



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol. 8. Issue.1. 2021 (Jan-Mar.)

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF PROCEDURES AND STRATEGIES IN THE
TRANSLATION OF AFRICAN FEMINIST DISCOURSE IN WEREWERE LIKING'S
THE AMPUTATED MEMORY

Tanyitiku Enaka Agbor Bayee, PhD

Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters
University of Buea, Cameroon



Article information

Received:20/1/2021
Accepted: 22/2/2021
Published online:2/3/2021
doi: [10.33329/ijelr.8.1.120](https://doi.org/10.33329/ijelr.8.1.120)

ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the procedures and strategies in the translation of African feminist discourse in Werewere Liking's *La Mémoire amputée* (translated into English as *The Amputated Memory*). It draws from Itang Ekpe's (2015) comparative analysis of the translation of Mariama Bâ's two novels – *Une si longue lettre* (1980) and *Un chant écarlarte* (1981). Gynocriticism (an analytical tool of Écriture Féminine Theory), Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) are applied to fifteen (15) excerpts to identify and interpret feminist discourse elements in the text. Moreover, some (but not all) of the steps of Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) are applied to the selected utterances to identify, describe and evaluate the comprehension strategies (literary and feminist theories) as well as the reformulation strategies (micro and macro translation strategies) applied to render feminist discourse into the target language. DTS is also applied to comment on the effects of these (comprehension and transfer) strategies on the translations, and to identify the possible constraints which conditioned the translator's choice of strategies. The findings reveal that for ST feminist criticism, the translator uses Écriture Féminine theory (80%) and Gynocriticism (60%) for comprehension. She reformulates using literal translation (73.33%) as the micro strategy, foreignisation (93.33%) as the macro strategy and deconstruction (93.33%) as the translation theory. Furthermore, text-driven and translator-related constraints condition the above-mentioned choices. The results of the study, therefore, validate Itang Ekpe's (2015) assertion that literal translation is the most suitable strategy for translating African feminist discourse.

Keywords: Feminist Discourse, Écriture Féminine, Gynocriticism, Feminist Critical Discourse, Literal Translation,

Introduction

Ahikire (2006: 7-23) asserts that African feminist discourse is a boiling pot of diverse discourses. It is not only constructed in opposition to Western feminism, but constitutes heterogeneous experiences and points of departure. Moreover, African feminist discourse is shaped by African women's resistance to Western hegemony.

Debates about essentialism, the female body and radical feminist ideologies are not characteristic of African feminist discourse. It is heterosexual, pro-natal and concerned with culture, empowerment and survival.

Furthermore, African feminist discourse portrays African women as self-reliant and knowledgeable. It makes the important connection between knowledge, consciousness and the politics of empowerment. Afrocentric feminist ideology recounts African women's experiences as blood mothers, other mothers and community mothers. Women's actions in group survival are underscored while the general ideology of domination is rejected. African feminist discourse recognises three levels of women's oppression, namely at the level of personal biography, group or community level and systemic or socio-institutional level.

Itang Ekpe (2015) investigates the translation of African feminist discourse by carrying out a comparative analysis of the translation of Mariama Bâ's two novels – *Une si longue lettre* (1980) and *Un chant écarlate* (1981). The aim of the study is to explore the approaches applied to the translation of African feminism in the two texts, both of which shed light on the different forms of women's oppression in African tradition and within the typical patriarchal post-colonial African society. In fact, the main thrust of Itang Ekpe's work is to investigate fidelity and equivalence in the translation of African feminism. Furthermore, she aims to draw conclusions about the translator's (in)visibility in translating the feminist text.

In other words, Itang Ekpe (ibid) seeks to explore the approaches to feminist translation and how they impinge on the translation of both novels. Hence, she investigates specific aspects of translation such as fidelity and equivalence from a feminist perspective, and at the same time attempts to answer the question as to whether the feminist translator should remain "invisible" or he/she should be seen. The researcher uses bilingual source and target text corpora to evaluate the strategies used to carry feminist discourse from the source text to the target language. Toury's (1985) Descriptive Translation Studies framework is applied for macro and micro-textual analyses, and the conclusion drawn purports that amongst all the translation strategies used, the translator mostly resorts to literal/word-for-word translation in rendering feminist discourse into the target text. This strategy is prioritised because the translator chooses to preserve the African aesthetic essence of the source text in the transfer of feminist discourse from the source to the target language. The conclusion thus holds that literal translation is the most suitable strategy for translating African feminism, for it causes the target text to retain some of the local colour of the original translation.

