

Problem Analysis in Translating a Story

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Abstract

Translation has been practiced throughout the ages by many civilizations and nations. Despite the existence of the highly sophisticated modern means of international communication that have reduced the distances between individuals and communities and the wide use of the English language for communication among the nations of the globe, translation is still an indispensable means, not only of communication among nations, but also for facilitating access to science and knowledge worldwide. Translators should be able to deliver the intended meaning written in the source language to the target language without changing the purpose of the source text at all. The aim of this paper is to identify and analyze translation problems encountered in translating a story and implement the process and the appropriate strategies to an accurate translation of the source text in Telugu. This paper highlights the problem analysis of translating the Telugu story 'Her House', written by Kavana Sarma.

Keywords: Translation problems, source language, target language

1. Introduction

The story is about a middle-aged housewife who shocks her family and friends by deciding to take up a job and move into a cramped rented accommodation. The reason is that her husband made it clear that the home, she thought was theirs was his alone and she lived there on his terms. Her parents, brother and sister-in-law do not understand her when she requests the righteous share of her father's property. She could not persuade her husband, son and daughter-in-law in sharing the property with her daughter. She claims that the men are exploiting women without sharing the property and making them live at their mercy. In the story, she is portrayed a good natured, practical woman seeking personal independence rather than an activist fighting for a social cause.

The story was written by Kavana Sarma and published in Aahwanam, a monthly magazine in May 1993. This story was selected for the Volume I of the Patikella Katha, a collection of best stories that were published in the newspapers or magazines between 1990 and 2014.

2. Literature Review

Provide J.C. Catford defines translation from a linguistic point of view: Translation may be defined as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL).”

Translation, according to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, is the process of changing something that is written or spoken into another language. However, it is an incredibly broad notion which can be understood in different ways. Translation is an operation or process, but at the same time, it is a product: It is an abstract concept consisting of the process and the product (Bell, 1991, p. 13). In the words of K.M. George “Modern transport and communication technology have advanced so much in recent years that the globe has shrunk into a village. Hills and valleys, waters and forests have lost their significance as barriers owing to the advanced means of transport. But languages are still barriers in communication and the solution is still translations”. Hence the need for translation is imminent.” Initially, translation of religious books, epics has been started to make them available to the common people. The advancement of science and many inventions in pursuit of development has risen the necessity of translating those science books into other languages. Later, communication among many countries because of the globalization also has increased the necessity of translation. Recently, communication technology has erased the distance and time among countries and communities. This led people to know other countries their working style, the reason for their development etc. As a part of business many people have to talk to the people across the boundaries. Mechanization and computerization have liberated the humans from drudgery and gave them ample time for recreation. The leader in Global Information Management (GIM) solutions that empower organizations to accelerate the delivery of high-quality multilingual content to global markets. Its enterprise software and services integrate with existing business systems to manage the delivery of global information from authoring to publication and throughout the distributed translation supply chain (Tridgell 2007). They started looking for that from all over the world. So, the necessity of translation of various books has become the need of the day. The news is telecast live across the world.

Bertholde Franke in the interview at the Jaipur BookMark Festival answered to the question why read translation that we cannot read all languages. Translation is more than just changing the words from one language to another. Translation builds bridges between cultures. It allows you to experience cultural phenomena that would otherwise be too foreign and remote to grasp through your own cultural lens.

3. About the writer

Kandula Varaha Narasimha Sarma, who became famous as Kavana Sarma was born on 23rd Sept 1939. By profession he is a Professor of Civil Engineering who specializes in water resources. He is now retired from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is an advisor to Rachana Masa Matrika.

His other stories are 'Paalu Tagina Vinayakudu', 'Chattamu-Chuttamu' and 'Ragging', 'Mrutyunjaya', 'Nalugu Dinalu', 'Vidakulu', and Ramakandam, a historical novel.

