

A Case Study on the Translation of Grammatical Shift Involving Possessive Adjectives from English into Persian

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Abstract:

The present study sets out to investigate the frequency of different kinds of linguistic translation shifts (i.e. structural shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts) based on the work by Catford (1974) that occur in the process of translating different kinds of short stories from English into Farsi.

To achieve the purpose of this study, an English book with Persian translation is selected. In this research the frequency of the English possessive adjectives shift into Persian is explored to find the similarities and differences between two languages in this regard.

it can be conclude that in translation of short stories concerning to the popularity of the translation of the book *Animal Farm*, it is recommended that in translation of short stories the Structural Shift (Reordering shift) is more used to reach the attractiveness of the target language and observing the accuracy and naturalness of the transmitting of the meaning. Although other factors as writer's ideology, writer's attitude, the purpose of the original text and sociocultural factors are more effective in determining the style and the model of translation.

Key words: Grammatical Shift, Source language (SL) to Target language (TL).

Introduction

Translation is an important phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life that is why the desire to know and to understand



information, namely science, technology, and knowledge, translating from source language and target language is needed. Translation is basically a change of form. When the form of language is spoken, it is referring to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraph, and so on, which are spoken or written (1,2). Translation is transferring an idea, knowledge or purpose from Source language (SL) to Target language (TL).

Shifting is a major concept in sentence analysis in translation. The concept of Shifting helped us a lot to learn how a unit of different level can be brought down to create interesting structures. The concept of Rank Shifting does not exist in traditional grammar of English. Although, it exists in all modern grammars of English in their own particular way e.g. Phrase Structure Grammar labels a shifting clause as a sentence. Catford (1978) states that by shift, we mean the departure is made of from formal correspondence in the process of going from the source language to the target language. Shifts occur when the source language text is translated into different grammatical or phonological form in the target language text. Catford (1965) states that there are two major types of shift: level shifts and category shifts. Level shifts are upward rank shift and downward rank shift. On the other hand, category shift itself consists of structure shift, class shift, unit shift and intra system shift. This study is concerned with the translation shift analysis of the English Possessive Adjectives into Persian.

To achieve the purpose of this study, an English book with Persian translation is selected. In this research the frequency of the English possessive adjectives shift into Persian is explored to find the similarities and differences between two languages in this regard. Due to differences existing between English and Persian Possessive Adjectives, they may be confused in differentiating the types of Possessive Adjectives and even the position of them in English while translating into Persian.

Possessive adjectives include my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their. A possessive adjective is an adjective that is used to show ownership. It comes before a noun in the sentence and lets us know to

whom the noun is belongs.

According to the conditions discussed above, the purpose of the present study is to investigate the Translation of Grammatical Shift Involving Possessive Adjectives from English into Persian.

Methodology:

Through conducting this research, an attempt has been made to seek the frequency of the shifts according to Catford's category in the coupled-pair of ST and TL short stories translation of English into Persian. As a consequence, this research is placed within the framework of Catford's shifts category. Since this study is concerned with the product of translation and is a comparative analysis of TT of the ST, it is a "Corpus- Comparative" research. The unit of analysis in this research are two short stories, Animal farm written by George Orwell, translated by Marjan Gheibi and the 73 English Short Stories translated by Maryam Hamtanian. By comparing and analyzing both translations according to Catford's shift the frequency of occurrence and distribution is resulted. (3)

Materials:

The material chosen for the analysis is English fiction Animal Farm written by Orwell and 73 English Short Stories translated by Maryam Hamtanian.90 sentences of the book Animal Farm and 185 sentences of the book 73 English Short Stories included possessive adjectives in a column along with their translation into Persian have been underlined and analyzed based on Catford's category of shifts. The Category shift is classified into structure shifts, unit shifts, class shifts and intra-system shifts, or it is exactly its Formal Correspondent. For this research I use the exactly formal equivalent or Class shifts and intra-system shifts. The results also revealed that there is a statistically significant difference between the frequencies of the shifts in each category. Furthermore, there is also a statistically significant difference between translation students in the frequencies in different categories. This paper is provided for the translators and learners in order to learn the frequency of the shift of Possessive adjectives in translation.

Instrumentation:

The first issue that should be noted in this study was a Possessive adjective translation. The items of this study were extracted from Catford's shifts, and then translated into Persian to study the knowledge of the translator in using the different translation of possessive adjectives in Persian. One of the corpora contains 90 English items from Animal Farm and the other contains 185 patterns from 73 English Short Stories, and in every case the sentences is translated into Persian using the appropriate Possessive adjectives. It should be noted that because of the high number of translation of possessive adjectives in Persian, this study was limited to a certain number of shifts used in translation based on Catford.