It is based on the above that this study seeks to further explore Itang Ekpe's claim that African feminist discourse is best when rendered using literal translation strategy, given that it is the strategy which best preserves the aesthetic quality of the source text. Thus, Wodak & Meyer's (2001) Critical Discourse Analysis and Von Flotow's (1991) Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis are used for source and target text analyses while Toury's (1985) Descriptive Translation Studies framework is used to identify, describe and evaluate the rendering of fifteen (15) selected excerpts.

It is necessary to disambiguate the terms strategies and procedures as used in this paper. Procedure refers to operational norms which guide the selection of different strategies used by the translators to render feminist discourse from the source to the target text. The term translation procedure is often used interchangeably with corresponding terms such as strategy, technique, method and tactic (Hervey, Loughridge & Higgins 2006). In this paper, strategy refers to the translator's problem-solving, decision-making, general principles and preferred modes of action, both at the macro and micro textual levels (Jääskeläinen 1993: 116).

From the foregoing, therefore, the components of the data analysis grid applied in this paper, which are adapted and modified from Wanchia (2017), are explained on the diagram below:

1	Element of Interest: foregrounds the ST excerpt under scrutiny and provides its coded source.
2	Context of Production: context of situation of ST excerpt – which provides the answer to the how, who, what and when of the utterance. In other words, it is the field, mode and tenor of the discourse.

3	Critical Discourse Analysis of the ST Excerpt: describes the excerpt in terms of the author's ideology and explains the deeper meaning or ideological reading of excerpt.
4	Feminist Discourse Rhetorical Device: this is the starting point for analysing and discussing the SLT, which reveal authors' utterances as feminist discourse. Stylistic analysis enables the identification of patterns of usage of rhetorical devices to identify and comment on elements of feminist discourse in the SL utterance. This is done by foregrounding figures of speech or stylistic/rhetorical devices which give the utterance an auxiliary meaning. Literary/rhetorical devices here denote the literary constituents (style) of the SL excerpt which can describe how the writer uses language to uphold feminist discourse, such as how word choices (diction), figurative language (metaphors) and sentence arrangement and structures (syntax) all work together to establish mood and images which give meaning to feminist discourse within the utterance.
5	Justification of Feminist Discourse: refers to the critical reading of the ST utterance to identify the features in an excerpt which qualify it as feminist discourse.
6	Target Text: the English translation of the ST excerpt and coded source.
7	Translation Strategy: refers to feminist, literary and translation theories applied to carry out a critical reading of the ST and produce the TT. These methods include literary theory and criticism frameworks (i.e.: ST comprehension strategies); translation theories (i.e.: TT production strategies); macro strategies (i.e.: global translation strategies/decisions which condition the translation strategies); micro strategies (i.e.: local translation strategies/decisions at personal level taken by the translator); and meta-textual strategies (extra-textual information which enhances text understanding).
8	Descriptive Assessment Of Translation Strategy: refers to the assessment of the TT and effectiveness of translation strategy, overall consequence of the theoretical approaches and micro/macro strategies on the rendering (the aim here is analyse if the translation replicates the ST author's intention or not). The terminology used for this assessment is adapted from Toury's (1985) description of norms, where "adequacy" refers to translation done using strategies judged to be enough and satisfactory for the purpose they are used to achieve while "acceptability" is used to describe a pragmatic outcome of a strategy that is not the best, but not the worst either, given that the choice is made under pressure of constraints. Also, the overall assessment of the method is derived from Chesterman's (1997) taxonomy for assessing pragmatic translation strategies.
9	Possible Translation Constraints: refer to textual, linguistic, extra-linguistic and/or intrinsic/extrinsic factors which inhibit the translation process by restricting and/or laying down the translators' choices/decisions and/or limiting their alternatives in terms of the micro and macro strategies used.

In summary, the analysis below can be divided into four levels, namely:

- Identification of African feminist discourse elements (1 and 2);
- Description of elements of interest (3, 4 and 5);
- Evaluation of the translation strategies (6, 7 and 8);
- Justification of findings about the translation strategies (9).

