



MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF SIMPLE LITERARY TEXTS AND THEIR TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This article examines the morphological features of simple literary texts and explores the challenges they present in translation. The study aims to identify key morphological patterns—such as noun and verb forms, derivational and inflectional structures, and the use of adjectives and adverbs—in source texts and analyze how these patterns influence translation choices. The research employs a comparative method, analyzing selected literary texts alongside their translations to identify strategies for preserving grammatical structures and semantic nuances. Findings reveal that while simple texts often exhibit straightforward morphological structures, translators must carefully navigate tense, aspect, word formation, and derivational morphology to maintain both meaning and stylistic fidelity. The study contributes to the understanding of the interplay between morphology and translation, offering practical insights for translators and scholars in literary linguistics.

Keywords: Morphology, literary texts, translation, morphological analysis, derivation, inflection, translation strategies, semantic equivalence.

Introduction

Morphology, the study of word forms and their internal structure, plays a crucial role in translation studies. Understanding the morphological composition of words is essential for translators, as it directly affects how meaning, tense, aspect, and stylistic nuances are conveyed in the target language. In literary texts, even simple sentences carry morphological markers that shape narrative

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style, character expression, and thematic emphasis. Analyzing these features in source texts is therefore fundamental for producing accurate and stylistically faithful translations. This article aims to identify the main morphological features present in simple literary texts, including noun, verb, adjective, and adverb forms, as well as derivational and inflectional patterns and examine how these morphological features influence translation choices, particularly regarding grammatical accuracy and stylistic preservation.

The study seeks to answer the following questions as what are the predominant morphological features in simple literary texts? how do these features affect translation strategies and the preservation of meaning in the target language?

Previous research highlights the significance of morphology in literary analysis and translation. Studies in literary linguistics emphasize how word formation, tense, and derivation contribute to style and narrative clarity. Translation studies literature has explored challenges in rendering morphological structures across languages, noting that mismatches in tense, aspect, or derivational processes often lead to semantic shifts or stylistic loss. Despite this, few studies have specifically focused on simple literary texts, leaving a gap in understanding how their straightforward morphological patterns interact with translation strategies. This article aims to address this gap.

Morphology is a branch of linguistics concerned with the internal structure of words and the ways in which words are formed. Morphemes, the smallest units of meaning, are classified as free morphemes, which can stand alone as independent words (e.g., *book*, *run*), and bound morphemes, which attach to other morphemes to modify meaning (e.g., *-s*, *un-*). Additionally, morphemes are categorized as derivational, forming new words and altering grammatical categories (e.g., *happy* → *happiness*), and inflectional, marking grammatical features such as tense, number, gender, or case without changing word class (e.g., *walk* → *walked*). Morphology plays a vital role in syntax—by governing word combinations and sentence structure—and semantics, as morphemes contribute to meaning at both lexical and grammatical levels.

In literary texts, morphology not only conveys meaning but also shapes style and readability. Simple literary texts, such as children’s stories or short prose,

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often exhibit the following characteristics: High frequency of common nouns and verbs. Predominant use of simple tense forms (present and past). Minimal derivational complexity, with limited use of affixes or compound words.

These morphological patterns enhance clarity, facilitate comprehension, and establish a straightforward narrative style. Translators must recognize these patterns to maintain the simplicity and stylistic tone of the original text.

Morphological analysis is essential in translation, as differences between source and target language word-formation systems can lead to semantic and stylistic shifts. Translation strategies include Literal translation, preserving morphemes and grammatical forms as closely as possible. Adaptive translation, modifying word forms to suit the grammatical and stylistic norms of the target language.

Effective translation requires careful attention to tense, aspect, number, and derivational structures, ensuring that both meaning and stylistic features are preserved. Understanding the interplay between source text morphology and target language conventions allows translators to produce texts that are both accurate and natural.

The study focuses on simple literary texts, such as short stories, children’s literature, and simple prose, characterized by straightforward sentence structures and minimal morphological complexity. Texts were selected based on the following criteria: Simplicity of language: Preference was given to texts with clear, uncomplicated vocabulary and sentence patterns. Availability of translations: Only works with published or professionally translated versions in the target language were included to allow for comparative analysis. Representative content: The texts cover a range of themes, styles, and authors to provide a balanced sample of morphological features in simple literary writing. The study employs a two-step analytical approach: Morphological analysis of source texts: Identification of parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, etc.). Examination of inflectional forms, such as tense, number, and aspect. Analysis of derivational morphology, including affixation and word formation patterns. Comparative analysis of source and translated texts: Identification of morphological equivalents in the target language. Evaluation of translation strategies, including literal transfer, adaptation, or omission of

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morphological forms. Assessment of how well the translation preserves grammatical structures, meaning, and stylistic nuances.

The research uses a combination of manual and software-assisted analysis: Manual analysis allows detailed inspection of morphological forms and stylistic features. Linguistic software tools (e.g., corpus analysis software, morphological analyzers) support systematic counting and categorization of morphemes. Parallel texts (source and translated versions) serve as primary data for comparative study, providing concrete examples of morphological preservation or adaptation.

This methodology ensures a systematic and replicable approach to examining the interplay between morphological features and translation strategies in simple literary texts.

