

THE DESCRIPTION OF PSYCHO-EMOTIONAL STATE OF CHARACTERS AND THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR MEANING IN TRANSLATION

Mustafoeva Durdona Ilyosovna

The Teacher of History and Philology Department
Asia International University Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Abstract

The psycho-emotional state of literary characters plays a crucial role in shaping the artistic and communicative value of a literary text. Through the depiction of emotions, feelings, moods, and psychological experiences, authors reveal character development, interpersonal relationships, and thematic messages. Translating such elements presents a significant challenge because emotions are often expressed through culture-specific linguistic devices, stylistic features, and contextual nuances. The translator's task is not only to transfer the semantic meaning of the original text but also to preserve its emotional impact on the target audience. This article examines the linguistic means used to describe psycho-emotional states in literary works and explores strategies for preserving them in translation. Particular attention is paid to lexical, syntactic, stylistic, and cultural aspects that influence the successful rendering of emotional content.

Keywords: psycho-emotional state, literary translation, character portrayal, emotional expression, equivalence, translation strategies, stylistics, cultural adaptation.

Introduction

Literary translation is a complex process that involves the transfer of both linguistic meaning and artistic expression from one language to another. Among the numerous challenges faced by translators, the preservation of characters' psycho-emotional states remains one of the most demanding. Emotions are fundamental to human communication and literary representation, serving as a bridge between the text and the reader's experience.

Authors employ various linguistic and stylistic devices to convey emotional states, including descriptive vocabulary, metaphors, symbolism, dialogue, and narrative techniques. According to Nida (1964), successful translation should reproduce the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, including its emotional effect. Therefore, the translator must strive to maintain not only the content but also the psychological atmosphere created by the original author.

The Concept of Psycho-Emotional State in Literature

The psycho-emotional state refers to the internal psychological condition experienced by an individual at a particular moment. In literature, such states may include happiness, sadness, fear, anxiety, anger, excitement, despair, or hope. These emotions contribute significantly to character development and plot progression.

Wierzbicka (1999) argues that emotions are expressed through language in culturally specific ways, making their translation particularly challenging. For example, a character's grief may be represented explicitly through emotional vocabulary or implicitly through actions, gestures, and narrative descriptions. The translator must recognize these signals and reproduce their effect in the target language.

The depiction of psycho-emotional states serves several functions in literary texts:

Characterization of protagonists and secondary characters;

Development of conflict and tension;

Creation of emotional engagement for readers;

Reflection of social and cultural values;

Reinforcement of thematic messages.

Consequently, inadequate translation of emotional states may distort readers' understanding of characters and weaken the overall impact of the literary work.

Linguistic Means of Expressing Psycho-Emotional States

Writers use various linguistic tools to portray emotions and psychological experiences. These include lexical, grammatical, and stylistic devices.

Lexical Means

Emotional vocabulary is one of the primary methods of expressing psycho-emotional states. Adjectives such as "anxious," "joyful," "depressed," and "furious" directly indicate emotional conditions. Verbs like "tremble," "sob," "laugh," and "whisper" also contribute to emotional characterization. Baker (2018) notes that lexical equivalence is often difficult to achieve because emotional concepts may differ across languages and cultures. A word that conveys a particular emotional intensity in one language may not have an exact counterpart in another.

Syntactic Means

Sentence structure can also communicate emotional states. Short, fragmented sentences often express fear, excitement, or tension, while long and complex structures may reflect contemplation or emotional stability. For instance, abrupt sentence patterns can intensify feelings of panic and urgency, allowing readers to experience the character's emotional turmoil more vividly.

Stylistic Means

Authors frequently employ metaphors, similes, hyperbole, repetition, and symbolism to depict emotions indirectly. Such stylistic devices enrich the text and create deeper emotional resonance. As Newmark (1988) emphasizes, stylistic features are often closely connected to emotional meaning. Therefore, translators must carefully consider whether to preserve, adapt, or recreate these devices in the target language.

Challenges in Translating Psycho-Emotional States

Translators encounter numerous difficulties when attempting to preserve emotional meaning.

Cultural Differences

Emotions are deeply influenced by cultural norms and values. Certain emotional expressions may be acceptable in one culture but uncommon in another. As a result, direct translation may fail to convey the intended emotional effect.

For example, expressions of grief, respect, shame, or affection often vary significantly between cultures. The translator must understand both source and target cultural contexts to achieve effective communication.

Lexical Gaps

Some languages possess emotional concepts that have no direct equivalents in other languages. This phenomenon creates lexical gaps that require explanatory translation, adaptation, or paraphrasing.

According to Catford (1965), such cases involve shifts that occur due to structural and semantic differences between languages.

Preservation of Stylistic Nuances

The emotional atmosphere of a literary text often depends on stylistic choices. Metaphors, idioms, and figurative expressions may lose their expressive power if translated literally. Consequently, translators must seek functional equivalence rather than word-for-word correspondence.

Maintaining Emotional Intensity

A major challenge is preserving the degree of emotional intensity. Overtranslation may exaggerate emotions, while undertranslation may weaken them. The translator must accurately reproduce the author's intended emotional effect on readers.

Strategies for Preserving Psycho-Emotional States in Translation

Several translation strategies can help maintain emotional authenticity.

Functional Equivalence

Nida's concept of functional equivalence focuses on producing a similar response in the target audience. Rather than replicating linguistic forms exactly, translators aim to recreate the emotional impact of the original text (Nida, 1964).

Contextual Adaptation

When direct translation is impossible, contextual adaptation allows translators to modify expressions while preserving their emotional significance. This strategy is particularly useful for culture-specific emotional references.

Compensation

Compensation involves restoring emotional or stylistic effects elsewhere in the text when they cannot be preserved directly. Newmark (1988) identifies compensation as an effective method for maintaining overall textual balance.

Stylistic Recreation

Instead of translating figurative language literally, translators may recreate stylistic devices that evoke comparable emotions in the target language. This approach helps preserve literary quality and reader engagement.

Discussion

The preservation of psycho-emotional states requires more than linguistic competence; it demands cultural awareness, literary sensitivity, and psychological insight. Translators function as mediators between cultures and emotional worlds. Their choices directly influence how readers perceive characters and interpret literary texts. Modern translation studies increasingly emphasize the importance of reader response and emotional equivalence. Researchers argue that successful

Journal: <https://ifsmrc.org/index.php/aijrm>

literary translation should reproduce not only informational content but also aesthetic and emotional experiences. Therefore, translators must carefully balance fidelity to the source text with the expectations and cultural background of the target audience.

Conclusion

The description of psycho-emotional states is a fundamental component of literary characterization and artistic expression. Translating these states presents significant linguistic, cultural, and stylistic challenges. Effective preservation of emotional meaning requires a combination of translation strategies, including functional equivalence, contextual adaptation, compensation, and stylistic recreation. By carefully analyzing both the emotional content and the cultural context of the source text, translators can successfully convey the psychological depth of characters and maintain the author's intended impact on readers. The accurate translation of psycho-emotional states ultimately contributes to the preservation of literary quality and intercultural understanding.

References

1. Baker, M. (2018). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
2. Catford, J. C. (1965). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. Oxford University Press.
3. Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall.
4. Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a Science of Translating*. Brill.
5. Venuti, L. (2017). *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
6. Wierzbicka, A. (1999). *Emotions across Languages and Cultures: Diversity and Universals*. Cambridge University Press.