This study consists of 90 and 185 English items that were supposed to translate each item into Persian. Over the last few decades, shifts of SL to TL translation have been discussed extensively in the field of translation studies with the term itself originating in Catford's (1965) work in which he devoted a specific chapter to the subject based on the notion that shifts are deviations from formal correspondence of the two texts involved in translation. The same notion of shift is discussed by Vinay and Darbelnet (cited in Shuttleworth & Cowie, 1995, p. 346) albeit under a different label, i.e. transposition; "Transposition is occasioned by the translation process and can be specified in terms of changes with respect to the original changes". (4)

This is a change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense. This study focused on Catford's shifts because they provide an organized and systematic classification of changes with respect to the original changes. Catford considers two kinds of shifts: (1) shifts of level and (2) shifts of category. This study has focused on both of them which are defined as follows:

- (a) A level shift (Catford, 2000, pp. 141-3) is a shift when a concept which is expressed by grammar in one language is expressed by lexis in another.(5)
- (b) Category shifts (2000, 143-7) are subdivided accordingly: Structural shifts, Class shifts, Unit shifts or rank shifts and Intra system shifts.



Catford (1965, p. 20) defines translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)”.(6)

- A formal correspondent is “any TL category (unit, class, element of structure, etc.) which can be said to occupy, as nearly as possible, the same place in the economy of the TL as the given SL category occupies in the SL” (Catford, 1965, p. 27). Formal correspondence attempts to render the text word-for-word (at the expense of natural expression in the target language, if necessary).
- A textual equivalent is “any TL text or portion of text which is observed on a particular occasion... to be the equivalent of a given SL text or portion of text” (Catford, 1965, p. 27).

Textual equivalence is thus tied to a particular ST-TT pair, while formal equivalence is a more general system-based concept between a pair of languages. When the two concepts diverge, a translation shift is deemed to have occurred.

Procedures:

The study consist of 90 and 185sentences included possessive adjectives in a column along with their translation into Persian have been underlined and analyzed to examine the frequencies based on Catford’s category of shifts. The Category shift is classified into structure shifts, unit shifts, class shifts and intra-system shifts, or it is exactly its Formal Correspondent. For this research I use the exactly formal equivalent or Class shifts and intra-system shifts.

In this research there are some categories that assign the types of the shift in the 3rd column in Appendix C, D and classify them. High degree of consistency patterns shift into Persian are exactly its structural shift of English, the second type of shift is Class shift, the low consistency are Intra-system shifts involve changing of English plural nouns into Persian singular nouns and some shifts changing the meaning in Persian or it is deleted.

Based on the data composed of 90 shifts, the high degree of consistency is 44 data of shift (Appendix F) are structural shift as

Possessive adjective + Noun probability of distribution is 48.88%. The low degree of consistency is related to 9 data of No shift that the probability of distribution 10% were found. Table 2, in the 3rd column the probability of occurrence of the shifts for Possessive Adjective + Noun is 0.48 and the probability of occurrence for No shift is 0.1. Here is the example of structural shift: Their situation was quite out of their control.

Based on 185 data, the high degree of consistency is 113 data of shift (Appendix G) are structural shift as Possessive adjective + Noun probability of distribution is 61.08 %. The low degree of consistency is related to 7 data of Intra-system shift that the probability of distribution 3.78 % were found. Table 3, in the 3rd column the probability of occurrence of the shifts for Possessive Adjective + Noun is 0.61 and the probability of occurrence for Intra-system shift is 0.03. Here is the example of structural shift:

His wife wasn't happy about it.

Whereas shifts can be considered as the consequence of translators effort to establish translation naturalness between different languages. According to the occurrence of shifts reflect the translator's awareness of the linguistic and non-linguistic discrepancies between SL and TL.

In this case shifts can be defined as problem solving strategies adapted consciously to minimize the inevitable loss of meaning when rendering a text from one language into another language.

Appendix C

Table 1: Coupled Pair-Sentences Juxtaposed for Data Collection (Animal Farm)

A Case Study on the Translation of English Possessive Adjective into Persian			
No	SL Sentence including Category	TL Sentence including Equivalence	Types and number of Shifts
1	Their situation was quite out of <u>their control</u> .		their control----- Structural shift (Poss.Adj - N) : 35
2	With <u>their superior knowledge</u> it was natural that they should assume the leadership		their superior knowledge ----- Structural shift (Poss.Adj - NP) : 9
2	I merely repeat, remember always <u>your duty</u> of enmity towards Man and all his ways		your duty ----- 15 :(Self.pro -N) Class shift
3	Their comrades, is the answer to all <u>our problems</u> .		class shift (Poss.Pr + N) : 12 Our problems ----
4	One of the cows broke in the door of the store-shed with <u>her horns</u> ...		her horns Intra-system shift : 10 (Poss. Adj -N):7 (poss.Pr+N):1 (Self.Pro + N): 2
6	Three nights later old Major died peacefully in <u>his sleep</u>		----- in his sleep No shift : 9

