: Semantic Meaning, Pragmatic Meaning, Literary Translation, Equivalence, Adaptation, Realia, Cultural Context, Cho'lpon

1. Introduction

In the current process of globalization, artistic translation is of great importance as one of the important tools of intercultural communication. In particular, when translating samples of national literature into other languages, it is important to fully convey the semantic and pragmatic meanings in it, along with the content of the work. In this context, it is important to analyze the layers of meaning in the translations of Cho'lpan's novel "Nigjht and Day". In artistic translation, the question of meaning is multifaceted, which, along with the lexical (semantic) meaning of words, also refers to their contextual, emotional-expressive and cultural (pragmatic) aspects. While translators are often successful in conveying the denotative meaning of the work, they have problems in fully articulating connotative and pragmatic meanings. This can lead to loss of meaning or misinterpretation in the text of the translation.[1]

2. Materials and Methods

The main purpose of this study is to determine how semantic and pragmatic meanings are given in translation, using the example of the novel "Night and Day", and to analyze their methods of adequate translation. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were set: to show the theoretical foundations of the concepts of semantic and pragmatic meaning, to identify linguistic units in the work, to analyze the ways in which they are given in translation, and to identify existing problems and propose their solutions.[2] Cho'lpon's novel "Night and Day" and its English translations were selected as the object of the study. The subject of the study, on the other hand, is how much the semantic and

pragmatic meanings expressed in the text of the work are reflected in the translation process and the ways in which they are conveyed.[3]

In linguistics and Translation Studies, the issue of meaning is central. Semantic and pragmatic meanings represent different layers of language units. They are important in fully understanding the content of the text and correctly translating it into another language. Semantic meaning refers to the lexical, i.e. denotative, content of linguistic units. It expresses the attitude of words and phrases to an object, phenomenon or concept in an objective being. The semantic meaning framework also includes connotative meanings.[4] Additional, side meanings and stylistic dyes of this word are also important. In fiction, semantic meaning is often multilayered. Pragmatic meaning, on the other hand, is related to the relationship between the participants of speech, that is, the speaker and the listener, the situation of speech, the context and the communicative purpose. It expresses the circumstances under which language units are applied, with what intention. The content of pragmatic meaning includes emotional-expressive paint, tone of speech, social and cultural factors.[5] Especially in works of art, pragmatic meanings given through the speech of the hero are an important tool in revealing the image. Semantic and pragmatic meanings are inextricably linked, one complementing the other. While semantic meaning defines the underlying content of a text, pragmatic meaning determines how it is perceived and the power of influence. The harmonious delivery of these two layers in the translation process is a decisive factor in maintaining the content and aesthetic value of the work.[6]

3. Results and Discussion

The system of semantic meanings in Cho'lon's novel *"Night and Day"* is deeply expressed through artistic means of depiction. The lexical units used in the work embody not only denotative meanings but also rich connotative layers. For instance, in the dialogue between Poshshaxon, the middle wife of Akbarali mingboshi, who seeks to suppress the "fire" of rivalry and take revenge on the younger co-wife Sultonxon, and the first wife Hadichaxon, the words and expressions subtly reveal social relations, inner emotions, and the hidden competition among women.[7]

In this excerpt of *"Night and Day"*, semantic meanings are primarily conveyed through figurative lexical units. For example, expressions such as "ko'nglim timtalagan", "yuragini timtalagan", "olov", "kul" carry strong connotative meanings beyond their direct denotative sense, reflecting the characters' inner suffering. In the English translation, Christopher Fort renders these expressions as "scrapes at the heart" and "flame... dried-up wick." [8] While the semantic meaning is partially preserved, the degree of national imagery is somewhat softened. National-cultural units (realia) also play an important role in the work. Concepts such as "kundosh" (co-wife), "mingboshi," "ellikboshi," "sarp," and "haj" reflect the social and cultural environment specific to Uzbek society. In translation, variants such as "co-wife," "official," "property," and "hajj" are used. While some units are rendered through direct equivalence, others are translated through generalization, which results in a partial loss of their full semantic depth.[9]

Several methods are observed in conveying semantic meanings in translation. These include equivalent translation ("hajj"), descriptive translation ("co-wife"), and partial adaptation. In addition, some figurative expressions are rendered through functional equivalents in English. Overall, although the core semantic meaning is preserved in translation, certain losses occur in fully conveying the national coloring.[10]

