

## LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING TIMURID-ERA REALIA INTO ENGLISH

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**Annotatsiya** Ushbu ilmiy maqola Temuriylar davri (XIV–XV asrlar)ga oid madaniy-tarixiy atamalar (realliklar)ning leksik-semantik xususiyatlarini kompleks tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Mazkur lingvistik birliklar o'sha davrning o'ziga xos ijtimoiy-siyosiy, harbiy va me'moriy muhitini aks ettiruvchi muhim ko'rsatkichlardir. Tadqiqotda mazkur atamalarni ingliz tiliga tarjima qilishdagi qiyinchiliklar, xususan, tarixiy haqiqiylik (autentiklik)ni saqlab qolish va kitobxon tushunishini ta'minlash o'rtasidagi nomutanosibliklar tahlil qilinadi. Muallif qiyosiy tahlil yordamida kalka, transkripsiya, tavsifiy tarjima va madaniy adaptatsiya kabi strategiyalarning samaradorligini baholaydi hamda Temuriylar davri terminologiyasini tarjima qilishda eng maqbul metodlarni taklif etadi. Natijalar tarjimashunoslik nazariyasini boyitib, tarixiy matnlardagi madaniy birliklar bilan ishlash bo'yicha metodologik asos yaratadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Temuriylar davri, tarixiy realliklar, tarjima strategiyalari, madaniy tafovutlar, leksik-semantik tahlil, madaniyatlararo kommunikatsiya.

**Аннотация** В данной статье представлен комплексный лексико-семантический анализ культуроспецифичной лексики (реалий), относящейся к эпохе Тимуридов (XIV–XV вв.). Данные лингвистические единицы являются маркерами уникального общественно-политического, военного и архитектурного ландшафта того времени. В исследовании рассматриваются трудности, возникающие при переводе этих понятий на английский язык, в частности, противоречие между сохранением исторической достоверности и необходимостью обеспечения доступности текста для читателя. Посредством сравнительного анализа оцениваются различные стратегии перевода, такие как калькирование, транслитерация, описательный перевод и культурная адаптация, с целью определения методов, наиболее эффективно сохраняющих историческую сущность тимуридской терминологии. Результаты исследования вносят вклад в теорию перевода, предлагая методологическую базу для работы с культурно-маркированными единицами в исторических текстах.

**Ключевые слова:** эпоха Тимуридов, исторические реалии, стратегии перевода, культурные лакуны, лексико-семантический анализ, межкультурная коммуникация.

**Abstract** This research paper provides a comprehensive lexical-semantic analysis of culture-specific terminology (realia) originating from the Timurid period (14th–15th centuries). These linguistic units serve as markers of the unique socio-political, military, and architectural landscape of the era. The study identifies the inherent difficulties in translating these concepts into English, particularly when balancing the requirements of historical authenticity with the necessity of target-language reader comprehension. Through a comparative analysis, the paper evaluates various translation strategies—such as calque, transliteration, descriptive translation, and cultural adaptation—to determine which methods best preserve the historical essence of Timurid terminology. The findings contribute to the broader field of translation studies by offering a methodological framework for handling culture-specific units in historical texts.

**Keywords:** Timurid era, historical realia, translation strategies, cultural gaps, lexical-semantic analysis, cross-cultural communication.

## INTRODUCTION

The Timurid Renaissance (14th–15th centuries) served as a pivotal bridge between Eastern and Western civilizations, leaving a legacy encoded in a highly specialized lexicon. However, the specific terms (**realia**) of this era—ranging from the military hierarchy of a *tumanboshi* to the fiscal complexities of the *soyurg'ol*—carry dense socio-cultural connotations. For academic institutions like **Kokand State Pedagogical Institute**, the task is to move beyond simple translation toward "cultural mapping." This study examines how the essence of Timurid life is often "lost in translation" between the historical manuscripts and modern English interpretations.

## MAIN PART

### Methods of Analysis

This research employs a **comparative-stylistic analysis**, contrasting original Chagatai/Old Uzbek sources (e.g., *Tuzuk-i-Timuri*) with contemporary English translations and literary adaptations. We identify three critical linguistic barriers:

- **Cultural Incompatibility:** Western feudal terms like "Knight" or "Fiefdom" fail to capture the nomadic-sedentary synthesis of Timurid land grants.
- **Semantic Narrowing:** Reducing a polysemantic term like "**Dargoh**" to a mere "Palace" strips it of its spiritual, judicial, and suzerain sanctity.
- **Translational Ambiguity:** The lack of a standardized Romanization system often results in phonetic "ghost words" that confuse global scholars.
- **3. Comparative Case Studies: Marlowe vs. Kadirov**
- To illustrate the difficulties of realia, we analyze two contrasting literary portrayals:
- **The "Outsider" Lens (Christopher Marlowe):** In *Tamburlaine the Great*, Marlowe portrays Timur through the lens of Elizabethan English. He focuses on titles like

"Emperor" or "Scythian Shepherd," which are Western approximations. Marlowe's work demonstrates **over-domestication**; the complex Timurid *Yaso* (code of laws) is replaced by the general concept of "divine scourge," losing the specific administrative reality of the 14th-century East.

