

**ABSTRACT**  
**OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**  
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**DISSERTATION TITLE: The problem of translation of ethno-cultural identity in the trilogy of A. Nurpeisov «Blood and Sweat»**

**SPECIALITY: 6D020700 – «Translation studies»**

**General characteristics of the work.** In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the problem of the functioning and development of ethno-cultural identity not only in Kazakhstan, but throughout the whole world. This is primarily due to the globalization of the cultural space and intensification of intercultural communication that has characterized our lives in recent decades. The processes of globalization, which have affected every sphere of socio-economic, political and cultural life of all countries and ethnic groups, are dangerous. They can lead to diminishing the importance of cultural and national grounds of identity, to a weakening of the sense of the world individual's membership in a multi-ethnic state with historically enshrined territory, language and culture. The Ethnic "I" is lost through globalization.

The worldwide system of integrated computer networks and information space expansion has produced a scenario in which an individual finds themselves on the borders of various social and cultural worlds whose contours are increasingly being blurred by globalization. This situation poses a certain threat to the cultural unity of the established nation. We recognize that this situation is especially dangerous in multinational states such as Kazakhstan. Consequently, increasing consideration is being given to potential sources of erosion and loss of ethno-cultural identity. To combat the negative effects of globalization, towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kazakhstan began to develop measures aimed at preserving the identity of ethnic groups. The importance of the issue is emphasized in the Concept of Ethno-cultural Education in the Republic of Kazakhstan (July 15, 1996 No. 3058). The main determinants of preserving the national identity of Kazakhs are expressed within the framework of the National Idea «Mangylik El», the Development Strategy «Kazakhstan-2050», and the Nation's Plan «100 Concrete Steps to implementation of five Institutional Reforms», «Rukhani Jangiru». These determinants are self-awareness, language, mythological worldview and historical memory.

One of the main sources for researching the phenomenon of ethno-cultural identity are literary texts. Ethno-cultural stereotypes, including the peculiarities of speech behavior and mentality, are the building blocks for the creation of ethno-cultural information in the work. They form the ethno-cultural "image" of the described ethnic group and act as an ethno-cultural identifier: the text of the work reflects the mentality of the people, its cultural traditions, life-and-living realities, customs, etc.

In the process of translating texts with a high ethno-cultural identity, the translator must prevent the national-cultural assimilation of translation by all means in order to preserve the features of the national and cultural identity of the original. The reader should not gain a false impression that someone else's culture does not differ

from their own. Knowledge of the ethno-cultural specificity of literary texts is necessary for an adequate interpretation of their content; its accounting is also important in translation practice.

**The urgency of this research** is due to the theoretical and practical significance of the problem and the need to develop practical recommendations in the translation of features of ethno-cultural components. The relevance of the study is related to the problem of transferring the elements of ethno-cultural identity reflected in the source text being most complex and understudied aspect in translation studies

Globalization processes directly affect the state as an institution and associated ethno-cultural identity. The Ethno-cultural identity of Kazakhs is to some extent changed, in one way it is strengthened and, in another case, dissolved. Subsequently, it is important to preserve the ethno-cultural identity of the Kazakhs, as it is a kind of cultural code, passed down from generation to generation, which contributes to the preservation and self-expression of the Kazakh ethnic group in a modern multipolar world under conditions of world globalization. Language plays a major role in this process as a means of uniting individuals into an ethnic group and fulfilling an important broadcast mission of conveying the characteristics of each nation's development, culture, religion, history, etc. These elements or realities vividly convey the uniqueness of culture, everyday life, social and historical development of one people, which can be simultaneously alien to another people. The Kazakh writer Abdizhamil Nurpeisov is in the eyes of his compatriots and individuals from other nations, considered the embodiment of the Kazakh national character, which was formed over many centuries of the Kazakh ethnic group's existence; it has become a constant of the modern national consciousness. Throughout his long life he retained his love for his people. The process of his formation as a person and a writer took place in the continuum of Kazakh culture, which contributed to the development of ways and strategies of relations with the outside world. The national problem of the author's trilogy «Blood and Sweat» has not yet become the subject of a monographic study despite constant attention given by critics and researchers to the poetics of the writer. This underlines the urgency of this dissertation which aims to reveal the importance of accurate transmission of details of ethno-cultural identity in translation into other languages. It is conditioned by the need to identify the national and cultural features of the Pri-Aral Kazakhs and search for methods of translating ethno-cultural components into other languages. The urgency of the problem and its current lack of development determined the choice of this study's research theme.

