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**A Study on the Strategies Involved in the Translation  
of Written English to Oral Toto Language Text**

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**Abstract**

Scholars describe translation is a process in which the messages conveyed in the source language will be transferred to the target language in the form that the native language speakers can understand them at ease. While doing the translation, the translator is taking care of the form and style of the source language as much as he can adopt in the receptor language maintaining the dynamics of original language text intact.

One should keep in mind that the linguistic structures of the languages involved and the cultural practices of the people vary a lot if the source and target languages belong to different language families and cultural zones. Here comes the efficiency of a translator who can understand the structures of languages and can handle the job with appropriateness and adeptness.

Taking account of the above said views, a written text given in English, a language belonging to an Indo- European Family is being translated into an indigenous language Toto belonging to Himalayan group of Tibeto-Burman language Family spoken on the Indo- Bhutan border to see what are the strategies adopted by the translator while performing this task. This article tries to identify the role of strategies such as literal translation, addition, omission, substitution, borrowing and selecting appropriate cultural terms involved in this translation work with suitable illustrations.

- Translation Strategies
- Written to Oral Text
- Indigenous Oral Text
- English to Toto Language
- Himalayan Group of Tibeto-Burman Language Family

### **1.1 Introduction**

Various scholars describe translation as a method of transferring oral and written messages from writing to speech or from one language to another; translation brings the closest meaning as conveyed in the source language text to the target language text keeping it in mind that the language style used to describe the text is in natural form of the receptor language, easy to understand by the native speaker (as quoted by Zohre Owji, 2013).

### **1.2 Problems of Translation**

The translator faces various problems linguistically while translating the text. The problem may be in choosing the correct lexical item or applying suitable syntactic structure. Lexical problems may be such as selecting straight or denotative meaning, metaphorical expressions, proper names etc. Syntactical problems may be handling word classes, word order etc. since both languages involved in the study may differ structurally and culturally.

### **1.3 Translation Strategies**

Translator may adopt local strategies or syntactic one such as literal translation, loan translation, transposition etc. Similarly the translator may face encounters in adopting the semantic and pragmatic changes as appeared in the source language to the targeted one.

### **1.4 Types of Translation**

Translation is categorised into two types namely direct or literal and oblique. Literal translation is possible when the structure of both the languages is same. Otherwise oblique translation is used. There are some sub categories in oblique translation such as borrowing, literal translation, adaptation etc.

### **1.5 Research Design**

The study has chosen an English written text to be translated into an indigenous language Toto to see what are the strategies used by the translator while translating the text. The study is comparative one, qualitative oriented and analysed systematically to identify the strategies and to arrive at conclusions.

### **1.6 Objectives of Research**

Structurally two different languages, one is from Indo- European language family and the other one Tibeto- Chinese, have been selected for this study to understand the strategies used. The source language is having written form whereas the target language is an indigenous one; it has only spoken form.

### **1.7 Data Collection**

Data have been collected from the field directly by selecting a suitable informant. The informant speaks Toto, Nepali and Bengali languages. The interpreter speaks Nepali, Bengali and English. The researcher speaks English, Bengali (spoken) and Tamil. A prepared text is used as a tool for this study.

### **1.8 Data Analysis**

The collected data have been analysed in the following way: the two texts were compared first and identified the places where they differ. Then the variation is categorised and presented with the description of how they differ in both the languages.

## **2.1 Findings of the Research**

When the translation work was done from the source language to receptor language the following structural variations are observed in the target language: omission, addition, borrowing of terms, literal translation, substitution or use of cultural terms etc. They are illustrated with suitable examples below.

### **2.2 Omission**

In the source language text, the *the snake crawled up to the nest* is given. However, in the target language text, it has been omitted by the translator may be thoughtful of the native speaker understand it.

*ako siyeko                      onbeta                      ipu                      daS'ua*

that	tree's	hole in	one	black	
<i>puyare</i>	<i>yuṇmihe</i>	<i>ako</i>	<i>puya so aja dambe</i>	<i>chabe</i>	<i>biya</i> snake
	lived	that	snake for crow	husband	wife <i>chuchunpa</i>
	<i>yuṇchnamihe.</i>	<i>hatraṇto</i>	<i>keitu</i>	<i>tuipunḡko</i>	<i>noita</i> greatly
feared	sit	everytime	egg	lay	after <i>daS'ua</i>
	<i>puiwaha</i>	<i>ajako</i>	<i>keitui</i>	<i>upu</i>	<i>chamehe</i>
black	snake	crow's	egg	swallowed	

"In a hollow of that tree-trunk lived a black snake whom the crows feared greatly. Every time the crow-hen laid her eggs the snake **crawled up to the nest** and ate them up"

### 2.3 Addition

In the source language text a past perfect word is enough to convey the meaning of following compound sentence whereas a compound word is used in the target language. Thus, *had* is equalized with *chenpanahe* (gave birth of).

<i>akonoita aja dambe</i>	<i>chabeha</i>	<i>ako</i>	<i>siṇeta</i>	<i>gagrupa</i>
afterwards crow male	female	that	tree	happi
<i>yumS'a</i>	<i>asua oiS'e</i>	<i>apechua</i>	<i>cheṇbi</i>	<b><i>cheṇpanehe</i></b>
lived	and	many little	children	had

'The crow and the crow-hen lived in that tree happily afterwards and **had** many little baby crows'.

