Exploring Translation Strategies For Idiomatic Expressions: A Study Of Sadat Hassan Manto's Short Stories "Khol Do" And "License"

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ABSTRACT

The translation is necessary for developing knowledge and ideas, but it also makes the people understand the language and culture of other people or countries. However, equivalence is essential during translation, especially when the translator wants to translate idiomatic expressions in the best possible way. Therefore, it is necessary to follow up on some strategies during the translation process. The research work is carried out under the qualitative method with textual analysis techniques as significant. Mona Baker's model for idiomatic expression is explored with the help of different examples from collected data. The primary purpose of this study is to find out which types of strategies are being followed by the translator during the translation process. During research translation by paraphrasing, translation by similar meaning and similar form, translation by similar meaning and dissimilar form is found while translation by omission were missing.

Keywords: Translation Strategies, Idiomatic expression, Sadat Hassan Monto, Urdu Literature.

INTRODUCTION:

Translation is a complex process that involves more than just converting words from one language to another. Particularly challenging are idiomatic expressions, which often carry a metaphorical, non-literal meaning that is not immediately deducible from the individual words. Understanding and effectively translating idioms is crucial for conveying the intended meaning and capturing the essence of a literary work.

In this article, we delve into the world of idiomatic expressions, focusing on the renowned Urdu writer Sadat Hassan Manto and his short stories. Manto, considered one of the most prolific writers in the sub-continent, has made significant contributions to Urdu literature, highlighting various social and cultural issues. His works, including the short stories "khol do" and "license," have been translated into multiple languages, with the English translation by Aatish Taseer gaining recognition for its effectiveness.

The primary objective of this research is to explore the translation strategies employed by Aatish Taseer in bringing Manto's thought-provoking narratives to an English-speaking

audience. We aim to shed light on the specific techniques used to tackle the challenge of rendering idiomatic expressions from Urdu into English while preserving their essence.

To provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic, we begin by examining the diverse perspectives of critics, theorists, and linguistic experts on the definition of idioms. Various scholars, including Mona Baker (2011), and Newmark (1988), offer their viewpoints, which serve as the foundation for our exploration of idiomatic expressions (Mona Baker, 2011; Newmark, 1988).

Furthermore, we explore the life, literary style, and notable works of Sadat Hassan Manto, emphasizing his significance in bringing Urdu language and literature into the global literary landscape. Manto's compelling narratives, which often tackle social taboos, make his works ripe for translation, allowing readers from different cultural backgrounds to engage with his thought-provoking stories.

The main problem addressed in this study revolves around understanding the strategies employed by Aatish Taseer in translating Manto's works, with a particular focus on idiomatic expressions. By examining Taseer's translation of "khol do" and "license," we aim to shed light on the techniques used to effectively capture the essence of Manto's narratives while maintaining the impact of his idiomatic expressions.

The research questions guiding our study revolve around the types of strategies employed by Aatish Taseer in translating Sadat Hassan Manto's short stories from Urdu to English.

In terms of scope, this research primarily analyzes the translation strategies employed in "khol do" and "license" by Sadat Hassan Manto, focusing on the work of Aatish Taseer as the English translator. While previous research has explored Manto's themes, style, and diction, this

study provides a specific focus on the translation strategies utilized.

The purpose of this study is to contribute to the understanding of the techniques employed by translators when faced with the challenges posed by idiomatic expressions in Urdu literature. By analyzing the strategies employed by Aatish Taseer, readers and scholars alike can gain valuable insights into Manto's works and the intricate use of idioms within Urdu literature.

In conclusion, this article aims to explore the translation strategies utilized by Aatish Taseer in his English translations of Sadat Hassan Manto's short stories. By unraveling the intricate world of idiomatic expressions and their significance in Manto's narratives, we hope to provide a deeper understanding of the translation process and its impact on capturing the essence of the original work.

LITRATURE REVIEW

This literature review delves into the multifaceted concept of translation strategies within the field of translation studies, examining various definitions and perspectives put forth by renowned scholars. The significance and implications of these strategies are underscored, offering valuable insights into their application.

Venuti (1998) propounds the notion of "resistant translation" as a progressive approach aimed at subverting dominant cultural norms and facilitating a more equitable exchange of ideas. This approach challenges the status quo and encourages translators to actively engage with sociocultural and political dimensions during the translation process.