Excerpt 1.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Et plaindre plutôt que blâmer, tous ces pères qui pour nier leur échec, se haïssent à travers leurs descendants. Et finissent, tels des faux témoins, par avilir même leurs enfants allant jusqu'à les tuer pour survivre et boire leur honte jusqu'à la lie. L'enfer d'une sale petite vie sans âme et sans but (MA : 24).			
2	Context of production	The protagonist is pondering over the wicked ways of her genitor.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	All fathers who see their frustration and ineptitude through the eyes of their children to the point of dehumanising them should be pitied and not judged and condemned.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Through the use of euphemism, figurative language is used to bring out feminist discourse in the ST, which effectively paints a very negative image of the father as intended by the author.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Mainstream feminist ideology is applied to challenge gender-based violence and identifies men (fathers) as perpetrators of violence against women (daughters).			
6	Target text excerpt	Lament rather than blame all the fathers who, by wanting to deny their failure, through their offspring loath themselves. And like perjurers, end up demeaning even their own children. May even stoop to killing them just to survive, drinking their cup of shame down to the dregs. One hell of a dirty little life that has no soul that has no goal (AM: 12).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
			Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable	
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The rendering is free-flowing and respects target system linguistic norms; however, the transfer of the SLT metaphorical style results in an "exoticised" TT, which results in cultural alienation of TL readers. The outcome is a partial translation because the translation effect fails to align with source text author's intention. The transfer of culturally loaded metaphors fails to assist T readers' understanding. The method used to carry feminist discourse over from the SLT to the TLT is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Due to text-driven factors , the translator faced difficulties in reproducing the author's style.			

Excerpt 2.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Ils y travaillent tous, les hommes à planter et à entretenir des champs de cacao, de café ou de palmier à huile, les femmes et les enfants pour cultiver les plantes vivrières pour nourrir la famille (MA : 28).			
2	Context of production	The protagonist is describing the discriminatory gendered distribution of cash crop and food crop production in Massèbè.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Only men are involved in cash crop production; hence, they alone have access to, and control over financial resources, which renders women as powerless as children.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	By resorting to antiphrasis, the ST author uses irony juxtapose binary opposites – cash crops for men, food crops for women and children – to bring out gender discrimination by depicting the unfair distribution of resources.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Here, reformist feminist ideology challenges patriarchy which maintains the status quo of women's powerlessness through the inequitable distribution of financial resources.			
6	Target text excerpt	The men do the planting and take care of the cocoa, coffee, or palm oil groves, while the women and children cultivate the food crops that feed the family (AM: 16).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Sociological Criticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Faithful translation	
			Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable	
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The problem of unbalanced resource democracy is replicated in the TLT. Hence an ideological void is not created for the TLT reader who understands the utterance from both its face value and deeper meaning in line with the SLT author's intention to challenge the status quo and women's oppression in the traditional African society. The outcome is total translation , because by resorting to Literal translation, the translator remains truthful to target system linguistic norms, while the SLT author's ideology is reproduced in terms of its inferred contextual meaning; stylistically, the rendering is in tandem with the author's ideology. Hence, the transfer of feminist discourse and, consequently, the author's ideology into the TLT is adequate .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable.			

Excerpt 3

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Je deviens mécontente de n'être pas homme. Un homme, c'est celui qui est libre. Il parait, décide, commande et les femmes et les enfants, ce sont ceux qui obéissent. Les femmes restent ici, les hommes partent (MA : 36).		
2	Context of production	Halla Njokè muses about her fathers' coming and going, and her brother's departure to the Pygmy village to undergo initiation and circumcision rites.		
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Men in traditional society are footloose and free to live as they please; women, like children, are tied down to the home and compelled to receive orders from men.		
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	The aim of parataxis is to express a simple train of feminist discourse by avoiding wordy or redundant descriptions and exposition, create a sense of urgency in the author's declaration and thrust readers directly into the former's experience.		
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Patriarchy is condemned as the cause of women's confinement and men's freedom through advocacy under reformist feminist ideology.		
6	Target text excerpt	I became unhappy about not being a man. A man is free. He shows up, makes decisions, gives orders, and women and children obey. The women stay, and the men leave (AM: 23).		
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Sociological Criticism	
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine	
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation
			Micro strategy	Literal translation
			Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The author's intent is to condemn the cultural restriction of women's freedom in the SL patriarchal culture. Both this intent and paratactic style are completely carried over into the TLT rendering. The outcome is total translation . The translator maintains source culture bias in the transfer of vital feminist discourse situational features. By the transferring of the ST author's intent, the translator underscores the discrimination in the utterance which holds that women are trained to be submissive and are walled in while men roam freely and lord over women. Hence, the transfer of feminist discourse semantic and text linguistic elements into the TLT is adequate .		
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable		

