

GERUNDS IN TRANSLATING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TEXTS

Saliyeva Zarrina Ilxomovna

PhD, associate professor of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Ahrorova Sevara

Master degree student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Kadirova Gulnoza

Master degree student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Abstract— The translation of scientific and technical texts poses unique challenges, requiring not only linguistic fluency but also a deep understanding of complex subject matter. Among the linguistic tools employed in this endeavor, gerunds stand out as crucial elements facilitating accurate and effective communication. This article explores the pivotal role of gerunds in the translation of scientific and technical texts, elucidating their multifaceted functions and inherent challenges. In scientific and technical contexts, where precision and clarity are paramount, the judicious use of gerunds enables translators to convey intricate scientific phenomena and elaborate technical procedures with fidelity to the source text.

Keywords— Translation, scientific, technical, gerunds, processes, methodologies, causal relationships.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Scientific and technical texts often present complex concepts and processes that require precise and clear translation” [Newmark P., 9, 1988]. Among the various linguistic tools available to translators, gerunds stand out as indispensable elements for effectively conveying the continuous actions, processes, and methodologies inherent in these texts. This article explores the role of gerunds in translating scientific and technical materials, offering insights, examples, and references for translators and language enthusiasts alike. “In the realm of translation, particularly within the domain of scientific and technical texts, the significance of gerunds cannot be overstated. Gerunds play a crucial role in conveying complex ideas, processes, and actions in a concise and efficient manner. Understanding their usage and nuances is essential for accurate and effective translation in this specialized field” [Malmkar K., 5, 1998].

2. MAIN PART

“Understanding Gerunds: A gerund is a verb form ending in “-ing” that functions as a noun, indicating an action or state. In scientific and technical texts, gerunds are ubiquitous, primarily because they succinctly encapsulate ongoing processes, actions, and concepts” [Nida E., 16, 2003]. Their versatility allows translators to convey complex scientific ideas with precision and clarity.

In the realm of translating scientific and technical texts, the utilization of gerunds emerges as an indispensable tool for effectively conveying complex concepts and processes. Through a comprehensive examination of the role of gerunds in translation, it becomes evident that these linguistic constructs play a pivotal role in facilitating accurate and precise renditions of scientific materials.

Besides that, a gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun, typically ending in “-ing.” In English, gerunds are used to denote ongoing actions or processes. For example, in the sentence “Swimming is good exercise,” “swimming” acts as a gerund, representing the activity of swimming as a noun.

Role of Gerunds in Scientific and Technical Texts. Gerunds play a multifaceted role in translating scientific and technical texts, aiding in the accurate representation of ongoing processes, methodologies, and causal relationships. Here are some key functions of gerunds in this context:

Describing Ongoing Processes. Gerunds effectively capture continuous actions or processes in scientific texts. For instance:

“Studying the effects of gravity on plant growth requires meticulous experimentation”.

Translated Sentence:

"Gravitatsiyaning o'simlik o'sishiga ta'sirini o'rganish sinchkovlik bilan tajriba o'tkazishni talab qiladi".

The translation method used in the provided example is known as “gerundial construction.” This method involves translating the gerund form in English into the corresponding gerund form in the target language. In this case, the English gerund “studying” is translated into the Uzbek gerund “o’rganish,” which effectively captures the ongoing action or process in both languages.

Original English Sentence:

“Evaluating the effectiveness of water purification techniques requires comprehensive laboratory testing.” [Chen H., et al.8, (2018)].

“Suvni tozalash texnikasi samaradorligini baholash keng qamrovli laboratoriya sinovlarini talab qiladi”.

In this example, we are using “gerundial construction” method of translation as the gerund "studying" encapsulates the continuous action of investigating the effects of gravity, facilitating a clear and precise translation.

This method involves translating the gerund form in English into the corresponding gerund form in the target language. Here, the English gerund "evaluating" is translated into the Uzbek gerund "baholash" which effectively captures the ongoing action or process in both languages.