Appendix D

Table 2: Coupled Pair-Sentences Juxtaposed for Data Collection (73 English Short Stories)

A Case Study on the Translation of English Possessive Adjective into Persian			
No	Sl. Sentence including Category	TL Sentence including Equivalence	Types and number of Shifts
1	His wife wasn't happy about it.		His wife---- Structural shift (Poss. Adj + N): 106
2	She woke her small son up at eight-thirty and ...		Her small son ---- Structural shift (Poss. Adj +NP.): 7
3	One day she saw a big new shop in one of the streets in her home town.		Her home town ---- 6 (Self.pro +N) Class shift
4	Is this your coat?		class shift (Poss. Pr + N): 43 Your coat ----
5	In their house? Gladly asked.		their house ---- Intra-system shift (Poss. Adj + N): 7
6	You can have your 10000 gold coins back		Your 10000 gold coins---- No shift : 16

Appendix E

Table 3: Patterns of shift in detail (Animal Farm, 73 Short Stories)

No	Pattern of shift in Animal Farm	Pattern of shift in 73 English Short Stories
1*	----- their control Reordering (Poss.Adj + N) : 35	----- His wife Structural Shift (Poss.Adj + N) : 106
2*	their superior knowledge ----- reordering (Poss.Adj + NP) : 9	Her small son ----- Structural shift (Poss.Adj +NP.): 7
#3	your duty ----- Class shift (Self.pro +N): 15	Her home town ----- Class shift (Self.pro +N): 6
#4	Class shift (Pr. +N) : 12 Our problems ----	Your coat ----- Class shift (Pr. + N) : 43
5	-----her horns Intra-system shift : 10 (Poss. Adj+N):7 (Pr. +N):1 (Self.Pro + N): 2	their house ----- Intra-system shift (Poss.Adj+N): 7
6	-----in his sleep No shift : 9	your 10000 gold coins --No shift : 16

1, 2*- Concerning the shift in reordering across two similar English (as SL) structures (Poss.Adj+N and Poss.Adj+NP), the Persian (as TL) translations are almost the same structure respectively (N+Pr. and NP+Pr.), these two types of shifts stands for the same shift category called Reordering. Therefore, the data on probability of distribution and occurrence can be added up together to simplify the calculation procedure.

3, 4#- Although the type of class shift concerning third and fourth rows are of the different types, they generally follow the same category of shifts. So, the number of two class shift types can be added.

5- The number of Intra-system shift in Animal Farm was calculated to be 10, of which 7 shifts are of Poss.Adj+N type, 2 shifts of Self. Pr+N type, and 1 shift of Pr.+N type.

Appendix F

Table 4: Patterns of shift and their related probability of distribution and occurrence (Animal Farm)

A Case Study on the Translation of English Possessive Adjective into Persian			
No	Pattern of shift	Probability of distribution	% of occurrence
1	----- their control Structural shift: 44	48.88 %	0.48
2	our problems ----- Class shift: 27	30 %	0.3
4	-----her horns Intra-system shift: 10	11.11 %	0.11
6	-----in his sleep No shift : 9	10 %	0.1

Appendix G

Table 5: Patterns of shift and their related probability of distribution and occurrence (73 English Short Stories)

A Case Study on the Translation of English Possessive Adjective into Persian			
No	Pattern of shift	Probability of distribution	% of occurrence
1	----- His wife Structural shift: 113	61.08 %	0.61
3	Your coat ---- Class shift: 49	26.48 %	0.26
	their house ----- Intra-system shift: 7	3.78 %	0.03
4	your 10000 gold coins --- No shift : 16	8.64 %	0.08

Design of the study

This research deals with analyzing of data based on Corpus-Comparative research, the research focused on using a text with its contrastive translation to make results and gather data in this regard. The current study employs a mixed method design which includes both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Such a method

integrates both approaches to provide a much more detailed and comprehensive picture of that which is being investigated. In this study the qualitative data (interview) was conducted after the quantitative data collection to foster understanding and interpretation of the results.

The design of the current is corpus-comparative which is in line with comparative studies in translation studies. This research is conducted to compare English short story, Animal farm and 73 English Short Stories with its contrastive translation in Persian which was employed in the process of identifying the kinds of shifts used by translator. For the purpose of obtaining data that will explore the frequency of the shifts according to the Catford's theory toward the translation skills and identify the most common shifts in translation.

Discussion

The main purpose of this study, as noted earlier, was first to identify and introduce the types of shifts that are used in the Farsi translation of English short stories according to the Catford's category.