Excerpt 4.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Oui, une femme qui choisit de mener sa vie de foyer par exemple, a besoin d'un certain temps de construire, donner la vie à ses enfants et les élever jusqu'à en faire des hommes et des femmes (MA : 46).		
2	Context of production	Halla flashes back to lessons taught by her maternal grandmother, Grand Madja, about a woman's duty to nurture her children to be responsible in future.		
3	CDA of SLT	A committed and empowered woman should not only bear children; she must choose to stay at home, rear and nurture her children to become responsible adults.		
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	This turn of phrase through hypotaxis is used to produce a flat tone which creates a feeling of peace in the audience. It demonstrates that all the choices made by women are not equal. The choices are subordinated to and dependent on one another, as illustrated by the relationships of logic or cause-and-effect within and between related choices.		
5	Justification of feminist discourse	The author argues that the woman's vital role in <i>geneticem</i> (child bearing and rearing) is a choice, and not biologically ascribed, as purported in mainstream feminist discourse.		
6	Target text excerpt	Yes, a woman who chooses to live her life inside the home, for instance, needs a certain amount of time to build, give life to her children, and raise them to be men and women. (AM: 33)		
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism	
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine	
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation
			Micro strategy	Literal translation
			Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The method is faithful to source system norms, while the deeper meaning of the utterance is maintained for the TLT reader. The translation sufficiently underscores that it is both a woman's responsibility and her choice to play her motherhood role in the African context and mirrors the ST hypotactic style as well. ST surface meaning is maintained in the TL; moreover, feminist discourse is carried over for the TLT reader. The outcome is total translation . Hence, the translation strategy is adequate insofar as the transference of feminist discourse in the TLT is concerned.		
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable		

Excerpt 5.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Et en tant que femme et ainée, elle avait été éduquée à être ta seconde mère, a tout faire pour vous deux. C'est même à cause de toi qu'elle n'avait pas pu épouser l'homme qu'elle aimait: il n'avait pas compris qu'elle lui demande de venir vivre avec elle chez son père! (MA : 56)		
2	Context of production	Halla Njokè reflects on her Aunt Roz's destiny. As the eldest daughter, Roz is condemned not to marry.		
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Tradition sacrificed the first daughter's happiness at the altar of her younger brother's, for unless she finds a man who concedes to be her "female husband," such a woman will never marry, unless she is ready to betray her traditional duty to "mother" her brother.		
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Irony is used as a tool of satire to bring out feminist discourse. Though the declaration seems deceptively neutral, it carries a nuanced criticism of this cultural practice whereby daughters are expected to sacrifice their femininity for their brothers.		
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Reformist feminist ideology indicts imposed womanly sacrifice which forces women in traditional societies to forego their psychological wellbeing for their male siblings.		
6	Target text excerpt	As the eldest and a woman, Father, Aunt Roz had been raised to be your second mother, to do everything for the two of you. It was also because of you that she hadn't been able to marry the man she loved, because he had never understood why she'd asked him to come and live with her at her father's house (AM: 43).		
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Sociological criticism	
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine	
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation
			Micro strategy	Literal translation
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable			
8	Descriptive assessment of Translation procedure	Through the application of deconstruction, the SL contextual meaning is uncovered and the feminist discourse better elucidated for its subsequent relay to the TL reader. Both the face-value sense and deeper meaning of the utterance are transferred for target culture readers, resulting in a total translation . The presence of vital SL situational features ensures that the TL surface and implied meanings are understood by its readers. Hence, the rendering of feminist discourse in the TLT is adequate .		
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable.		

Excerpt 6.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Mon père, arbre immuablement planté dans le lit du fleuve ne bouge que pour répondre présent et résister à la force des flots. Mais une partie de lui s'est plantée en moi comme une rude racine vivante et vibre quelque part dans mon ventre (MA : 95).			
2	Context of production	Halla Njokè's gives a metaphoric description of her sexual violation by her father.			
3	CDA of SLT	A father brutally rapes his eleven-year-old daughter: the author struggles to find the right words to explain such an abomination to her audience.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Antiprosopoeia, a rhetorical device of metaphor, is used to compare a person to an inanimate object (tree) to capture nuances of a harrowing experience for which is not easy to convey to readers from any culture. This also creates strong, lasting images.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	As part of mainstream feminist agenda, the author condemns the perpetration of sexual violence and incest taboo by men on women.			
6	Target text excerpt	My father, a tree planted in the riverbed, does not move other than to keep himself in place and resist the force of the current. But some part of him is planted inside me like a hard living root and vibrates inside my belly (AM: 84).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Oblique translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The transfer of SL metaphor into the TL results in an ethno-deviant form which makes the TL rendering exotic. Since the TL rendering creates a semantic void for TLT reader because of use of resistant source culture metaphorical description of the rape incident, it is a partial translation . Also, due to the absence of relevant SL situational features which could have better enhanced the meaning of utterance for TL readers, the reproduction of feminist discourse in the TLT is acceptable			
9	Possible translation constraints	Due to translator-related factors engendered by cultural difference, the translator faced difficulties in finding equivalent TL gendered metaphor to render the symbolic images such as those skilfully applied to the SLT to express a shocking rape and incest taboo perpetrated by a father on his daughter.			