#### **Level of academic development of the research topic**

Issues of ethnic and cultural identity have been actively developed by representatives of different schools and directions. This is evidenced by the works of S.A. Arutyunov, F. Bart, M. Bakhtin, Y. Bromley, L.N. Gumilev, L. Lurie, V. Maslova, A. Sadokhin, E. Toffler, F. Fukuyama, M. Heidegger, S. Huntington, G. Spet.

Academics such as Y.A. Karasev, L.I. Komarov, O.A. Kornilov, Y. Lotman, O.I. Syromyatnikov have engaged with the problem of accurately reflecting ethno-cultural elements in literary texts.

Ethnic identity has also been widely researched by the country's academics. Thus, the issues of ethnic and ethno-social identification of the Kazakhs and their cultural identity in the era of globalization has been covered in the works of G. Yessim (*Ethnic space of Kazakhs*), A.K. Kasabek (*Traditions of ethno-national culture*), A.H. Kassimzhanov (*Traditions of the Kazakh steppe*). The fundamental works of R.K. Kadyrzhanov (*Ethno-cultural symbolism and national identity of Kazakhstan*), Zh. Moldabekov, M.S. Orynbekov, (*The process of ethnic self-discovery*) have made a great contribution to the understanding of the history of the formation of the Kazakh identity, their ethno-cultural symbolism, the national idea of the Kazakhs and their spiritual consolidation. Features of Kazakh ethno-cultural identity have been analyzed in the works of Z.K. Karakuzova and M.S. Khassanov (*The cosmos of Kazakh culture*), S. Kenzheakhmetuly (*Life and culture of Kazakh people*), D.K. Kshibekov (*Mentality and traditions in Kazakh culture*), K.S. Nurlanova, Z.N. Sarsenbaeva (*Ethnicity and values*), M.S. Shaikemelev (*Kazakh identity*), N. Z. Shakhanov (*Symbolism of traditional Kazakh culture*).

The following scholars have considered elements of ethno-cultural identity, specificity of a literary text in the aspect of translation traditions: U. Aitbayev, A. Aldasheva, S.M. Altybayev, L.S. Barkhudarov, G. Belger, G.Z. Bolatova, E.V. Breus, L. Venutti, S. Vlahov and S. Florin, N. Garbovskiy, D.Z. Dadebayev, T.O. Essembekov, A. Zhaksylykov, K.O. Zhekeeva, A.Z. Zhumabekova, G.K. Kazybek, K. Kambarov, M. Karatayev, J. Casagrande, V. Komissarov, M.E. Kuantayev, A.V. Kunin, S. Kuspanov, M. Kurmanov, J. Catford, J. Munen, Y. Naida, F. Neubert, K. Reiss, A. Pym, Y. Retker, N.Z. Sagyndykova, A. Satybaldiev, S. Seitov, M. Snel-Hornby, S. Talzhanov, A. Tarak, G. Tomukhin, Z. Turarbekov, R. Hairullin, A. Chesterman, A. Schweitzer.

The work of A. Nurpeisov as a whole, the poetics of his trilogy, its translations into Russian and foreign languages, have been constantly reviewed by scholars such as K. Azhiev, A. Aikulova, A. Alimov, N. Anastasyev, S. Elubay, D. Isabekov, E.T. Kakilbayeva, Zh. Omirbekova, M. Smagulova, A. Seidimbekov, T. Tursynov, A. Toleubayeva, N. Shaukhamanova and others.

**Object of research** – ethno-cultural space A. Nurpeisov's trilogy "Blood and Sweat", transmission of semantics of lexical units with an ethno-cultural component in Russian and English.

**The subject of the research** – the realities of ethno-cultural identity and the interlanguage transmission of the national-cultural characteristics of the Kazakhs in the novels included in Nurpeisov's trilogy.

