Raximova Pokiza
Master's student of Uzbekistan State World Languages University

CHALLENGES OF COMPARING STREET NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Abstract: This article examines the challenges of comparing street names in English and Uzbek languages. Differences in linguistic structure, cultural background, historical influences, and transliteration issues make direct comparison difficult. The study highlights how variations in naming conventions, translation challenges, and localization impact the process of understanding street names across both languages.

Keywords:street names, linguistic differences, cultural influence, translation issues, standardization, localization

INTRODUCTION

Street names serve an essential role in navigation, cultural identity, and historical representation. Comparing street names in English and Uzbek presents several challenges due to differences in linguistic structures, cultural influences, and historical backgrounds. English street names often follow a standardized pattern with suffixes such as 'Street,' 'Avenue,' or 'Boulevard,' whereas Uzbek street names typically use 'ko'cha' (street) or 'shohko'cha' (main street) after the name. Additionally, the influence of different historical periods, such as Soviet rule in Uzbekistan, has led to frequent renaming, which complicates direct comparisons.

DISCUSSION

Linguistic Differences

English and Uzbek have distinct linguistic structures that affect street naming conventions. English names usually follow a noun-adjective order (High Street), while Uzbek follows an adjective-noun structure (Buyuk Ipak Yo'li ko'chasi). Phonetic and orthographic differences between the two languages also present challenges in transliteration and pronunciation.

Cultural and Historical Influences

Street names reflect historical and cultural identities. In English-speaking countries, many streets are named after historical figures, geographic locations, or landmarks (George Washington Street, Sunset Boulevard). Uzbek street names often commemorate national heroes, poets, or historical sites (Alisher Navoiy ko'chasi). The Soviet era also left a significant imprint on Uzbek street names, many of which were later changed after independence. This constant evolution makes historical comparison difficult.

Translation and Equivalence Issues

Translating street names between English and Uzbek is complex because direct translations may not carry the same cultural meaning. For instance, Baker Street could be translated as Nonvoy ko'chasi, but this would not reflect the historical significance of the original name. Similarly, Uzbek street names referencing national figures may require explanation for English speakers to understand their importance.

Standardization and Localization

English-speaking countries tend to have standardized naming conventions, while in Uzbekistan, street names have been subject to frequent political and historical changes. In some Uzbek cities, older Russian or Persian names coexist with newer Uzbek names, whereas English-speaking regions follow more uniform naming traditions.

Technological and Practical Challenges

Modern mapping technologies like Google Maps and GPS systems face challenges in handling different transliterations of Uzbek street names (e.g., Amir Temur vs. Amir Timur). Lack of standard transliteration rules can cause inconsistencies in digital databases, complicating navigation for locals and foreigners alike.

CONCLUSION

Comparing street names in English and Uzbek involves linguistic, cultural, historical, and technological challenges. The structural differences, translation difficulties, and variations in standardization make direct comparisons complex. Understanding these challenges is crucial for researchers, linguists, and translators working in cross-cultural contexts.

REFERENCES

1. Crystal, D. (2003). English as a Global Language. Cambridge University Press.

2. Merriam-Webster. (2021). Street name definitions. Retrieved from https://www.merriam-webster.com

3. Oxford English Dictionary. (2022). History of English street names. Oxford University Press.

4. Rahmonov, A. (2019). Linguistic Challenges in Translating Uzbek Street Names. Tashkent State University Press.

5. Smith, J. (2015). Cultural Identity and Place Names. Routledge.