Excerpt 7

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Mon père négocie sa fille qui d'après lui « est tout pour lui », sans avoir seulement posé les conditions de son bien-être à elle. Il suffit qu'il reçoive une vieille voiture, une plantation et des maisons... (MA : 114)			
2	Context of production	Halla comments as her father (Njokè) barter her – without seeking her consent – to an old Swiss man for some property.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	A father, who should love and protect his daughter more than everything else, is ready to sell her to the highest bidder for material gain.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	The diction indicates the use of antiphrasis which brings out the connotative and irony in the situation. It is enhanced by quotation marks which foreground the feminist discourse element that resides in the situation being described.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	The author aligns with mainstream feminist ideology to reject women's subjugation through practices such as forced marriage, which underscore women's lack of voice.			
6	Target text excerpt	My father is bartering his daughter, whom he says, "is everything to him," without ever mentioning what the conditions for her welfare are. It's enough for him to acquire an old car, a plantation, some houses... (AM: 105)			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	Deconstruction brings out the contextual meaning of the utterance. Meanwhile, the use of literal translation highlights denotative sense the ideological statement which is implied, not overtly stated. Semantic relevance is created for the TLT reader because both the face-value sense and deeper meaning of the utterance are transferred, so is the underlying indictment of fathers in the African context who go as far as "bartering" their daughters for material gain. The result is total translation . Hence, ST meaning is rendered for the TL reader who understands the ideological context of a father selling his daughter. The rendering of SLT feminist discourse for TLT reader is adequate .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable.			

Excerpt 8.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Tu m'as dit que seule l'école des blancs libérerait les femmes noires parce qu'elles ne seraient plus obligées de se marier et de se soumettre à un homme par habitude (MA : 61).			
2	Context of production	Halla is musing about her father's advice to her, that only a Western education will free her from marginalisation.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Western education is the only key to the African woman's personal emancipation/empowerment.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	The ST author uses orality. The oral tone, a speech pattern here which is specific to speakers of African languages. This serves the purpose of transferring readers to the spatial (Africa) and temporal (1960s) context during which this statement was made by her father.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	The writer advocates for Western education as the only vehicle to African women's liberation and empowerment under mainstream feminist ideology.			
6	Target text excerpt	You told me that only the school of white people would liberate Black women, because then they wouldn't be compelled to marry and become submissive to a man out of habit (AM: 49).			
7	Translator's Method	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Oblique translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The literal rendering of « l'école des blancs » as " the school of white people " instead of "formal education" results in loss of meaning for TL reader, who is misled into thinking it is actually a school owned and run by white people that the author is referring to. The result is information change into an ethno-deviant form of the TT. As such, the effect on TL readers is their cultural distance from the rendering. Also, the idea of women's release from bondage through education is lost in translation for the TL reader. The method used to render the African feminist discourse embedded in this excerpt is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Translator-related factors give rise to cultural distance and differences in world view which constrain the rendering of this element.			

Excerpt 9.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Souvenez-vous, sinon de vos mères, au moins de vos tantes qui ont pu tuer le mal par le silence, et que vogue le futur (MA : 414).			
2	Context of production	The author is reaching out to all women, enjoining them to remember in writing, the histories of other women who have suffered all forms of discrimination in silence.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Female writers should write about women in the past who suffered in silence to bring change to women's lives, but who have unfortunately been confined in oblivion by male-centred accounts of history. However, this writing alone will not change the situation of women, for only fate determines what will happen in future.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Metaphor creates an idiomatic turn of phrase that is used to underscore the importance of women's collective memory to documenting women-centred accounts of their past experiences.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	In line with mainstream feminist ideology, the author highlights the role of women's collective memory as a tool to reconstruct the past which takes account of their womanly sacrifice.			
6	Target text excerpt	You must remember, if not your mother, then at least your aunts, who were able to kill evil with silence, and whatever will be will be... (AM: 425)			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Sociological Criticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Manipulation	
			Macro strategy	Domestication	
			Micro strategy	Dynamic equivalence	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
9	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The translator resorts to a TL fixed expression "whatever will be will be" to render SL turn of phrase « <i>que vogue le futur</i> » for the comfort and understanding of the TL reader. The result is cultural substitution of SL poetics for a relevant TL situational feature. Hence, ST feminist ideology and sense are maintained carried over to the TLC irrespective of cultural barriers. It is total translation . Thus, the translator's choice of method creates cultural relevance for the TT reader. The rendering of the underlying feminist discourse is adequate .			
	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable.			