### 2.4 Borrowing

Borrowing of words such as *raja*, *rajdarbar*, *bagain*, *dosra* from the neighbouring contact language is observed. It may be due to lack of concept available in the target language hence borrowing the terms as such used in the contact language has been done to fill the vacuum.

- a. *ako noita abiha ako* ***rajako rajdarbar*** *S'ata buipumS'a*  
 afterwards they that king's palace house flew *hapune*  
*taibi* *yunḡwa siṇeso rajdarbar* *S'aha tanaṇ* *mattamihe.* off

where(they) live tree from palace house distance not was

“So off they flew towards the palace of the king of the country. The palace was not far from the tree in which they lived.”

b *ako rajdarbarko nanpota icho bagainso icho tabo pokori*  
 that palace's inside one garden one big pond  
*nimihe abiha kaynuwa rajdarbarko meimebi tihua tiynahe.*  
 was they saw palace's ladies bathing saw

“They approached a big pond in the palace garden where they saw the royal ladies having a bath”

c. *epray jaynahe i sine witimS'a dosra sineta*  
 then told this tree leave other tree in  
*bassa bane neruwa*  
 nest build must

“We must build our nest somewhere else, said the mother bird to her husband”.

## 2.5 Literal Translation

When idiomatic expression is translated into the target language, the literal equivalence is used by the translator. It is evident from the following passage translation.

*mamsiritaha bero ajaso tanchepu heppajamS'a pueha keitu*  
 jackal friend from All how snake egg  
*anchame hiynahe. akso mamsiri jaynahe “epajiywa*  
 swallowed heard after jackal told like this  
*kamjombiha tuysiy matwaso lobi abikowa noitaha*  
 doing heart no(cruel) and greedy they later  
*entapa mejiyame*  
 good not live

“When the jackal heard how the snake always ate up the eggs, he said, “my friend, those who are cruel and greedy always meet with a bad end”

## 2.6 Substitution

The simple words *told her plan* in the source language may be expressed with *jaɲnahe* in the target language. But it is substituted with *lainahe*.

<i>a ha</i>	<i>tamS'a</i>	<i>aja</i>	<i>jaɲnehe</i>	“i	<i>hapa</i>	<i>jiɲkoga?</i> ”
O	expressing		told	it	how	happen fut.
<i>mamsiriha</i>	<i>chuchunpa</i>	<i>jaɲnehe</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>nwaɲhiɲ</i>	<i>baireta</i>	
jackal	fear		told	this	story	outside
<i>mihɲchipa</i>	<i>nanuko</i>	<i>aibita</i>	<i>S'ukaipa</i>	<i>heppajamS'a</i>		
not hear	ear's	near to	whisper	how		
<i>puya hiɲ</i>	<i>S'ekome</i>	<i>jaɲnahe.</i>	<i>dambe aja</i>	<i>buimpumS'a</i>		
snake acc.	kill	told	crow	flew		
<i>takome</i>	<i>chabe</i>	<i>ajakota</i>	<i>hamS'a</i>	<i>taɲchepu</i>	<i>lainahe.</i>	
his wife	crow	hen	went	all	story	

“Oh, do tell me what it is”, said the crow. Then the jackal, fearing he might be over heard, whispered to his friend what he should do to destroy the snake. The crow flew back to his wife and **told** her about the plan.

## 2.6 Cultural Terms

Words such as chain, ear rings, necklace etc. are translated in their language as available in the usage or near about translation by the translator.

<i>rajdarbarko</i>	<i>meimebi</i>	<i>tihua</i>	<i>tiɲnahe.</i>	<i>meimebiha</i>	<i>taibiko</i>	
palace's	ladies	bathing	saw	ladies	their	
<i>ɲetuɲko</i>	<i>giwatise</i>	<i>nanuɲta</i>	<i>sugwa</i>	<i>sun</i>	<i>asua</i>	
chain	mala	ear	wearing	golden	like	<i>ladakei</i>
	<i>pokiriko</i>	<i>doindita</i>	<i>yemihe</i>	<i>chabe/aima</i>	ornaments	
pond's	edge at		kept	mother		

*ajaha liS'o buipumS'a icho sunkokei namuS'o yomuS'a bird*  
down flew one necklace beak by picked *S'uka-*  
*S'ukapa abiko yuṇṇaṇwa siṇeta buipumS'a hanahe*  
slowly their living tree to fly returned

“They had laid their golden chains, pearl necklaces and other jewellery on the edge of the pond. The mother bird flew down, picked up a gold chain in her beak and started flying slowly towards the tree in which she lived”

### 3.0 **Conclusion**

In this study, a simple text has been taken for translation and it has come up with good number of strategies applied by the translator. The analysis is limited to strategies involved; if it is done exhaustively taking considerations of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic usages, then more number of strategies might have obtained. It is opt to conclude as researchers (T R Imami, F Mu'in and Nasrulla, 2021) point out the use of good approaches, methods and procedures will result in an acceptable translation and convey the meaning of the source language without having the sacrifice of many things.

### 4.0 **References**

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