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PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING ORIYA LITERATURE TO ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with the problems in translating literary prose and reveals some pertinent solutions and also concentrates on the need to expand the perimeters of Translation Studies.

Translation is an effort of finding equivalent meaning of a text into the second language. We emphasis meaning equivalence since in translation meaning is the object to be rendered from the source language text into the target language text. In this case, translator is faced with a text as units of meaning in the form of sets of words or sentences.

Meaning is classified into two kinds, referential meaning and connotative meaning. A translator must be aware of which meaning is possibly intended by the author. Besides, it should also be paid attention on the components embedded in a certain unit of meaning. By understanding the components of meaning of the source language expressions a translator can make the best decision related to the components

Key Words: Problems in translation, second language, source language, target language, referential meaning, connotative meaning.

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INTRODUCTION

Translation is a type of literary creativeness where the written-work of one language is re-created in another. It is an inherent idea that the translation of poetry is very problematic, yet we have to agree that the translators also have to face lots of difficulties when it comes to translating prose.

However, when the source and target languages belong to different cultural groups, the first problem faced by the prose-translator is finding terms in his/her own language that express the highest level of faithfulness possible to the meaning of certain words. For example, there are some words that are related to typical costumes, teasing, and puns which represent a specific culture and the translator should be very careful in translating such words. A literary translator must also be skilled enough to translate feelings, cultural nuances, humor and other delicate elements of a piece of work. In fact, the translators do not translate

meanings but the messages. That is why, the text must be considered in its totality. The 'trans-expression' of the life incarcerated in the framework of imagery of the work being translated.

What is translation?

Plainly, the word "translation derives from the Latin *translatio* (which itself comes from *trans-* and *fero*, the supine form of which is *latum*, together meaning 'to carry across' or 'to bring across')" (Kasperek, 1983: 83). It "began only after the appearance of written literature" (Cohen, 1986: 12). It is the "communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text" (Bhatia, 1992: 1,051). In brief, to translate is to pour meaning from one vessel to another one that is equivalent to the first.

Octavio Paz (1971) explains Translation Studies saying that all texts are 'translations of translation of translations' as they are element of a literary system that not only slid down from other systems but also are connected with them. Every text is unique and, at the same time, it is the translation of another text. No text is entirely original because language itself, in its essence, is already a translation: firstly, of the non-verbal world and secondly, since every sign and every phrase is the translation of another sign and another phrase. However, this argument can be turned around without losing any of its validity: all texts are original because every translation is distinctive. Every translation, up to a certain point, is an invention and as such it constitutes a unique text. (p. 9) Walter Benjamin (1996) presents the idea that a translation does not indicate an original text, it has no relationship with communication, its purpose is not to carry meaning, etc. The work of writing does not merely imitate or copy, but rather strives to extract and convey the essence of the previous text. One of the most prominent definitions of translation is stated by Newmark (1988: 5) who defines translation as "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text". This definition stresses on rendering meaning of the source language text into the target language text as what is intended by the author.

Hatim and Munday (2004: 6) define translation as "the process of transferring a written text from source language (SL) to target language (TL)". In this definition they do not explicitly express that the object being transferred is meaning or message. They emphasis on translation as a process.

Nida and Taber (1982: 12), on the other hand, state that "translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message". This definition is more comprehensive than the previous ones. Nida and Taber explicitly state that translation is closely related to the problems of languages, meaning, and equivalence.

Literature Review

European Journal of Aging in one of its article named "Language difference in qualitative research: is meaning lost in translation" discussed challenges of language differences in qualitative research, when participants and the main researcher have the same non-English native language and the non-English data lead to an English publication.

BOGUSIA TEMPLE AND ALYS YOUNG's "Qualitative research and translation dilemmas" focused on the examination of translation dilemmas in qualitative research. Specifically it explored three questions: whether methodologically it matters if the act of translation is identified or not; the epistemological implications of who does translation; and the consequences for the final product of how far the researcher chooses to involve a translator in research.

Krishna Regmi's "Understanding the Processes of Translation and Transliteration in Qualitative Research" aimed to discuss and explore some of the key processes and concepts involved in conducting translation and transliteration of qualitative research.

Problems in translation:

Translation is a challenging activity and there are few difficulties that emerge throughout the translation process since every language portrays the world in diverse way and has its own grammar structure, grammar rules and syntax variance. The difficulty in translation just lies in the fact that both the content and the style are already existent in the original and as a result, you will have to do your best to reproduce them as they are in quite a different language. (p. 7)

No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached.

Catford (1965) opines that the central problem of translation practice is that of finding T.L (target language) equivalents. A central task of translation theory is therefore that of defining the nature and conditions of translation equivalence. (p. 21)

Every culture has its linguistic units such as morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, idioms and proverbs. When the translator searches for the equivalence between the culture of the original language and the target language sometimes it becomes damaging or irrelevant.

Unfortunately, many prose-translators fail to understand that a literary text is a combination of a complex set of systems that exist in a dialectical relationship with other sets outside its boundaries; this kind of failure has regularly led them to concentrate on particular parts of a text at the cost of others. It seems to be easier for the (careless) prose-translator to consider *content* as *separable* from *form*.

Factors influencing the quality of translation

The quality of translation depends on a number of factors, some of which, as Phillips (1960:290) says, may be beyond the researcher's control. In those cases where the researcher and the translator are the same person the quality of translation is influenced by factors such as: the autobiography of the researcher-translator; the researcher's knowledge of the language and the culture of the people under study; and the researcher's fluency in the language of the write-up. When the researcher and the translator are not the same person, the quality of translation is influenced mainly by three factors: the competence, the autobiography and what Temple (1997:610) calls 'the material circumstances' of the translator, that is the position the translator holds in relation to the researcher.

CONCLUSION

When collecting data in one language and presenting the findings in another, researchers have to make a number of translation-related decisions. Words which exist in one language but not in another, concepts which are not equivalent in different cultures, idiomatic expressions and/or differences among languages in grammatical and syntactical structures are issues which call for very specific decisions. These decisions along with factors such as, for example, who the researcher or her translators are and what they 'know' have a direct impact on the quality of the findings of the research and the resulting reports.

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