Krings (1986) defines translation strategy as a deliberate and conscious objective that guides translators in resolving concrete translation problems within a specific project. Seguinot (1989) identifies three overarching tactics

employed by translators: global revision, local editing, and problem-solving. These tactics reflect the translator's strategic decision-making process in addressing linguistic and cultural challenges.

Translation strategies have been studied extensively in the field of translation studies, with scholars offering various perspectives and definitions. For instance, Pym (2005) highlights the role of strategy in translation as a conscious decision-making process, while Risku (2013) emphasizes the use of both tacit and explicit knowledge in strategic thinking. These different perspectives suggest that translation strategies involve a combination of conscious problem-solving, knowledge utilization, and decision-making.

Manto's works have been a subject of significant interest in literary and cultural studies, with scholars exploring various themes and issues in his writing. For example, Grewal (2012) examines the representation of gender and sexuality in Manto's works, highlighting the author's subversive and provocative approach to these themes. Similarly, Qasmi (2011) explores the portrayal of violence and trauma in Manto's stories, offering insights into the psychological impact of Partition on the individual.

Locher (1991) delves into the concept of translation strategy as a conscious technique employed by translators to overcome difficulties encountered during the translation process. This viewpoint highlights the proactive and problem-solving nature of translation strategies, emphasizing the translator's agency in selecting appropriate linguistic and cultural solutions.

Jaskelainen (2005) makes a crucial distinction between product-related and process-related strategies. Product-related strategies pertain to the selection and translation of the source text, encompassing considerations of equivalence and

fidelity, while process-related strategies focus on the translator's cognitive processes, problem-solving strategies, and decision-making during the translation task.

Consciousness and problem-solving are recurrent themes in the discourse on translation strategies. Cohen (1998) posits that consciousness is a defining characteristic of strategies, setting them apart from other activities that lack intentional decision-making. Bell (1998) differentiates between global and local strategies, wherein global strategies encompass overarching principles and approaches, while local strategies pertain to specific activities related to problem-solving and decision-making in translation.

Newmark (1988) contributes to the understanding of translation strategies by distinguishing between methods and procedures. Methods are employed for entire texts and involve considerations of overall translation approach, while procedures are applied at the sentence and smaller linguistic units level, focusing on specific linguistic and syntactic challenges.

Moreover, the literature review draws attention to the literary contributions of Manto, particularly his short stories that address themes of social injustice, division, and the marginalized position of women. Sakina (2013) explores the depiction of sexual trauma, repression, and the effects of war in Manto's stories, providing a feminist and post-colonial analysis of his works.

Although existing research exists on Manto's literary works, there is a research gap regarding the translation strategies employed by Aatish Taseer in rendering Manto's stories into English. Ahsan (2020) conducts a comparative study of two translations of Manto's short story "Toba Tek," shedding light on the different strategies employed by translators in capturing the essence of Manto's original text.

In addition, the review includes studies by Abu-Saydeh (2004) on the translation of English idioms into Arabic, Alexander (1987) on collocation and culture in translation, Al-Qinai (2000) on translation quality assessment, Bayashi (2020) on Japanese-English translation strategies, Das and Sheikh (1995) on critical events from an anthropological perspective in contemporary India, Mufti (2007) on the language of English in India within a post-colonial framework, and Waka Xia (2019) on discourse analysis of news translation in China.

This study aims to contribute to the existing body of research by providing a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by translators and the strategies employed during the translation of Manto's short stories.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article employs a descriptive and comparative research methodology within a qualitative paradigm to analyze the translation of idioms in selected short stories by Sadat Hassan Manto. The focus is on comparing the original idioms with their translated versions by Aatish Taseer. The research design aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the translation process and the strategies used to handle idiomatic expressions.

The theoretical framework draws upon the model proposed by Mona Baker for idiomatic expressions. This framework encompasses various translation strategies, including the use of idioms with similar meanings and forms, idioms with similar meanings but different forms, translation by paraphrasing, and translation by omission. By adopting these strategies, the translators aim to maintain the essence and intended meaning of the idioms while adapting them to the target language.

The data collection process involves primary and secondary sources. The primary data source consists of the original Urdu texts of Manto's short stories, namely "khol do" and "license." These texts serve as the basis for analyzing the idioms in their original context. Secondary data sources include previous research, articles, journals, and relevant books. Works by other translators, such as Khalid Hassan and Aatish Taseer, provide valuable insights into different translation approaches and techniques.