4. Problems in translating the story

a) Suitable word

As every language has its own cultural practices, the words have nuance meaning differences to the words of other languages. Emotion words such as happiness, fear or shame do not express scientific classical concepts defined by necessary and sufficient features, they express everyday categories. Everyday concepts are better represented as probabilistic concepts with an internal structure with better and worse examples of the category and fuzzy boundaries. Therefore, one-to-one translations become problematic (Fehr & Russell, 1984, 1991; Russell & Fehr, 1994). The researcher has faced the first problem in the title itself as for the Telugu word '*illu*' there are two words in English. The literal meaning of the word house is a building for people to live in, usually for one family and home means the house that you live in, especially with your family. The words differ in meaning. The house refers to only a dwelling construction and whereas home refers to the house where you live with love and affection of your family.

In the story, Kamala is denied of living in her husband's house saying that it is his house. So, she decides to have ownership of a house rather than love and affection. She even tries to have her daughter also possesses a house so that she will not get rejection from her husband.

She is trying to have financial freedom for the womenfolk. This indicates that how 'Her Home' is suitable to the title.

The next word that the researcher encountered is '*Aapeksha*'. There two words in English love and affection can be used while translating that word. The following table shows the number of words that give a tough task to the researcher.

Telugu word	English words
Karma	There is no exact word
Notlo gaddi pedatarani	No suitable expression
Dosadu kompa	No suitable expression
Tapimani	There is no exact word
Avva buvva elavastayi	No suitable expression
Prema ponguku vaste	No suitable expression
Dharmame	There is no exact word
Vanchutaru	No suitable expression
Dongalu dongalu vullu panchukunnatlu	No suitable expression
Ravvanta	There is no exact word
Manassu	There is no exact word
Dheema	There is no exact word

b) Cultural differences

Translation activities should be regarded as having cultural significance. Consequently, 'translatorship' amounts first and foremost to being able to play a social role, i.e., to fulfil a function allotted by a community — to the activity, its practitioners, and /or their products — in a way which is deemed appropriate in its own terms of reference. The acquisition of a set of norms for determining the suitability of that kind of behaviour and for manoeuvring between all the factors which may constrain it, is therefore a prerequisite for becoming a translator within a cultural environment. (Toury, 1978: 83)

Shama Bharathi found that Translation is both linguistic and cultural activity and it concerned with communication of meaning. It is not merely a work finding lexical equivalents i.e., TL equivalents of SL words, but much more, as it involves cultural, aesthetic, ethical, social, scientific and metaphysical dimensions of SL and TL. The translator should possess equal insights into which the text of SL is translated from which the translation is to be made

and the target language to which the translation is to be done (2014). Language is largely a culture oriented and therefore translators face the problem of translating certain culture-based words into another language with different culture. Colloquial expression, slang proverbs and some dialectical expressions are difficult to translate and the equivalence of words in two or more languages is hard to establish. In the Indian culture, marriage system is different from western culture. Once, the marriage is performed, the bride has to leave her parents' home and join the in-laws' home. There, she is treated as an outsider. It is considered a taboo leaving her in-laws' house. The total story may be of no significance to an English reader where women have equal rights with men. So, they may feel that the story has no significance. In many European countries, if the women do feel the love of the family, she has the freedom to leave. But in India, the society, the parents look down the woman who leave her family.

They never consider her any feelings like liberty, individuality, identity etc. It would be like fun to the westerners when they read this story thinking that what is great in this story. But only the people who can understand the situation of the women in India do realize the real meaning of the story, the agony of the women who are living in those circumstances. The patriarchal society rarely gives the share to its daughters. Even if a woman raises her voice for those other women will hush her and her voice is never heard. They try to bind her in the norms of society which are formed by men in the name of her safety.

4. Conclusion

The main idea of the story is that women also should have financial freedom and it is portrayed through the character Kamala. She questions why a woman cannot tell her husband that it is her house if he likes he can live otherwise he can leave. She further questions why they are unable to digest if she tries to live in 'her' house. That is a crucial question to the society where women are deprived of several rights as equal.

The mere translation of the story does bring the sincere effort of the writer until the cultural problem is understood by the reader in source language. The intensity of the word is understood when the reader really knows what makes the character use that expression. In conclusion, the target language should also include the terms to understand the culture of the source language.

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