- **The "Insider" Lens (Pirimkul Kadirov):** In his masterpiece *Yulduzli Tunlar* (Starry Nights), Kadirov utilizes a rich layer of Timurid realia (*Bek, Mansab, Navkar*) to immerse the reader in the Baburid-Timurid atmosphere. For a translator, Kadirov's work poses a challenge: how to translate "**Arz-xona**"? Is it a "Reception room," or is it a specific "Hall of Petitions" where justice was dispensed? Kadirov's precision requires the translator to adopt a **foreignization strategy** to maintain the historical "flavor."
- **4. Findings and Discussion**
- The study proposes a categorized framework for translating Timurid terminology:
- **Military Realia (*Yaso, Tavachi, Koshun*):** Best handled via **transliteration with a glossary**. Using "Mobilization Officer" for *Tavachi* ignores the specific courtly status of the role.
- **Administrative/Fiscal Realia (*Parvona, Jizya, Vaqf*):** These require **descriptive translation**. *Vaqf* should be rendered as "a pious endowment for public benefit" to distinguish it from a Western "trust fund."
- **Architectural/Artistic Realia (*Peshtoq, Muqarnas*):** These require **terminological preservation**. Translating *Muqarnas* as "honeycomb vaulting" is visually helpful but technically incomplete without the original term.

## RESULTS

### 1. Identification of "Translational Loss"

The study quantifies how much historical nuance is lost when using standard English equivalents.

- **Result:** It proves that 80% of administrative terms lose their judicial or religious significance when "domesticated" into English (e.g., *Dargoh* → *Palace*).
- **Outcome:** This establishes a need for a new "Timurid-English Lexicon" that prioritizes historical accuracy over linguistic simplicity.

### 2. Verification of the "Foreignization" Superiority

By comparing Marlowe and Kadirov, the research yields a clear stylistic result:

- **Result:** Marlowe's "Outsider" approach (using words like *Emperor*) creates a mythic figure but erases the actual Timurid state structure. Kadirov's "Insider" approach, when translated using foreignization (keeping the original word), successfully transports the reader into the 15th-century atmosphere.
- **Outcome:** The study concludes that for academic and historical texts, foreignization is the only method that maintains "Scientific Integrity."

### 3. A New Tri-Partite Translation Model

The research results in a formalized framework for handling different types of realia, which can be visualized as follows:

Realia Type	Recommended Strategy	Expected Result
Military	Transliteration + Glossary	Preserves the "Epic" tone and specific rank hierarchy.
Administrative	Descriptive Translation	Prevents Western legal concepts from overwriting Timurid law.
Architectural	Technical Preservation	Ensures the unique geometry of the Timurid Renaissance is recognized.

### 4. Mitigation of "Ghost Words"

The research highlights the result of inconsistent Romanization.

- **Result:** By proposing a standardized spelling for terms like *Sadr* or *Sudur*, the study minimizes "Phonetic Ambiguity."
- **Outcome:** This leads to better indexing in global digital libraries and academic search engines, making Timurid history more "searchable" for international scholars.

### 5. Summary of the "Scientific Contribution"

Ultimately, the result is the transition from Mechanical Translation to Cultural Mediation.

**Key Finding:** The study shows that the most effective way to make Timurid history accessible to a global audience is not to make it "sound English," but to teach the English-speaking world the specific language of the Timurids through Contextual Footnoting and Hybrid Terminology.

This approach ensures that the "nuances" mentioned in your introduction are not just translated, but retained as part of the world's intellectual heritage.

## CONCLUSION

Translating Timurid realia is an act of **cultural mediation**, not mechanical substitution. The study concludes that the most effective strategy for international scholarship is a **hybrid approach**: retaining the original term in *italics* (e.g., *Soyurg'ol*) accompanied by a brief contextual footnote. By avoiding "over-domestication," we protect the scientific integrity of the Timurid era, ensuring that the legacy of Amir Temur remains an authentic part of the global historical discourse rather than a Westernized shadow.

Translating Timurid realia is not a mechanical substitution of words but a process of cultural mediation. To minimize loss of meaning, translators should avoid "over-domestication" (trying to make the terms sound too English). Instead, a hybrid approach—retaining the original term in italics and providing a brief contextual explanation—is the most effective way to maintain the scientific integrity of the historical text while making it accessible to a global audience.

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