Data analysis is conducted using textual analysis, a qualitative research method. This approach delves into the hidden messages, structures, and functions within the texts. Through educated interpretations, the analysis aims to uncover the nuances of the translated idioms and assess the effectiveness of the chosen translation strategies. The translations are evaluated in light of Mona Baker's theory and the different techniques employed, such as paraphrasing, omission, using idioms with similar forms and meanings, and utilizing different words with the same form.

The research methodology outlined in this article provides a systematic framework for studying the translation of idioms in Manto's short stories. By analyzing the strategies employed by translators and examining the impact of these strategies on the meaning and cultural nuances of the idiomatic expressions, this study contributes to the field of translation studies and enhances our understanding of the complexities involved in idiomatic translation.

FINDINGS

The most frequently used strategy observed was "translation by paraphrasing." Examples from Manto's short stories "khol do" and "license" were analyzed to highlight the preference for this strategy. It was noted that literal idioms were translated using paraphrasing due to the lack of perfect equivalents in English. Examples such as "Sirajuddin ne subah das baji anki kholi to logo ka ail mutalatam samandar deka" were

paraphrased as "Ten a.m., Siraj Uddin opens his eyes on the cold floor of the camp, seeing the swelling sea of men." Similarly, "Khuda tomahra bala kari" was translated as "Your God will reward" through paraphrasing.

Another strategy employed was "using an idiom of similar meaning and form." While less frequently used, examples such as "Larki ka rang zard hogaya" were translated as "The girl's face became fail" by maintaining similar meanings and forms.

The strategy of "using an idiom of similar meaning but different form" was also observed. Examples like "Aur bolwai gos ayai thee?" were translated as "The roitors come abroad" by selecting different words with similar meanings.

Regarding "translation by omission," no instances were found in the analyzed data.

The analysis discussed the different translation strategies employed by Aatish Taseer, providing examples from Manto's short stories. Paraphrasing was the most frequently used strategy due to the challenge of finding perfect equivalents for idiomatic expressions. The concept of equivalence in translation was explored, highlighting its importance in achieving effective communication between the source and target texts.

According to Mandelbit (1995), translating idioms with different cognitive mappings in the target language can be particularly challenging. In this study, the data analysis revealed that the translator frequently employed three out of the four strategies proposed by the Mona Baker model: translation by paraphrasing, translation by similar meaning and similar form, and translation by similar meaning but different form. However, the strategy of translation by omission was not identified in the translator's work.

Through detailed analysis of the collected data, it was found that more than half of the idioms, such as "swelling sea of men," "my lord break his arrogance," and "weakness for style and fashion," were translated using the paraphrasing strategy, which proved to be the most commonly used method for translating idioms.

Additionally, strategies like similar meaning and different form, as well as similar meaning and similar form, were also evident in the translations. Examples such as "rioter came abroad," "burn with envy," "The girl's face became pale," and "They fall in love with each other" were translated utilizing these two strategies, respectively.

On the other hand, translation by omission, which involves omitting the idiom in the translation, was rarely employed. This strategy is typically used when the idiom's meaning cannot be easily paraphrased or for stylistic reasons. However, no instances of idioms being translated through omission were found in the researcher's analysis.

In addition to the translation strategies mentioned earlier, it is important to note the translator's approach to preserving the cultural nuances and literary qualities of the source language in the translated text. When dealing with idiomatic expressions, cultural connotations play a significant role in their interpretation and understanding. Therefore, the translator's task goes beyond literal translation and requires a deep understanding of the cultural and social context in which the idioms are embedded.

Aatish Taseer demonstrated a keen awareness of the cultural significance of Manto's idiomatic expressions and made conscious efforts to retain their essence in the target language. By employing strategies such as paraphrasing, the translator aimed to capture not only the figurative meaning but also the cultural implications associated with the original idioms. This involved

finding alternative expressions and wording that would resonate with the target language readership while still conveying the intended impact of the idiomatic expressions.

Furthermore, the translator's expertise and background played a vital role in shaping the chosen translation strategies. Aatish Taseer, being bilingual and well-versed in both the source and target cultures, was able to navigate the complexities of translating idiomatic expressions effectively. The translator's linguistic skills, cultural sensitivity, and understanding of the literary context were instrumental in making informed decisions about which strategies to employ in order to ensure a faithful and culturally appropriate rendition of the original text.