Nouns in simple literary texts are typically common, concrete, and frequently occurring, with relatively straightforward morphological patterns. Key features include: Singular and plural forms: Regular pluralization (e.g., *cat* → *cats*) predominates, while irregular forms (e.g., *child* → *children*) are rare but significant. Countable vs. uncountable nouns: Simple texts often employ countable nouns for clarity, with fewer abstract uncountable nouns. Proper vs. common nouns: Proper nouns often retain cultural and stylistic significance. Translators must decide whether to preserve original names or adapt them for target audiences.

Impact on translation choices: Translators must carefully preserve number distinctions and proper noun identity to maintain both grammatical correctness and narrative integrity.

Verbs tend to exhibit regular inflection and limited tense complexity, predominantly in Present simple and past simple tenses, conveying immediate actions or sequential narration. Limited use of progressive or perfect aspects, making texts easier to translate while still requiring attention to aspectual nuances.

Translating aspectual nuances: Translators need to identify subtle differences in tense and aspect between source and target languages to preserve narrative timing and emphasis. Adjectives and adverbs serve descriptive or evaluative

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functions: Degree: Positive, comparative, and superlative forms are common (e.g., *big*, *bigger*, *biggest*). Descriptive usage: Convey tone, mood, or characterization.

Effect on stylistic tone in translation: Translators must maintain the intensity and subtlety of descriptive language. Loss or over-simplification of degree forms can alter narrative style or emotional impact.

Functional words, although morphologically simple, contribute to cohesion and grammatical structure: Pronouns indicate person, number, and gender. Prepositions show relationships between entities or actions. Determiners specify definiteness or quantity.

Challenges in cross-linguistic transfer: Differences in pronoun systems, prepositional use, or article usage between languages can lead to ambiguity or loss of meaning. Translators must adjust these elements carefully. Derivational morphology: Affixes form new words (e.g., *teach* → *teacher*). Translators must ensure functional equivalents exist. Compounding and diminutives: Convey stylistic or cultural nuances (e.g., *grandmother* → *granny*). Affixation: Prefixes and suffixes express negation, intensity, or relational meaning and must be carefully rendered. Implications: Even simple texts require attention to derivational patterns, compounding, and diminutives to retain both meaning and stylistic flavor.

Morphological equivalence refers to how morphemes in the source language (SL) are rendered in the target language (TL). In simple literary texts, equivalence can be achieved at multiple levels: Inflectional morphemes (e.g., tense, number, aspect) are often preserved directly when TL has corresponding forms. Derivational morphemes may require adaptation if the TL lacks equivalent word formation patterns. Functional morphemes (pronouns, prepositions, determiners) may be substituted or restructured. Maintaining morphological equivalence preserves both grammatical integrity and stylistic tone. Common Translation Strategies are direct transfer: Morphemes rendered literally in TL. Adaptation: Morphemes modified to conform to TL norms. Omission: Morphemes dropped if redundant or non-equivalent. Addition: Morphemes added to clarify meaning or restore grammatical correctness.

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Morphological mismatches between SL and TL can lead to structural and semantic discrepancies. Semantic loss or shift may occur if TL lacks equivalent inflectional or derivational forms. Stylistic disruption can result from misaligned morphological complexity.

Examples from Texts as Example 1: Noun pluralization

SL: “The children played in the gardens.”

TL: “Bola bolalar bog‘larda o‘ynadi.” Analysis: The plural morpheme *-s* is preserved through Uzbek *-lar*, maintaining equivalence.

Example 2: Verb tense

SL: “She walked slowly along the street.”

TL: “U ko‘chada sekin yurdi.” Analysis: English past tense *-ed* adapts to Uzbek past tense *-di*, preserving aspectual meaning.

Example 3: Derivational morphology

SL: “The teacher taught the children.”

TL: “O‘qituvchi bolalarga dars berdi.” Analysis: Derivational morpheme *-er* rendered as *o‘qituvchi*, preserving functional meaning.

The analysis reveals that morphology is central to translation choices. Even straightforward texts rely on inflectional and derivational patterns to convey tense, number, aspect, and style. Key observations include Noun and verb morphology ensures syntactic coherence and temporal sequencing. Derivational forms and diminutives contribute to character depiction and stylistic subtlety. Functional morphemes, while simple, are critical for cohesion; mismatches may cause semantic shifts.

Pedagogical implications: Translation courses should emphasize morphological analysis alongside semantic and stylistic considerations. Translators benefit from training that highlights cross-linguistic differences and teaches strategies for preserving meaning and style.

This study examined the morphological features of simple literary texts and their translation, highlighting their influence on translation strategies. Key findings: Simple noun, verb, and adjective forms predominate, with limited derivational complexity. Morphological features significantly affect tense, aspect, number,

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and stylistic nuances. Translators use direct transfer, adaptation, omission, or addition to address mismatches.

Recommendations for translators are to conduct thorough morphological analysis before translation, pay attention to derivational and functional morphemes carrying semantic or stylistic weight and apply adaptive strategies to preserve narrative tone and grammatical accuracy.

Suggestions for further research are to analyze complex literary texts with richer morphological structures, investigate morphological translation across typologically diverse languages and examine the impact of morphological adaptation on readability and audience reception.

Understanding the interplay between morphology and translation enhances both theoretical insights and practical skills in literary translation.

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