In translating this passage, the rendering of pragmatic meanings is of particular importance. In the original text, intense emotional-expressive states—such as pain, jealousy, suffering, and irony—are conveyed through the speech of Poshshaxon and Hadichaxon.[11] For example, expressions like "only the dry ash of the fire in my heart remains" reflect deep emotional distress. In translation, this is rendered as "the flame... dried-up wick," which preserves the general meaning but somewhat weakens the national expressive force. The pragmatic features of the characters' speech reveal their social status

and personal experiences. In the original text, relationships are subtly expressed through forms of address such as “aylanay,” ironic remarks, and inner monologues.[12] In English, however, these units are often rendered in more neutral forms, such as “my dear,” which results in the simplification of certain pragmatic nuances. The role of context and situation is also crucial in translation. For example, the system of co-wives and polygamous relationships is unfamiliar to the English reader; therefore, the translator uses explanatory terms such as “co-wife.” While this makes the text more accessible, it may fail to fully convey the cultural subtleties.[13]

Overall, although pragmatic meanings are partially preserved in translation, emotional intensity and cultural context are weakened in some instances. This demonstrates the complexity of achieving pragmatic equivalence in translation.

The analysis of this passage shows that ensuring full semantic and pragmatic equivalence in translation is a complex process. First of all, cases of meaning loss can be observed. For instance, forms of address like “aylanay” do not have a full equivalent in English, and when rendered as “my dear,” their national-emotional coloring is reduced. Similarly, figurative expressions tend to be simplified in translation, which diminishes their expressive impact. Cultural differences also represent a significant challenge.[14] Concepts specific to Uzbek society, such as “kundosh” and “mingboshi,” do not have direct equivalents in English. As a result, the translator renders them using generalized terms like “co-wife” and “official,” which leads to a partial loss of the original socio-cultural context. To address these challenges, the translator employs various strategies. Although equivalence remains the primary method, descriptive translation and explanatory techniques play an important role in rendering realia. In some cases, adaptation is used to adjust the text to the target culture.[15] However, this approach may lead to a reduction of national coloring. Maintaining semantic and pragmatic equivalence requires a high level of skill and cultural competence from the translator. Achieving balance in the translation process is therefore a key factor in preserving the original artistic value of the work.[16]

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings of this study demonstrate that conveying semantic and pragmatic meanings fully and adequately in the translation of “*Night and Day*” is a complex yet essential task. The analysis shows that semantic meanings, particularly the core lexical content, are largely preserved in translation. However, pragmatic meanings—especially emotional-expressive coloring, national identity, and cultural context—are in some cases partially lost or simplified. This is particularly evident in forms of address, irony, and expressions of inner emotional experience. The study identifies the most effective translation strategies as equivalence, descriptive translation, explanatory translation, and partial adaptation. In particular, a combined use of these methods proves highly effective in translating national-cultural elements. Furthermore, careful contextual analysis and attention to the pragmatic features of character speech are shown to be crucial factors in improving translation quality. The practical significance of this study lies in its provision of effective strategies for literary translators, offering guidance in conveying complex layers of meaning. From a theoretical perspective, this research contributes to the development of translation studies by examining the problem of semantic and pragmatic meanings through a linguocultural approach..

REFERENCES

- [1] M. Baker, *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*, 3rd ed. London, UK: Routledge, 2018.
- [2] S. Bassnett, *Translation Studies*, 4th ed. London, UK: Routledge, 2014.
- [3] J. C. Catford, *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1965.

-
- [4] J. House, *Translation Quality Assessment: Past and Present*. London, UK: Routledge, 2015.
- [5] P. Newmark, *A Textbook of Translation*. New York, NY, USA: Prentice Hall, 1988.
- [6] E. A. Nida, *Language, Culture, and Translating*. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 1993.
- [7] G. Toury, *Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond*, Rev. ed. Amsterdam, Netherlands: John Benjamins, 2012.
- [8] L. Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*, 2nd ed. London, UK: Routledge, 2008.
- [9] J.-P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet, *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: John Benjamins, 1995.
- [10] A. Wierzbicka, *Understanding Cultures Through Their Key Words*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- [11] A. Rahimov, *Tarjimashunoslik asoslari* [Fundamentals of Translation Studies]. Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2006.
- [12] A. D. Schweitzer, *Teoriya perevoda* [Theory of Translation]. Moscow, Russia, 1988.
- [13] Cho'lpon, *Kecha va kunduz*, pp. 47–48. Toshkent, Uzbekistan: Turon Zamin, 2023.
- [14] Cho'lpon, *Night and Day*, C. Fort, Trans., pp. 79–80. Boston, MA, USA: Academic Studies Press, 2019.
- [15] Y. Z. Rashidovna, "Activities of female scientists and scholars in the research of Timur studies: Chronology and education," *Ustozlar uchun*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 217–220, 2025.
- [16] Y. Z. Rashidovna, "Ingliz va o'zbek temurshunosligi tadriji va taraqqiyoti," *Hamkor konferensiyalar*, vol. 1, no. 14, pp. 1124–1127, 2025.