



## Key Difficulties In Translating Political Discourse

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**Annotation.** This article examines the translation of political speeches using Franklin D. Roosevelt's Fireside Chat as an example. The study analyzes the structure of the speech, which follows the pattern of problem, crisis explanation, and solution. Special attention is given to the translation of metaphors, everyday expressions, and other stylistic features. The analysis shows that preserving the simple and conversational tone of the original speech is important for achieving an effective translation.

**Аннотация.** В данной статье исследуется перевод политических речей на примере «Бесед у камина» Франклина Д. Рузвельта. В работе анализируется структура речи, которая строится по схеме: проблема, объяснение кризиса и решение. Особое внимание уделяется переводу метафор, разговорных выражений и других стилистических особенностей. Анализ показывает, что для создания эффективного перевода важно сохранить простой и разговорный тон оригинала.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada Franklin D. Ruzveltning "Kamin oldidagi suhbatlari" misolida siyosiy nutqlar tarjimai tadqiq qilingan. Ishda nutqning muammo, inqiroz tushuntirilishi va yechim kabi bosqichlardan iborat tuzilishi tahlil etilgan. Metaforalar, so'zlashuv iboralari va boshqa stilistik xususiyatlar tarjimasiga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Tahlillar shuni ko'rsatadiki, samarali tarjimaga erishish uchun asl nutqdagi sodda va jonli muloqot ohangini saqlab qolish muhim ahamiyatga ega.

**Key words:** political speech, translation, metaphor, conversational style, political discourse, communication.

**Ключевые слова:** политическая речь, перевод, метафора, разговорный стиль, политический дискурс, коммуникация.

**Kalit so'zlar:** siyosiy nutq, tarjima, metafora, so'zlashuv uslubi, siyosiy diskurs, kommunikatsiya

Introduction.  
In the field of translation political texts and speeches occupy a unique position. As Christina Schaffner points out, political texts are fundamentally different from other genres because they are both a part and direct result of political events. They are historically and culturally produced, with politics acting as their central subject matter.[1] It means, translating these texts is never just a linguistic translation from one language into another but it is a challenging, complex process. As political discourse is rarely neutral because of the reason that it is saturated with specific terminology, complex grammatical structures, cultural metaphors also there are emotional overtones makes the translation process more difficult.

Concept of Translation Definitions and Approaches

To understand fully why translating political texts or speeches are difficult we must first look at how translation theory has evolved over the last several decades. Translation scholars have long debated whether translation is a rigid science or a flexible cultural adaptation like word for word or stylistic changed transformation.

The Linguistic Approach: early translation theory was mostly dominated by linguistics. J.C. Catford defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language Source Language by equivalent material in another language Target Language. For Catford, the main idea is fixed equivalence in meaning.[2] Around the same time, Eugene Nida introduced a more flexible concept known as dynamic equivalence. Nida defined translation as reproducing the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.[3] While the linguistic approach provides a solid foundation for analyzing grammar and syntax, it often fails when applied to political texts, where the emotional impact of a word matters far more than its literal dictionary definition.



The Cultural Approach: Susan Bassnett moved beyond just linguistics, stating that translation must be viewed as a form of communication within and between cultures. It is a cross-cultural activity rather than a simple linguistic transfer. In political discourse, cultural considerations are paramount because politicians rely on shared cultural experiences, historical myths, and local clichés to connect with their audience. If a translator ignores the cultural context, the political message will be awkward.[4]

#### Defining Political Texts and Speeches

To analyze political language, we must distinguish it from related points, such as diplomatic language. While both belong to the social sciences and are rooted in political thought, their intent differs significantly.

**Diplomatic Language:** this is the official language used for ceremonies, high-level meetings, and international treaties where everything follows strict rules. Its main job is to be neutral and use carefully chosen, safe formulas to avoid any misunderstandings or conflicts between countries around the globe.

**Political Language:** This is a much broader concept. Its goal is not just to record history or outline official party plans, but first and foremost, to speak directly to regular people in public places mostly like president and the general public.

According to researcher Sárosi-Márdirosz, this language has three main jobs:  
**Expressive function:** It helps politicians clearly show their real goals and what they are actually trying to achieve with different words and keep audience closer to them.

**Objective function:** This is about logic and arguments. It is used to influence how people think and feel, eventually steering their behavior in a specific direction.

**Symbolic function:** This is the use of strong words, metaphors, and symbols that everyone in a society understands, which help bring out shared emotions and values.[5]

#### Features of Political Language

Political texts and speeches not just used to describe facts. Instead, it is a language designed for special aim whether to make things happen, influence people or call to act. When we look at political texts, we can see that they usually focus persuasion and reasoning. It is mainly changing the way how people feel, think or act.