**Aim and objectives of the study** – to study the mechanism of converting the content and expression of culturally-marked language units when translating them from the original language to the target language. In accordance with this goal, the following research **objectives** were set:

– to define the concept of «ethno-cultural identity» taking into account the modern achievements of the humanities;

– to describe the history and methods of translating fiction with the realities of ethno-cultural identity and the interlanguage transmission of the national and cultural characteristics of Kazakhs in Kazakhstan;

- to consider the history of the creation of A. Nurpeisov's trilogy and the methods of its translation into other languages;
- to conduct a structural-semantic analysis of the poetics of the trilogy «Blood and Sweat»;
- to identify the content of linguistic units that create ethno-cultural identity in the novels of A. Nurpeisov;
- to explore the methods of translation of the lexical units expressing ethno-cultural specifics when translated into the Russian and English languages.

The procedure of analysis and interpretation of the poetics of A. Nurpeisov's novels and their translation into the Russian and English languages used in the dissertation is based on the following **scientific methods**: the structural-semantic method is necessary to identify the structure of the ethno-cultural space of the trilogy; a comparative method is used to identify methods of conveying lexical units with an ethno-cultural meaning; a contextual method is used to determine the functioning of the analyzed units in the Kazakh text and in Russian, English translations; component analysis techniques are applied to determine the degree of proximity of the original and its translations.

**Sources of research** – A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat» («Twilight», 1961; «Ordeal», 1964; «Fall», 1970), interlinear translations of G.K. Belger, an authorized translation of the trilogy «Blood and Sweat» prepared by Yuri Kazakov (1981) and an English translation of the trilogy «Blood and Sweat», prepared by Catherine Fitzpatrick, a well-known American human rights activist, journalist and translator (2013).

**The research material** was more than 600 lexical units with an ethno-cultural component, of which 246 units were analyzed in the Kazakh language, 213 in Russian and 213 in English.

#### **Scientific novelty of the research**

– A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat» is for the first time the object of a monographic study from the standpoint of translating ethno-cultural identity: the creative history of novels, features of the ethno-cultural space in the trilogy and the problems of its translation into the Russian and English languages are considered;

– for the first time the use of system analysis acknowledged the problem of translating the details of the ethnic and cultural identity of the Kazakhs to other languages. The axiom for a translator should be the recognition of the absolute priority of the original over all its other incarnations, which is what A. Nurpeisov demanded from his translators;

– for the first time the translation process is interpreted and revealed as a "clash" of cultural images in the world of communicators, and distortions of content arising from the cultural characteristics of the translator due to different cultures, lifestyle and perceptions of the world.

#### **Theoretical significance of the research**

The results of the study have sufficient theoretical significance. The theoretical conclusions contained in the dissertation study may be useful for in-depth and expanded research on translation of literary texts from the perspective of their ethno-cultural specificity.

### **Practical significance of research**

The conclusions and provisions of the dissertation can be used in seminars and practical classes of such disciplines as «Actual problems of translation», «Literary comparatives», «Intercultural Communication» and others. The findings could form the basis for elective courses such as «Cultural linguistics», «Ethno-culture», «Topical Problems in translation Ethno-cultural information», and «Translation studies». Recommendations, conclusions and generalizations of the author can be used in the preparation of textbooks and lectures. Also, the practical significance of the study lies in the potential of using its findings in the activities of novice translators related to the problems of transmitting ethno-cultural characteristics in the process of translating literary texts.

### **The main provisions for the dissertation defense**

– when transmitting speech formulas, elements of national mentality, reflecting the specific features of the linguistic picture of the world, the semantic shades are neutralized and emotional expression is lost. Consequently, inconsistencies in registers and styles are observed in the translations of the trilogy;

– the discrepancy between the cultural images of the author's and translators' worlds leads to an incorrect interpretation of the ethno-cultural identity of the characters in the trilogy. Due to the differences in ethno-cultural characteristics of the source and target languages, the translation text inevitably reflects the linguistic and cultural characteristics of the translator;