Moreover, it is worth considering the potential impact of these translation strategies on the reception and comprehension of the translated texts by the target language audience. While the study focused on analyzing the employed strategies, future research could explore the readers' perceptions and interpretations of the translated idiomatic expressions. This could provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the chosen strategies in conveying the intended meaning and cultural nuances to the target audience.

It is also worth noting that idiomatic expressions are not always directly translatable due to cultural and linguistic differences. The absence of a one-to-one equivalence between idioms in different languages poses a significant challenge for translators. Therefore, the strategies employed by Aatish Taseer, such as finding similar meaning and form or similar meaning but different form, reflect a creative approach to bridge the gap between the source and target languages while maintaining the integrity of the idiomatic expressions.

In conclusion, the translation of idiomatic expressions requires translators to navigate the intricate interplay of linguistic, cultural, and literary elements. Aatish Taseer's translation strategies, including paraphrasing, using idioms of similar meaning and form, and similar meaning but different form, showcased a thoughtful and culturally sensitive approach to translating Manto's idiomatic expressions. By delving into the complexities of idiomatic translation and considering the impact of cultural nuances, translators can strive to bridge the gap between languages and convey the intended meaning and essence of the original idioms to the target language audience. Further research can explore the readers' reception of these translations and the role of the translator's cultural background in shaping the chosen strategies, contributing to a deeper understanding of the intricacies of idiomatic translation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this article delved into a comprehensive examination of the translation strategies employed by the translator in translating idiomatic expressions. The study focused specifically on the translations of Sadat Husain Manto's short stories "khol do" and "license" by Aatish Taseer. Through data analysis, three frequent strategies were identified: translation by paraphrasing, translation by similar meaning and similar form, and translation by similar meaning but different form. Notably, translation by omission was not found to be utilized in the translations.

The findings of this study align with the observations made by Mandelbit (1995) regarding the challenges faced in translating idioms with different cognitive mappings in the target language (Mandelbit, 1995). Idiomatic expressions pose a unique challenge in translation, as their meanings often go beyond the literal interpretations of individual words.

Translating idioms necessitates a deep understanding of the cultural and linguistic contexts in both the source and target languages.

The translator's choice of strategies indicates a conscious effort to convey the intended meaning of the idioms while considering the linguistic and cultural constraints of the target language. The most commonly employed method was translation by paraphrasing. This strategy involves rephrasing the idiomatic expression using alternative wording and expressions that capture the essence of the original idiom. By paraphrasing, the translator aims to convey the figurative meaning of the idiomatic expression in a way that makes sense to the target language audience.

In addition to paraphrasing, the strategies of translation by similar meaning and similar form, as well as translation by similar meaning but different form, were also employed to varying degrees. These strategies aim to maintain the intended meaning of the idioms while adapting them to the linguistic structures and idiomatic expressions of the target language. Translation by similar meaning and similar form involves finding idiomatic expressions in the target language that have a similar figurative meaning and similar linguistic form as the source language idiom. On the other hand, translation by similar meaning but different form involves using a different linguistic form in the target language to convey the same figurative meaning as the source language idiom.

Interestingly, the strategy of translation by omission was not observed in the translator's work. Translation by omission refers to the deliberate decision to exclude the idiomatic expression from the translated text, either due to its untranslatability or to avoid potential confusion or loss of meaning. In the case of translating Manto's idiomatic expressions, the translator prioritized conveying the essence of the

idioms in some form, even if it required extensive paraphrasing or adaptations.

This study sheds light on the complexity and creative decision-making involved in translating idiomatic expressions. It underscores the importance of understanding the cognitive mappings and cultural nuances associated with idioms, as well as the need for flexibility in employing various translation strategies. By employing a combination of strategies such as paraphrasing, similar meaning and form, and similar meaning but different form, the translator strives to capture the essence and intended meaning of the idiomatic expressions in the target language.

Further research in this area could explore the impact of these strategies on the overall comprehension and reception of translated texts. It would be beneficial to analyze how these translation strategies influence the readers' understanding of the original text, as well as the effectiveness of conveying the cultural nuances and literary qualities of the source language in the translated version. Additionally, future studies could investigate the role of the translator's cultural background and expertise in shaping the translation strategies employed for idiomatic expressions.

In conclusion, the translation of idiomatic expressions poses significant challenges in conveying their intended meaning and capturing the essence of the original work. The strategies employed by translators, such as paraphrasing, translation by similar meaning and form, and translation by similar meaning but different form, play a crucial role in bridging the linguistic and cultural gaps

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