



CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING LITERARY TEXTS

Hasanova Sevinch Hotam qizi

Teacher of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

hasanovasevinc906@gmail.com

Abstract

Translating works of literature is important in ensuring that they can be read by various people regardless of language and culture. In contrast to the technical or scientific translation, translating a literary work does not only involve language accuracy but artistic and emotional values of the given work [2, p. 45]. A literary work gives a reflection on the worldview of the author, culture and his/her stylistic preferences, which are very difficult to deal with as a translator.

Literary translation is a process of re-creating the image, tone of voice, rhythm and aesthetic effect with adherence to the source text. Translators usually experience a challenge in translating metaphors, idioms, wordplays and culturally specific. These issues underline the difficulty of literary translation both as a linguistic and creative process.

Methodology

The study uses a qualitative study design so as to examine the challenges that are experienced in the process of translating literary texts. In this way, it is possible to conduct a profound analysis of the multidimensional interactions between the linguistic, cultural, and stylistic side of translation. The research incorporates various approaches so that there will be a holistic view of both theoretical and practical interventions. To begin with, a literature review is carried out to examine the major theoretical texts concerning translation theory, literary translation, and stylistic equivalence as a background to get a perspective on the most common translation problems [3, p. 21]. The second step is the comparison of original literary texts and their translated ones with the aim of determining the common problems and patterns which are observed in the practice [1, p. 134]. Besides, textual analysis is concerned with metaphor treatment, idiomatic expression



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analysis, culturally-sensitive references, and narrative style, indicating the particular language and aesthetical challenges that translators have to overcome [5, p. 98]. Lastly the study also includes the perspective of translator, where, most professional literary translators are brought on board to give a picture of the subjective issues and decision-making processes involved in the act of the translator in literary translation [8, p. 200]. The use of these approaches has made this study offer an in-depth insight into the world of literary translation, both in its theoretical basis and reality.

Results

Analysis demonstrates that literary translation is a complicated and interdependent issue that offers to appeal and creative vision to linguistic skills. The stylistic complexity can be mentioned as one of the most dramatic challenges because the translator should maintain the unique style of the author, his/her tone, and the voice used in his/her narrative and at the same time make the text comprehensible in the context of the target language [2, p. 156]. Figurative language, which can be metaphors, similes, idioms, and wordplay, has often no direct equivalent, and the translators have to seek culturally and linguistically fitting solutions which will not lose the meaning or aesthetic impact [3, p. 74]. Another significant issue is the use of cultural allusions; many literary texts incorporate some certain aspects of a certain historical, social, or geographical location; translators have to make a decision to change, interpret, or maintain such allusions [4, p. 328]. It is also important not to lose the emotional and aesthetic effect of the original version as the absence of any nuances or tones can take the enjoyment off the reader and the intended influence of the literature work [5, p. 245]. The need to translate a poem adds an additional complication, as rhyme, rhythm, and meter must be addressed in a creative manner that usually includes the need to work out a balance between loyalty to the original and readability and music in the target language [6, p. 245]. On the whole, these findings indicate that the process of literary translation is not only a mechanical word exchange but a very interpretive exercise that requires one to be a culturally mindful, imaginative and a linguistically skillful problem solver.



Discussion:

The translation of literature is not the simple transfer of words but a complicated process of interpretation. When translating a text, a translator has to reconcile faithfulness to the original text with sensibility and understanding in the recipient language [3, p. 101]. An extreme literal translation might lead to the distortion of the meaning and excessive adaptation might lead to a loss of authenticity.

Cultural competence is an essential method of dealing with translation issues. When a type of translation succeeds in literature, readers can enjoy artistic and emotional richness of the original text and feel non-artificial in the new language [1, p. 148]. Thus, literary translators are the interpreters of cultures between languages and peoples.

Conclusion:

To summarize, literary texts require a lot of linguistic, stylistic and cultural issues in terms of translation. The translator will work at trying to maintain the meaning, style, and emotional appeal by translating and enhancing the work to match the target language and culture. Translation of literature needs creativity, cultural proficiency and good linguistic proficiency [8, p. 173]. Human translators are still required to maintain the artistic quality of literature works even in the wake of the technological advances [2, p. 211].

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