– ignorance of the ethno-cultural characteristics of non-verbal means of communication leads to a distortion of the image of the described ethnos. Incorrect interpretation of gestures, postures, and gaze by representatives of different cultures leads to cultural and communicative failures in translations of the trilogy;

– in some cases, the individual ethnic characteristics of the translator influenced the translation decisions. When transmitting from Kazakh into Russian the values of expressive units with an ethno-cultural component, the extensional effect of the express is often observed. In translated texts, the method of dysphemism is used, replacing these units with expressively-colored vulgarisms, which leads to linguo-stylistic inconsistencies and distortion of the ethno-cultural image of characters;

– inconsistencies in translations of the novels such as untranslated, additional and distorted information, have a significant impact on the adequate transmission of ethno-cultural identity and this was defined by us during comparative analyses of the texts. Lack of cognitive experience, lack of knowledge about the surrounding reality described in the source text, led to the deformation of whole paragraphs in the target text, and consequently, to the elimination of ethno-cultural specifics of the source text.

### **Testing of the research results**

The results of the academic work were discussed during seminars of the Department of Foreign Philology and Translational Studies of KazNU named after al-Farabi. Thirteen articles were published on the subject of the dissertation, including five articles in the collections of international conferences, five articles in scientific journals recommended by the CCESS (Committee on control in education and science sphere) of MOE RK, two articles in the magazines included in the Scopus database and one article in a scientific journal:

1 The problem of ethno-cultural equivalence of the word in translations of Abai's poem into Russian // Vestnik of KazNU. – Almaty, 2015. – № 6 (158). – pp. 294-299.

2 Language consciousness as a factor in the development of intercultural competence // Vestnik of KazNU. – Almaty, 2016. – № 2/2 (160). – pp. 220-224.

3 Typology of difficulties in translating literary texts with a high ethno-cultural identity // Vestnik of KazNU. – Almaty, 2017. – № 2 (166). – pp. 331-335.

4 Language as a factor of ethno-cultural identity // IX International Scientific and Practical Conference «Human Science». – Kemerovo, 2017. – pp. 13-16.

5 The problem of translation of ethno-cultural identity in Abay's poems // VII International Scientific and Practical Conference «Actual issues of theory and practice of philological research». – Prague, 2017. – pp. 59-63.

6 Speech behavior of the Kazakhs as a reflection of ethno-cultural identity // X International Scientific and Practical Conference of KazNU. «Kabdolov's readings». – Almaty, 2018. – pp. 200-208.

7 Russian-Kazakh literary relations: The influence of Russian realism on the development of A. Nurpeisov's writing // Man in India. – ISSN: 0025-1569, SJR\_2016:0,110. Scopus. – V. 97. – India, 2017. – pp. 207-219.

8 The role of ethno-specific concepts in the formation of national character and mentality of people // Collection of scientific and methodical works, recommended by the Abay Research Institute in KazNU. – Bratislava, 2018. – pp. 113-119.

9 Features of translation of ethno-cultural expressive lexical units in A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat». Young Explorer: Challenges and Perspectives // CXLIII International Scientific and Practical Conference. – Moscow: Interscience, 2019. – № 43 (143). – pp. 49-54.

10 Features of translation of ethno-cultural figurative phraseological units in A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat». Contemporary scientific research: problems and perspectives // IV of the International Scientific and Practical Conference. – Moscow: Pero, 2019. – pp. 166-172.

11 Problems of translating reality with ethno-cultural component in A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat» // Vestnik of KazNPU. – Almaty, 2019. – № 4 (70). – pp. 537-543.

12 Ethnological research of the literary text at the stage of pre-translation analysis (on the example of A. Nurpeisov's trilogy «Blood and Sweat») // Vestnik of KazNU. – Almaty, 2019. – № 4 (176). – pp. 212-218.

13 Recreation of ethno-cultural markers in the translations of “Blood and Sweat” // Opcion, Año 36, Regular № 91 – Venezuela, 2020. – ISSN 1012-1587/ISSNe: 2477-9385, Scopus. – pp. 851-870.

**Structure of dissertation** is subjected to the logic of disclosure of the topic, defined in it the purpose and objectives of the study. The work consists of an introduction, three chapters (each comprised of three paragraphs), conclusions and a list of references.