Expressing Methodologies and Procedures. Gerunds are instrumental in describing the methodologies and procedures employed in scientific research. Consider the following example:

"Characterizing the chemical composition of the compound involves spectroscopic analysis."

Translated Sentence:

"Murakkab bo'lgan kimyoviy tarkibini tavsiflash spektroskopik tahlilni o'z ichiga oladi"

"Analyzing the data using statistical methods revealed significant correlations." [Journal of Biostatistics, 6, 123-135].

Translated Sentence:

"Statistik usullar yordamida ma'lumotlarni tahlil qilish muhim korrelyatsiyalarni aniqladi".

Here, the gerund "characterizing" conveys the methodology of analyzing the chemical composition, ensuring an accurate translation of the scientific process.

The translated sentence is translated by means of a direct translation method from English to Uzbek using a rule-based or word-for-word translation approach. In this method, each word or phrase in the source language (English) is translated into the target language (Uzbek) without considering the overall structure or idiomatic expressions. This approach often results in translations that may lack fluency or naturalness in the target language. Each word in the English sentence appears to have a direct equivalent in the Uzbek translation without much alteration. While this approach can provide a basic understanding of the content, it may not capture nuances or idiomatic expressions present in the source text. Additionally, it may not always produce the most natural or fluent translation in the target language.

Illustrating Causality and Relationships. Gerunds help convey causal relationships between different elements in scientific texts. For example:

"Understanding genetic mutations requires studying DNA replication mechanisms"

Translated Sentence:

"Genetik mutatsiyalarni tushunish DNK replikasiya mexanizmlarini o'rganishni talab qiladi"

"Investigating the impact of urbanization on air quality requires long-term monitoring." [Li, Y., et al. (2020)].

Translated Sentence:

“Urbanizatsiyaning havo sifatiga ta'sirini o'rganish uzoq muddatli monitoringni talab qiladi."

In this example, a combination of direct translation and adaptation method of translation is used to convey the meaning in Uzbek while maintaining naturalness and fluency to some extent. Let's break down the differences:

Direct Translation: The translation follows a direct translation approach, as seen in phrases like "Urbanizatsiyaning havo sifatiga ta'sirini o'rganish" which directly translates to "Investigating the impact of urbanization on air quality"

Adaptation for Fluency. The translation also seems to adapt the structure and wording to ensure fluency and naturalness in Uzbek. For example, the phrase "requires long-term monitoring" is translated as "uzoq muddatli monitoringni talab qiladi." While the direct translation of "long-term monitoring" could be "uzoq muddatli monitoring," the addition of "talab qiladi" (requires) makes the sentence more complete and grammatically correct in Uzbek. The translation method used in this example combines direct translation with adaptation for fluency, aiming to convey the meaning accurately while ensuring the sentence flows naturally in Uzbek. This approach is common in translation when maintaining both accuracy and readability in the target language is important.

In this instance, the gerund "studying" elucidates the causal relationship between understanding genetic mutations and investigating DNA replication mechanisms.

However, it is essential to note that the usage of gerunds in translation requires careful attention to context and linguistic nuances. While gerunds are prevalent in English scientific discourse, other languages may employ different grammatical structures to convey similar concepts. Translators must possess a deep understanding of both source and target languages to effectively utilize gerunds in translation.

Moreover, the examples presented in this article underscore the efficacy of gerunds in conveying scientific and technical content while maintaining clarity and precision in translation. Whether describing ongoing research endeavors, elucidating experimental procedures, or delineating cause-and-effect relationships, gerunds provide translators with a versatile means of effectively communicating complex ideas.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the utilization of gerunds in translating scientific and technical texts represents a vital aspect of the translation process. Translators must recognize the nuanced role of gerunds and employ them judiciously to ensure the accurate and faithful rendition of scientific knowledge. By leveraging the inherent strengths of gerunds, translators can bridge linguistic barriers and facilitate the dissemination of scientific insights on a global scale.

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