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MILITARY REALIA IN FRENCH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE AND TRANSLATIONAL ANALYSIS

Achilova Dilnoza Kuldashevna

Senior Lecturer of the Department of Practical French Language Disciplines,
Uzbekistan State World Languages University; Independent Researcher at
Bukhara State University

Abstract

This article examines military realia in French and Uzbek from comparative and translation perspectives. Military realia represent culture-specific lexical units that reflect the historical, social, and military traditions of a nation. The study analyzes military ranks, names of weapons, military structures, and culture-bound concepts in both languages. Particular attention is paid to translation problems and methods such as transliteration, calque, descriptive translation, and functional equivalence. The research demonstrates that many French military realia lack direct equivalents in Uzbek due to differences in military organization and historical development. The findings emphasize the importance of linguistic and cultural factors in translating military terminology.

Keywords: Military realia, French language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis, translation studies, military terminology, cultural specificity, transliteration, functional equivalence.

Introduction

Language is closely connected with the history, culture, and traditions of a nation. One of the most significant manifestations of national identity in language is represented by realia, which are lexical units denoting objects and phenomena

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characteristic of a particular culture. Military realia occupy a special place among culture-specific units because they reflect the military history, traditions, and organizational structures of a country.

French military terminology has played an important role in the development of international military vocabulary. Meanwhile, Uzbek military terminology has evolved under the influence of Turkic military traditions, historical developments, and modern international standards. Since the military systems of France and Uzbekistan differ considerably, many military realia do not have exact equivalents, which creates difficulties in translation.

The purpose of this study is to compare French and Uzbek military realia and to identify the most effective methods for their translation.

Research Object. The object of the research is military realia in French and Uzbek languages, including military ranks, names of weapons, military units, and culture-specific lexical items associated with military traditions.

Research Methodology. The research is based on comparative, descriptive, semantic, and linguocultural methods. Comparative analysis is used to identify similarities and differences between French and Uzbek military terminology. Semantic analysis helps reveal the meanings and structural features of military terms. Translation analysis focuses on strategies such as transliteration, calque, descriptive translation, and functional equivalence. Linguocultural analysis is employed to examine the relationship between military terminology and national cultural traditions.

Military Realia as Culture-Specific Units. Realia are lexical items that denote objects and concepts unique to a particular nation and culture. Military realia include military ranks, names of military institutions, weapons, medals, and historical military formations.

French military realia may be classified into the following groups:

military ranks;

branches of armed forces;

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weapons and military equipment;
military organizations;
historical military formations;
military decorations and awards.

Comparative Analysis of Military Ranks

Military ranks are closely related to the organization of armed forces and often differ from one country to another.

French	Uzbek
Soldat	Askar
Caporal	Kichik serjant
Sergent	Serjant
Lieutenant	Leytenant
Capitaine	Kapitan
Commandant	Mayor
Colonel	Polkovnik

Although many ranks have functional equivalents, their duties and positions within the hierarchy may differ.

Military Structures and Institutions

French military institutions include:

Armée de Terre (Land Forces);

Marine Nationale (Navy);

Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace (Air and Space Force);

Gendarmerie Nationale (National Gendarmerie).

The Armed Forces of Uzbekistan consist of:

Land Forces;

Air and Air Defense Forces;

Special Operations Forces;

National Guard.

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The term Gendarmerie Nationale has no exact equivalent in Uzbek and is usually translated descriptively as "National Gendarmerie."

Names of Weapons

Some military terms possess international equivalents:

French	Uzbek
Fusil	Rifle
Pistolet	Pistol
Mitrailleuse	Machine gun
Grenade	Grenade
Missile	Missile
Char de combat	Tank

However, historical weapons and specific military equipment often require explanatory translation.

Translation Strategies for Military Realia

Transliteration

Foreign terms are preserved phonetically.

Examples:

Gendarmerie → Jandarmeriya

Brigade → Brigada

Functional Equivalence

A target-language term with a similar function is used.

Examples:

Caporal → Junior Sergeant

Commandant → Major

Descriptive Translation

Terms without direct equivalents are explained.

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Example:

Légion étrangère – a special military unit of the French Army composed mainly of foreign volunteers.

Calque Translation

The components of the term are translated literally.

Examples:

Armée de Terre → Land Forces

Forces aériennes → Air Forces

Linguocultural Features of Military Realia

Military terminology reflects national traditions and historical experience. French military culture includes concepts such as Légion étrangère and Gendarmerie Nationale, which are deeply rooted in French history. Uzbek military culture, in contrast, preserves historical terms such as sarboz, mingboshi, and amir lashkari, which represent traditional military structures.

Therefore, successful translation requires not only linguistic competence but also knowledge of cultural and historical contexts.

Results. The comparative analysis revealed that French and Uzbek military realia possess both common and distinctive features. While many modern military terms have international equivalents, numerous culture-specific concepts require special translation techniques. Transliteration, descriptive translation, and functional equivalence proved to be the most effective strategies for rendering military realia. The study also demonstrated that linguistic and cultural factors are essential for achieving adequate translation.

Conclusion. Military realia constitute an important part of national linguistic and cultural heritage. The comparative study of French and Uzbek military terminology shows that differences in military traditions and institutional structures create challenges in translation. Consequently, translators should take into account semantic, historical, and cultural aspects when dealing with military

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realia. The results of this research contribute to comparative linguistics, translation studies, and the development of military terminology.

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