Excerpt 10.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	A partir de ce funeste jour de flagellation et d'écartèlement, une sensation nouvelle s'est réveillée en moi avec une consistance quasi-charnelle : je l'ai nommée refus (MA : 259).		
2	Context of production	Halla Njokè vows never to be violated again after she is flogged by her perverted step-father.		
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	After bearing all forms of masculine iniquities in silence, there comes a fateful day when every oppressed woman rises up to object and by saying "never again," usually termed her day of "protest."		
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Diction, through the author's turn of phrase, establishes common ground with readers who also see the subject's determination to resist oppression from her step-father.		
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Mainstream feminist ideology in this utterance rejects violence; encourages rebellion and affirmation of a new consciousness against internalised oppression and, consequently, empowerment.		
6	Target text excerpt	From the cataclysmic day of being held down and whipped, a new sensation almost carnal in its consistency awakened in me. I named it refusal (AM: 259).		
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism	
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine	
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation
			Micro strategy	Literal translation
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable			
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The TL has a similar, if not identical, effect on its own readers as does the ST on the new set of receptors. There is total translation , given that the meaning of the utterance is explicit; the faithful strategy selected by the translator to render the TT is suitable for the transfer of feminist discourse to the TLT. Thus, the translation of the feminist stance of resistance against masculine oppression is adequate .		
9	Possible translation constraints	Not applicable.		

Excerpt 11.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Tu n’as pas eu d’enfants ma Tantie, et je sais ce que ça coute à une femme de ne pas avoir éclos sa fécondité: elle est condamnée à une solitude mortelle, a moins de créer de ses propres mains, avec l’argile de son propre cœur et l’eau de sa propre lympe, des milliers d’enfants là ou deux ou trois auraient largement suffi! (MA : 410)			
2	Context of production	Halla discusses about childlessness and the travails childless women go through with her (childless) Aunt Roz.			
3	FCDA of SLT excerpt	A childless woman in Africa is lonely, unless she finds other activities to fill the void created by her childlessness.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Metaphor is used in SL oral style, to express nuances of emotion which indicate the importance of fertility to a woman and consequently criticise her deprivation from experiencing such joy.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	Mainstream African feminism: highlights the importance of women’s roles as biological mothers in African culture.			
6	Target text excerpt	You, my auntie, had no children, and I know what it costs a woman not to nurture her fertility. She is doomed to mortal solitude unless she creates – with her own hands, the clay of her own heart, the water of her own lymph – thousands of children where two or three would have been more than ample (AM: 421).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Feminine		
		Translator’s approach	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
			Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable	
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	Loss of meaning is recorded. The translation strategy fails to convey African feminist discourse as embedded in the ST. That is, the importance of fertility and child bearing in African feminism, which is the main idea which underlies the utterance, is not transferred. The translation is partial because SL metaphors are carried into the TL. The rendering is exotic and engenders the cultural alienation of the TT reader due to the semantic void which is created for the TL reader. Thus, the method is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints				

Excerpt 12.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Je devais rompre le silence, arracher de ma mémoire individuelle quelques oublis dramatiques. Je devais secouer le silence sur des événements qu'on aurait dû relater, les considérant comme des faits d'expérience, sinon de jurisprudence, et obliger au moins les miens à se dire « plus jamais ça » ! (MA : 22)			
2	Context of production	Halla reflects about the importance of digging up some unpleasant happenings in her own past before she can do justice to Aunt Roz's unwritten history.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	To free herself from the stranglehold of the past, a woman must recount even the most unpleasant events in her past life. Finding closure for the past is the only way to a woman's self-definition Only then can she put up a resistance to ensure that such things happening to her again.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Through narrative, the writer's vocabulary here results in a dramatic style which conveys the author's determination to use past experiences as the basis for resisting oppression.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	In line with mainstream feminist ideology, the author advocates for empowerment through self-definition (i.e.: the movement from internalised oppression to a standpoint of consciousness and protest).			
6	Target text excerpt	I needed to break the silence myself, to wrench from my personal memory some harrowing secrets. I needed to shake loose the silences about experiences that should have been told, seeing them as facts of life if not test cases, and at least force my own people to say, "Never again!" (AM: 8).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The translation strategy engenders a semantic void created and thus a slight loss of meaning. That is, though the TLT rendering is linguistically acceptable, it is semantically a part-for-whole fallacy due to the use of SL metaphors to reiterate the importance of women's account of history to their subjectivity. The rendering of feminist discourse is thus acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Translator-related factors that are attributed to ideological differences between the author and translator.			

