

## THE ROLE AND PERSONAL MASTERY OF THE TRANSLATOR

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**Abstract.** This article examines the translator's professional role and personal mastery in the process of translation. The translator is not only a linguistic mediator but also an intellectual and creative figure who ensures the accurate and artistic transfer of meaning between cultures. The study discusses the translator's linguistic competence, cultural awareness, ethical responsibility, and creative skills as key components of personal mastery. The results indicate that translation requires not only knowledge but also intuition, empathy, and aesthetic sensitivity, making the translator a bridge between nations and a creator of intercultural understanding.

**Keywords:** translator, personal mastery, linguistic competence, cultural awareness, translation ethics, creativity.

### INTRODUCTION

In the modern era of globalization, translation has become one of the most vital means of communication between nations. Translators are the invisible architects of international understanding, making literature, science, politics, and culture accessible beyond linguistic boundaries. However, the success of translation largely depends on the translator's personal mastery — their knowledge, ethics, creativity, and psychological preparedness.

According to Peter Newmark [2], translation is not only a linguistic act but also an act of interpretation and re-creation. This means that every translator must possess both professional skills and artistic sensitivity. Without personal mastery — the harmony of intellectual, emotional, and moral qualities — even a linguistically correct translation may lose its soul and aesthetic power.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to define the translator's role as a cultural mediator and to analyze the elements of personal mastery that determine the quality and impact of translation.

### RESEARCH ANALYSES

The importance of the translator's personal mastery has been emphasized by many scholars. Eugene Nida [1] introduced the concept of dynamic equivalence, which requires translators to evoke the same emotional response in target readers as in the original audience. This, however, demands not only linguistic accuracy but also deep empathy and creative imagination.

Susan Bassnett [3] argues that translation is a process of negotiation between cultures; thus, the translator must be culturally sensitive, knowledgeable about historical and social contexts, and capable of interpreting meaning beyond words. Similarly, Lawrence Venuti [4] calls for the translator's "visibility," highlighting that every translation bears the stylistic and ethical imprint of its author.

In Uzbek translation studies, Sh. Zakirov [7] and N. Abduvohidova [8] underline that a translator's personal mastery — including linguistic intuition, stylistic awareness, and responsibility — forms the foundation of high-quality translation. They argue that an ideal translator combines the precision of a linguist with the imagination of an artist.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employs comparative, analytical, and descriptive methods: The comparative method explores how Western and Uzbek scholars define translator competence and mastery; The analytical method examines the core elements of personal mastery, such as linguistic competence, cultural literacy, ethical awareness, and creative thinking; The descriptive approach identifies real examples from literary translation that illustrate how a translator's personal skills affect the success of a translated text. This multi-method approach allows for a holistic understanding of the translator's role as both a professional and a creative individual.

### ANALYSES AND RESULTS

**Linguistic Competence as the Foundation of Mastery.** A translator must have a deep command of both source and target languages — their grammar, syntax, idioms, and stylistic nuances. As J.C. Catford [6] noted, translation equivalence depends on the translator's ability to recognize subtle meaning shifts. Without linguistic precision, even the best cultural interpretation may fail.

**Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity.** Translation is impossible without cultural understanding. A word or phrase may have different connotations across societies. Therefore, personal mastery involves cultural empathy — the ability to sense and respect cultural differences while maintaining fidelity to the original. The translator becomes a mediator of civilizations, ensuring intercultural harmony.

**Ethical and Emotional Responsibility.** Ethics is another vital aspect of mastery. Translators must respect the author's intent, avoid distortion, and preserve the integrity of the text. Moreover, emotional intelligence helps the translator to sense the tone, irony, and emotion behind words — qualities that cannot be learned from dictionaries alone.

**Creativity and Aesthetic Intuition.** Translation is an art. As Mona Baker [5] observed, translators must make countless micro-decisions, choosing words that convey both meaning and beauty. Personal creativity allows translators to re-create the

artistic essence of the source while adapting it naturally to the target language. This creative re-expression defines true mastery.

**The Translator's Personality and Continuous Development.** Personal mastery is not innate — it grows through experience, education, and self-discipline. Translators must constantly expand their knowledge, read widely, and stay updated with linguistic and cultural trends. A true translator is a lifelong learner who refines both professional competence and personal character.

### **CONCLUSION**

The translator's role extends beyond linguistic mediation; it embodies intellectual, cultural, and ethical dimensions. Personal mastery — comprising linguistic competence, cultural awareness, ethical integrity, and creativity — determines the translator's success and contribution to intercultural communication.

Translation is both a science and an art, requiring precision and imagination, fidelity and freedom. The translator's mastery ensures that knowledge, literature, and culture can travel across borders while retaining their meaning and beauty. Hence, the translator stands not only as a professional communicator but as a guardian of cultural dialogue and a creator of mutual understanding among nations.

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