In order to categorize the data, the first step was to organize them in a systematic form. That is, those short stories were selected and tabulated alongside their Farsi counterparts. Appendix F and G below demonstrate the frequency of translation shifts used in the corpuses of this study. As Appendix C and D show, the total number of examples in this research were 90 and 185 items drawn from the two short stories. According to Appendix F and G *structural shifts (Reordering shifts)* enjoyed the highest frequency in Animal Farm with 113 and in 73 English Short Stories 44 items. The lowest frequency related to the first mentioned is No shifts 9 items and the second short story is Intra system, 7 Shifts are the lowest.

In the next step, the researchers calculated the relative frequency and percentage of the occurrence of the above variables which is demonstrated in Appendix F and G below. In a research by Farhad (7) Pourebrahim (2010) "Applying Catford's shifts to the Farsi Translation of Psychology Texts" shows the *structural shifts*

(Reordering) enjoyed the highest frequency with 101 cases and level shifts the lowest with only three incidences. In contrast, in another research “Translation shifts in Medical Translation from English into Farsi” by Hajar Khanmohammad, Sayed Muhammed Hussein Mousavinasab shows intra-system shifts were the most frequent and class shift the least frequent.(8)

(9)In a study conducted by Komijani (2005), different parts of three English novels were selected and then compared with their corresponding Persian translations in order to locate the dynamism of the shifts and also to uncover the so-called process. The results showed that structural shifts (f= 49%) achieved the most frequency in translations from English to Persian. Other shifts included unit shifts (or rank shifts), intra-system shifts, class shifts and level shifts with the frequency of 20, 15.1, 9.3 and 6.4 respectively.

(10) In another study carried out by Akbari (2006), the researcher sought to investigate different types of structural shifts while translating children’s literature from English to Persian with the aim of delving into the act of message transfer from the source text to the target audience. To do so, the researcher gathered empirical data based on the stylistic comparison of the source text and the target text sentences from ten children’s literature publications. These shifts were categorized under three subcategories including ‘addition and deletion’, ‘sentence-bound word order’ and ‘tense’. The results of her study showed that the most frequent structural shift used in the translation of such texts was ‘sentence-bound word order’.

The researchers’ interpretation of the obtained results of this study is that in the translation of English Short Stories, Iranian translators demonstrate a considerably higher tendency toward structural shift. This may be due to the structural differences between Farsi and English.

The results of the present study are highly compatible with the results of Akbari, Farhad pourebrahim and Komijani’s study in the highest frequency of structural shift in translation from English into Persian.

Conclusion

This study sets out to investigate the frequency of different kinds of linguistic translation shifts (i.e. structural shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts) based on the work by Catford that occur in the process of translating different kinds of short stories from English into Farsi.

This research answers the questions by analyzing and describing equivalence and shift in form and meaning which are found in the short stories. Form and meaning are frequently not fully equivalent, but one should notice that forms may change but meaning must not change. In *dynamic equivalence*, although the form is different, but one thing is important, which is the meaning is the same. Whereas shift should be considered as the consequence of the translators effort to establish translation naturalness between two different languages, SL and TL. The occurrence of shift reflects the translator's awareness of the linguistic and non-linguistic discrepancies between SL and TL. In this sense, shift can be defined as problem solving strategies adapted consciously to minimize the inevitable loss of meaning when rendering a text from one language into another language. It can be concluded that the highest frequency of shifts in this research is related to the Structural shift and the lowest frequency related to the book Animal Farm is No shift and the book 73 Short Stories is Intra-System shift.

دراسة تحويل قواعد الصفات الملكية من الفارسية إلى الإنجليزية

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المخلص:

قد أجريت الدراسة الحديثة للخوض في الأنواع المختلفة من تحويلات الترجمة اللغوية (تحويل البناء، تحويل النوع، تحويل الوحدة، تحويل داخل النظام) التي قدمت على أساس نموذج كاتفورد الذي قد حدث في عملية ترجمة القصص القصيرة المختلفة من الإنجليزية

إلى الفارسية.

قد اختير الكتاب الإنجليزي مع ترجمته إلى الفارسية من أجل تحقيق هدف هذه الدراسة. يتم في هذه الدراسة عدد تحويلات الصفات الملكية من الإنجليزية إلى الفارسية للبحث عن الاختلافات و التشابهات في لغتين. يمكن الاستنتاج أنه في ترجمة القصص القصيرة فيما يتعلق بصية ترجمة "مزرعة الحيوانات"، من الممكن التوصية بأن في ترجمة القصص القصيرة قد استخدم التحويل في البناء والهيكل للمزيد من سحر اللغة المستهدفة والتجنس والدقة في المزيد من نقل المعنى. ولو أن للعوامل الأخرى من جملة الأيديولوجيا، أفكار المؤلف، الغرض الأصلي للنص والعوامل الاجتماعية اثر هام في تحديد الأسلوب ونمط الترجمة.

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