Excerpt 13.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Combien de fois certaines femmes se faisaient violer dans une vie? Combien de fois combien de Mères Naja se feraient-elles « tabasser » avant d'admettre qu'il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagnée? (MA : 261)			
2	Context of production	Mother Naja is beaten up, and then raped by her husband. Her daughter (Halla Njokè) wonders why some women will always accept victimisation without protesting.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Some women will accept all forms of violence and torture from their spouses simply because they think tradition and culture require women to bear all inequities in silence.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Conceptual metaphors are used to shape readers' thoughts by ascribing the identity of battered women to an archetypal character (Mother Naja) so as to map components of feminist discourse in the SLT.			
5	Feminist ideology	In tandem with mainstream feminist ideology, the author criticises physical and sexual violence against women.			
6	Target text excerpt	How many times in one lifetime are women raped? How many times and how many mother Najas are beaten up before admitting that it was better to be alone than in a bad partnership? (AM: 261).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Gynocriticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	Only the surface meaning of the utterance is rendered, to the detriment of the underlying phallic criticism it contains. It is thus a partial translation , because the translation strategy fails to bring out the author's indirect indictment of African women who endure violence without resistance. Thus, feminist discourse on phallic criticism in the text is not transferred: the method is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Translator-related factors created because of ideological differences between the author and translator.			

Excerpt 14.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Le patriotisme féminin comme socle de la nouvelle nation prôné par le Mpôdôl, nous avait séduits plus que l'amour des hommes et le désir de fonder des foyers (MA : 403).			
2	Context of production	For the first time ever, Aunt Roz discloses to Halla hers and Mother Dora's role in the independence struggle as close aides of the Mpôdôl.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	In the colonial era, the African woman's love for country and the desire to serve her fatherland by far superseded her love for her traditionally ascribed role as a wife and mother.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	The meaning of this feminist discourse element is framed through personification. Female patriotism is endowed with the ability to "seduce" the two women more than their traditional gender role expectations.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	The utterance advocates for women's self-definition through resistance against controlling images and the rejection of the dominant group's (men's) definition of women's roles as prescribed by mainstream feminist ideology.			
6	Target text excerpt	Women's patriotism would be the footing of the new nation... and it seduced us more than the love of a man and the desire to have a family (AM: 414).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Historical Criticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation approach	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Literal translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	Only the face-value sense of text is rendered in the TL. There is a slight loss of meaning, as the method fails to convey the true weight of such womanly sacrifice by African women who deliberately choose not to nurture their fertility and redefine themselves not as wives and/or mothers, but as nationalists and freedom fighters. Thus, it is partial translation since the method does not guarantee the transfer of vital implicit ST situational features. The transfer of feminist discourse into the TL is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Translator-related factors due to differences in ST and TT cultural predispositions give rise to ideological differences between the author and translator.			

Excerpt 15.

1	Element of interest (SLT)	Je ne vois d'autre issue que de reprendre mes études pour éviter d'être, un jour, abandonnée par ce vieux sous-préfet, au bénéfice des femmes instruites et fascinantes à la Mam Naja, aptes à se payer des amants, sans rien savoir-faire de leurs mains, et capable de déplacer leurs maris partout ou leur carrier à elles les appelle! (MA : 191)			
2	Context of production	Halla soliloquises that education is a woman's only way to self-actualisation.			
3	CDA of SLT excerpt	Education, besides being the way to women's empowerment, also has negative effects on the morality of some so-called empowered women.			
4	Feminist discourse rhetorical device	Rhetorical comparison is used to ascribe an identity to the typical unfaithful wife by making an indirect reference to Mam Naja, an archetypal fickle woman in the novel.			
5	Justification of feminist discourse	The author relies on the dicta of mainstream feminist ideology to defend women's individual empowerment and indicts the negative effects of empowerment.			
6	Target text excerpt	I see no other way out than picking up my studies again, to avoid being abandoned one day by the sub-prefect in favour of educated and fascinating women of the Mam Naja type, who are able to take lovers without knowing how to do anything with their hands, and are capable of getting a new husband in every city their careers send them (AM: 185).			
7	Translation strategy	Literary criticism	Sociological Criticism		
		Feminist theory	Écriture Féminine		
		Translation procedure	Translation theory	Deconstruction	
			Macro strategy	Foreignisation	
			Micro strategy	Oblique translation	
Meta-textual strategy	Not applicable				
8	Descriptive assessment of translation strategy	The main idea of continuing education is literally presented. The effect is an ethno-deviant form, because the TT does not carry the implied ST meaning of continuing education when " <i>reprendre mes études</i> " is rendered as "picking up my studies again." This results in partial translation given that the translation strategy is acceptable .			
9	Possible translation constraints	Habitue, which is difference in the way the translator perceives and reacts to the phenomenon referred to, conditioned the translation. Hence, it is a translator-related factor.			

