

GENDER ISSUES IN TRANSLATING HUMAN RIGHTS TEXTS: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT Gender-sensitive translation has become a critical topic in translating human rights texts, as it ensures inclusivity and equity. This article describes challenges and considerations of gender aspects in the translation of human rights documents. It discusses the need for translators to consider gender neutrality and equality to avoid reinforcing stereotypes. By reviewing existing literature, this study highlights key strategies for handling gender-sensitive language in translation, ensuring that translated human rights documents remain inclusive and faithful to their original intent.

Keywords: translation, human rights texts, inclusivity, gender equality, language and gender, translation strategies

ANNOTATSIYA

Inson huquqlariga oid matnlarni tarjima qilishda gender aspektlari tarjimon uchun muhim ahamiyatga ega bo‘lib, matnning inklyuzivligi va tengligini ta‘minlaydi. Ushbu maqolada inson huquqlari hujjatlarini tarjima qilishda gender masalalariga e‘tibor qaratish zarurati va tarjimonlar duch keladigan qiyinchiliklar tahlil qilinadi. Tarjimonlar gender tengligini va neytral tilni saqlash orqali gender stereotiplarni mustahkamlashdan saqlanishlari kerakligi ta‘kidlanadi. Mavjud adabiyotlar tahlili asosida gender sezgir tarjima usullari ko‘rib chiqiladi va inson huquqlariga oid matnlar tarjimasi jarayonida ushbu yondashuvning qo‘llanilishi muhokama qilinadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: genderga sezgir tarjima, inson huquqlariga oid matnlar, inklyuzivlik, gender tengligi, til va gender, tarjima strategiyalari

In recent years, the intersection of gender and language has become a prominent area of study, particularly in the field of translation. Human rights texts, which seek to promote equality and protect the rights of all individuals, often pose challenges for translators when it comes to gender. Language plays a crucial role in shaping social realities, and gendered language can perpetuate inequality or challenge it, depending on how it is used.

Gender aspects in translation involve ensuring that translated texts reflect gender equality, avoid gender stereotypes, and promote inclusivity. In the context of human rights documents, these principles are especially important, as these texts are meant to uphold principles of non-discrimination and equal rights. This article explores the issues surrounding gender-sensitive translation in human rights texts and discusses strategies translators can use to maintain gender inclusivity while preserving the integrity of the original text.

The study of gender in language has long been a focus of linguistics and translation studies. Cameron (1995) discusses how language reinforces gender roles and highlights the importance of gender neutrality in communication. Gendered language refers to words and structures that convey masculine or feminine connotations. For example, in English, the generic use of "he" as a reference to an individual of unknown gender can contribute to a male-centric worldview, which may not align with principles of equality in human rights texts.

In the realm of translation, Simon (1996) and von Flotow (1997) have argued that translators need to pay close attention to the ideological implications of their language choices, especially when translating texts that are supposed to uphold gender equality, such as human rights documents. The challenge is not only in linguistic accuracy but also in ensuring that the gender-neutral or gender-equitable intentions of the original text are preserved in the target language.

Gender-neutral language refers to terms that avoid bias toward a particular sex or gender. The European Union, United Nations, and many other international organizations have adopted gender-neutral language policies in their official documents, including human rights treaties and declarations. These policies advocate the use of non-binary pronouns, gender-neutral job titles, and inclusive terminology to ensure that all genders are represented fairly.

Studies by Liddicoat (2013) and Federici (2010) show that the implementation of gender-neutral language in translation varies widely across languages due to structural differences. For example, languages like English and Turkish, which have gender-neutral pronouns, can more easily adopt inclusive language policies compared to languages such as French or Spanish, where nouns and adjectives often carry inherent gender.

One of the major challenges translators face when translating human rights documents is maintaining the balance between linguistic accuracy and gender sensitivity. Human rights texts often contain legal language that is traditionally gendered. For example, terms like "man," "chairman," or "policeman" are often used generically in English. In some languages, translating these terms while maintaining both the legal integrity of the document and gender inclusivity can be difficult.

Moreover, certain languages impose gender on nouns and adjectives, making it challenging for translators to adopt a neutral tone. For instance, translating a phrase like "all men are created equal" into gendered languages like Spanish ("todos los hombres son creados iguales") may not align with gender-neutral expectations. Solutions include using inclusive alternatives like "todos y todas" (both masculine and feminine forms) or using more abstract forms like "la humanidad" (humanity) to avoid gender bias.

It is essential to recognize that different cultures have varying attitudes toward gender and language. While gender-neutral language is more readily accepted in

Western cultures, other cultures may still use highly gendered language. Translators must balance the cultural expectations of the target audience with the need to maintain the gender equality principles enshrined in human rights documents.

Cultural context can influence the choice of words, and what may be seen as neutral in one language might be perceived as gendered in another. For example, the Arabic language includes distinct male and female forms of verbs and pronouns, making it harder to avoid gender-specific language. Thus, translators must be sensitive to cultural and linguistic nuances while striving to preserve the original text's inclusivity.

The translation of human rights texts is a delicate task that requires both linguistic precision and ideological sensitivity, particularly when it comes to gender. Gender-sensitive translation ensures that human rights texts remain inclusive and reflective of the principles of equality and non-discrimination. By adopting strategies such as avoiding gender-specific terms, using inclusive pronouns, and reframing gendered phrases, translators can ensure that their work promotes gender equality without compromising the original meaning of the text. However, cultural and linguistic differences continue to pose challenges, and ongoing research and practice are needed to further refine gender-sensitive translation approaches in human rights contexts.

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