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Problems of equivalents and morphology in translating the Tamil novel “Helicopter gal Keezhe Iragi Vittana” into English

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Abstract

Translation is defined as the art of transforming the content of the source Language Text into Target Language by resorting to equivalent verbal expressions. Translation can be defined in a simple way as a text from one language into author language. This transformation is not only the change of language but also the ideas and aims of source language completely. Complete success in translation is a difficult task. It is the ideas and contents of the source language that are transferred to the target language in the best possible way available in the limits of target language. In the process of translation, the transfer of meaning and readability in the Target language are to be taken into account. The present study aims at dealing with the problems in translating the Tamil novel *Helicopter gal keezhe Iragi Vittana*, by Indira Parthasarathy into English. While translating this work of art the researched has faced several problems in source language’s equivalents and forming of words.

Key Words: translation, equivalents, morphology

Introduction

Translation is defined as the art of transforming the content of the source Language Text into Target Language by resorting to equivalent verbal expressions. Translation can be defined in a simple way as a text from one language into author language. This transformation is not only the change of language but also the ideas and aims of source language completely. Complete success in translation is a difficult task. It is the ideas and contents of the source language that are transferred to the target language in the best possible way available in the limits of target language. In the process of translation, the transfer of meaning and readability in the Target language are to be taken into account. The present study aims at dealing with the

problems in translating the Tamil novel *Helicopter gal keezhe Iragi Vittana*, by Indira Parthasarathy into English. While translating this work of art the researched has faced several problems in source language’s equivalents and forming of words.

Problems in translating morphemes

A morpheme is a short segment of language that meets three criteria;

1. It is a word or a part of a word that has meaning.
2. It cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts without violation of its meaning or without meaning or without meaningless remainders.

3. It recurs differing verbal environment with a relatively stable meaning.

Translation is a combination of words. There are basically three different translation theories. First, *Paraphrase method*, in which the translator freely rewords the original language to convey in modern English what he takes to be the basic sense of passage. This method produces an English text that is easy to read and understand, however, it invariably requires the translator to interpret a given passage for the reader. These are different degrees of paraphrase, some reflecting much more interpretation of the meaning of the text than others second, the *dynamic equivalence* method.

This is a more recent theory of translation developed by Dr. Eugene Nida of the American Bible society. The object is to produce for the modern reader the closest equivalent meaning of the original text. This does not necessarily require a word-for-word or literal rendering. Finally, there is the *literal or complete equivalent method*. It requires the closest possible correspondence between the original language words and their consistent English translation.

The translator has studied the Tamil novel *Helicoptergal Keezha Irangi Vitana* and translated into English. He has briefly summed up the problems he faced in equitant and morphological level. The translator faced many problems while rendering a text from the source language to the target language. His task is more difficult than a creative writer for the latter things and writes in one language while the

former has to make a tight-rope walking between two languages

Transliterations:

Transliteration is the method of replacing each SL letters or graphological unit by a TL phrase letter or graphological unit on the basis of a conventionally established set of rules.

Translation is used when there is an unavailability of target language equivalent literally. So in such situation transliteration is permitted in translation.

The process of transliteration involves three steps;

- a. Source Language letters are replaced by Target Language phonological units; this is two process of converting from the write to the spoken medium.
- b. Source Language Phonological units are converted into Target Language phonological units.
- c. Target Language phonological units are converted into Target Language letters or graphological units.

In the novel, “Helicoptergal Keezha Irangi Vittana” the writer has used many new things.

In order to give the actual names to the Target Language readers the researcher has used transliterations.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| a. Kutmāniñ | - | good morning |
| b. kutivniñ | - | good evening |
| c. tañks | - | thanks |

According to Mona Baker, a translator, many of us think of the word as the basic meaningful element in a language. This is not strictly accurate. Meaning can be carried

by units smaller than the word. More often however, it is carried by units much more complex than the single word and by various structures and linguistic devices.

In noun there are several problems in translation:

Examples:

- a. prapacar - professor
- b. ōvian - artist
- c. skūtar - scooter
- d. kulantai - child

In adjectival construction, There are same problems arose to translate the work of art from Tamil to English. In such occasion the translator has tried to give up an equivalent expression of the word.

Examples

- a. palikōdavātiyār - school teacher
- b. palayakulu - old group
- c. senkautai - red fort

The researcher has translated some of the compound adjectives found in the Source Language into English

- a. seyarkaiyānapunakai - unnatural smile
- b. karanamānapanpādu - reasonable culture

In Descriptive adjective:

- a. putiyasaupai - new brightness
- b. cinacirupulli - small dot
- c. netrurātiri - yesterday night

In demonstrative adjective:

- a. antasalukai - that priority
- b. anta pen - that girl
- c. intatetar - this theatre

In Numeral Adjective:

- a. mūntru per - three persons
- b. panirentuvarucankal - twelve years

In verb constructions

- a. avanvilakaianaitān - He switched off the light
- b. avantayankinān - He hesitated

In Auxiliary Verb constructions

- a. nānmarupatium kōpituven - I must call you
- b. enakuniyāpakamvarutu - I do remember.
- c. avalukukulantailai - She has no child.

There are the problems that the translator faced. He has summed up the things briefly.

It is a distinct fact that things be everlasting achieved with hard efforts-not losing the momentum required to meet any exigencies in anyone's lid. The researcher has graphically analyzed and precisely read, comprehended its message, meanings, inner meaning, and antecedent of the Tamil short stories which are characteristically superior to any plays in other language.

The translator attempts to bring up equivalents of Source Language items with

Target Language items. The crux of translation practice is finding out equivalents without overarching its limitations.

The translator would like to seek refuge in the transliteration during the untranslatable

words surface in his mind. The researcher identifies the untranslatable words to coin new words inserting on the context which demands a rapid attention. The public may find it easier by making insinuation against or favour on the difficult of translation.

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