Findings and Conclusion

From the data analysis, a number of conclusions can be drawn about the procedures and strategies in the translation of African feminist discourse in Werewere Liking's *La Mémoire amputée* (translated into English as *The Amputated Memory*), as outlined below:

For critical pre-translation feminist analyses and comprehension, the translator uses feminist literary criticism and feminist theory. With regard to feminist criticism, out of fifteen instances, she applies Gynocriticism 9 times (40%), Sociological Criticism 5 times (33.33%) and Historical Criticism 1 time (6.66%). This reveals that feminist criticism gives a better understanding of feminist discourse in the text, enabling the translator to better comprehend the state of gendered power relations therein that condition the feminist discourses it encapsulates for its optimal translation. In terms of feminist theory, the only theory used is *Écriture Féminine* Theory 15 times, hence at 100%.

In terms of translation theory, the translator deconstructs the text 14 out of 15 times (93.33%) to convey the multiple meanings of feminist discourse in the utterances analysed, while she manipulates just once (6.67%). Deconstruction is thus the primary theory used to interpret the systems of knowledge that produced the translation of feminist discourse in the selected literature.

With regard to transfer strategies, the data reveal that the translator applies the macro strategy of foreignisation 14 times (93.33%) and domestication only once (6.67%). In terms of micro translation strategies, oblique translation is used 2 times (13.33%), likewise dynamic equivalence which is also used 2 times (13.33%), while literal translation is used 11 times (73.33%). Hence, the use of foreignisation as a macro strategy and literal translation as a micro strategy prevails, given that the translator chooses both in order to preserve the original language text and protect it from vilification.

With respect to constraints, the findings illustrate that text-driven constraints condition the rendering of African feminist discourse in the text 1 time (6.67%), translator-related constraints condition it 6 times (40%) and no constraints condition the rendering 8 times (53.33%). Hence, one could posit that these factors shape the source text images and hence condition how the translator interprets feminist discourse and recreates alternative localised images for the target culture. The newly created images can hence be highlighted as the concrete result of the two constraints mentioned above, which are all factors that make up the literary pressures under which the translator worked.

To conclude, therefore, going by the analysis above, it is revealed that Gynocriticism and *Écriture Féminine* Theory are the preferred literary and feminist theories for translating African feminist discourse in *The Amputated Memory*, given their application at 40% and 100% respectively. In terms of translation strategies, deconstruction, foreignisation and literal translation are the strategies for translation of African feminist discourse in the corpus, for they are respectively used at 93.33%, 93.33% and 73.33% as seen from the analysis. Hence, this study demonstrates that literal translation is also the preferred strategy for rendering feminist discourse in *La mémoire amputée*, which goes to buttress Itang Ekpe's (2015) claim that the best micro strategy for rendering African feminist discourse is literal translation.

REFERENCES

- Ahikire, J. (2006). African feminism in context: reflections on the legitimization battles, victories and reversals. In *Feminist Africa Journals* n° 19, 7-23.
- Chesterman, A. (1997). *Memes of translation: the spread of ideas in translation theory*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Hervey, S., Loughridge, M., & Higgins, I. (2006). *Thinking German translation: a course in translation method, German to English* (2nd Ed.). London: Routledge.
- Itang Ekpe, A. (2015). *Feminism and translation: a case study of two translations of Mariama Bâ (So long a letter and Scarlet Song)*. Unpublished Thesis. Pretoria: University of Pretoria.
- Jaaskelainen, R. (1993). Investigating translation strategies. In S. Tirkkonen-Condit & J. Laffling (Eds.). *Recent trends in empirical translation research* (pp. 99-120). Joensuu: University of Joensuu
- Liking, W. (2004). *La mémoire amputée*. Abidjan: Nouvelles Editions Ivoiriennes.
- Liking, W. (2007). *The amputated memory*. New York: Feminist Press.

- Toury, G. (1985). A rationale for descriptive translation studies. In T. Hermans (Ed.). *The manipulation of literature: studies in literary translation* (pp.16-41). London & Sydney: Croom Helm.
- Von Flotow, L. (1991). Feminist translation: contexts, practices and theories. *TTR. Traduction, terminologie, rédaction. Études sur le texte et ses transformations* 4(2) Montréal, Concordia University, 69-84.
- Wanchia, T.N. (2017). A descriptive approach for translating satirical irony in Cameroonian stand-up comedy. In *International Journal of English Language, Literature and Translation Studies*. 4(2), 441-452.
- Wodak, R. and Meyer, M. (Eds.). (2001). *Methods of critical discourse analysis*. Los Angeles: Sage Publications.
-