First, they name a problem and convince that this issue directly affects their lives. After the audience is worried or excited, they present their ideas as the logical solution. They mix facts with emotions like fear, hope, pride not only just showing statistics because with the help of emotions are what truly influence people.



#### Translation Difficulties

To analyze the challenges encountered by translators, this study adopts the four part classification by Christiane Nord[6]:

| Problem category       | Description   | Solutions   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Linguistic Problems | Differences in grammatical systems, structural complexity, and the use of long sentences. | Use of specialized dictionaries, parallel text corpora and grammatical restricting. |



|                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 2. Cultural Problems       | Culture-specific idioms, metaphors, and historical references that do not exist in target language. | Descriptive translation or finding direct equivalent.                        |
| 3. Pragmatic Problems      | Contextual shifts involving time, place, institutional names.                                       | Functional substitution; anchoring the text in the target culture's reality. |
| 4. Text- Specific Problems | Challenges unique to a single text, such as a speaker's style.                                      | Stylistic modulation   |

### Practical Analysis with Examples

To understand how these theoretical challenges look in reality, better to analyze them with extracts from American political discourse. Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Fireside Chat" (1933) Block 1: Explaining the Problem: In the opening part of the speech, Roosevelt explains complex banking processes in simple language so that ordinary citizens can understand the situation. Source Text: *couched for the most part in banking and legal terms should be explained for the benefit of the average citizen... In other words, the bank puts your money to work to keep the wheels of industry and of agriculture turning around.*[7,8] Target Text: в основном изложенные в банковской и юридической терминологии, должны быть разъяснены для пользы рядового гражданина Другими словами, банк заставляет ваши деньги работать, поддерживая функционирование промышленности и сельского хозяйства.

Analysis:

The word "couched" is translated as «изложенные», which makes the sentence clear and easy to understand. Despite the fact that the figurative meaning of the original word is reduced, the main idea remains unchanged. However, the phrase "keep the wheels of industry and of agriculture turning around" is translated as «поддерживая функционирование промышленности и сельского хозяйства». While the meaning is accurately conveyed, the image of moving wheels is lost in the Russian version.

Block 2: What Went Wrong- In this section, Roosevelt explains the reasons for the banking crisis and describes the public panic that made the situation worse. Source Text: *there was a general rush by a large portion of our population to turn bank deposits into currency or gold. A rush so great that the soundest banks could not get enough currency to meet the demand... WE do not want and will not have another epidemic of bank failures.*[7] Target Text: значительная часть населения бросилась обменивать банковские депозиты на наличные деньги или золото. Эта попытка была настолько масштабной, что даже самые надёжные банки не смогли получить достаточное количество валюты для удовлетворения спроса... Мы не хотим и не допустим новой эпидемии банкротств.

Analysis:

Later, the translator uses the phrase «эта попытка» instead of repeating the same word. This helps avoid repetition, although it slightly weakens the sense of mass panic expressed in the original text.

Block 3: The Solution -In the final part of the speech, Roosevelt presents a solution to the crisis and encourages people to trust the banking system again. Source Text: *I can assure you that it is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress... the phantom of fear will soon be laid Together we cannot fail.*[7,10] Target Text: могу вас заверить, что хранить деньги в вновь открывшемся банке безопаснее, чем под матрасом... призрак страха скоро исчезнет... Вместе мы не можем потерпеть неудачу.



#### Analysis:

The expression "under the mattress" is translated literally as «под матрасом». This choice preserves the everyday image used by Roosevelt and helps maintain the informal and conversational style of the speech. The final sentence, "Together we cannot fail", is translated as «Вместе мы не можем потерпеть неудачу». The translation stays close to the original text and preserves its encouraging and persuasive message.

#### CONCLUSION

This paper has shown that translating a political speech is more than simply translating words from one language into another. The analysis of Franklin D.

Roosevelt's Fireside Chat demonstrates how the speech is organized around three main stages: presenting the problem, explaining the causes of the crisis, and offering a solution. One of the main difficulties in translating this speech is Roosevelt's use of different language styles. He combines metaphors such as "the phantom of fear" with simple everyday expressions like "under the mattress" in order to explain complex economic issues to ordinary people. The analysis shows that a successful translation should preserve not only the meaning of the original text but also its tone and style. If simple expressions are replaced with overly formal or technical language, the speech may lose some of its persuasive power. Therefore, it is important to maintain the clear, direct, and conversational style of the original speech.

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