



Allameh Tabataba'i University
Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages
Department of English Translation Studies

Women's Speech in Translated and Non-translated Novels

A Thesis

Submitted to the Department of English Translation Studies in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in
English Translation Studies

By: Khatereh Doroudi Moghadam

Advisor: Dr. Farzaneh Farahzad

Reader: Dr. Gholam-Reza Tajvidi

December 2010

Tehran, Iran



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چکیده

الف. موضوع و طرح مسئله (اهمیت موضوع و هدف):

در تحقیق حاضر تلاش شده الگوهای گفتاری زنان در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی مورد بررسی قرار گیرند. هدف تحقیق بررسی وجود این الگوها در گفتار زنان فارسی زبان (از طریق مطالعه‌ی رمانهای فارسی) و زنان انگلیسی زبان (از طریق مطالعه‌ی رمانهای ترجمه شده) بوده است. همینطور پی بردن به تفاوت‌های احتمالی میان این رمانها از جهت به کار گیری الگوهای گفتاری زنان از دیگر اهداف این تحقیق است. بررسی شیوه‌های گفتاری زنان در دو زبان فارسی و انگلیسی از آن جهت حائز اهمیت است که نحوه‌ی نگرش و برخورد زبان را با زنان نشان می‌دهد و همچنین نشان می‌دهد که زنان با چه زبان و واژگانی درباره‌ی خود و اندیشه‌هایشان سخن می‌گویند.

ب. مبانی نظری شامل مرور مختصری از منابع، چارچوب نظری، و پرسش‌ها فرضیه‌ها:

چهارچوب نظری تحقیق حاضر بر اساس ویژگی‌هایی است که رابین لیکاف (Robin Lakoff) در سال ۱۹۷۵ برای گفتار زنان برشمرده است. وی چندین ویژگی را مختص گفتار زنان می‌داند. این ویژگی‌ها تردید و مکث را در گفتار زنان نشان می‌دهند. همینطور بیان می‌دارند که زنان ترجیح می‌دهند به صورت غیر مستقیم نظرات خود را ابراز کنند و از واژگان و صفتهای مخصوص زنان بهره جویند. در این تحقیق ۵ مورد از این ویژگی‌ها (صفتهای زنانه - واژه‌ی زائد ضعیف - پرسش ضمیمه‌ای - گونه‌ی وجه‌نما - عامل طفره‌روی) در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی مورد بررسی قرار می‌گیرند.

پرسشهای تحقیق: آیا الگوهای گفتاری زنان (معرفی شده توسط لیکاف) در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی وجود دارند؟

اگر چنین است، چه تفاوتی میان رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی از جهت به کار گیری این الگوها وجود دارد؟ فرضیه‌های تحقیق: الگوهای گفتاری زنان در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی وجود دارند.

تفاوت حائز اهمیتی میان رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی از جهت به کار گیری این الگوها وجود ندارد.

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در این تحقیق برای بررسی الگوهای گفتاری زنان در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی ۸ رمان (۴ رمان فارسی و ۴

رمان ترجمه شده به فارسی) که در ده سال اخیر به چاپ رسیده‌اند انتخاب شد و حدوداً چهارصد هزار کلمه مورد بررسی قرار گرفت.

رمانها فارسی توسط نویسندگان زن نوشته شده‌اند و رمانهای ترجمه شده به فارسی توسط مترجمان زن ترجمه شده‌اند. الگوهای

گفتاری فوق‌الذکر در گفتار شخصیت‌های زن این رمانها مشخص شد و سپس در جدول و نمودارهای جداگانه نشان داده شد.

ت: یافته‌های تحقیق:

داده‌های گردآوری شده نشان دادند که از مجموع ۵۳۱ مورد الگوی یافت شده در رمانها، ۵۴٪ آنها متعلق به رمانهای فارسی

و ۴۶٪ آنها متعلق به رمانهای ترجمه شده به فارسی هستند. یافته‌های تحقیق حاکی از آن است که در رمانهای ترجمه شده به فارسی

میزان استفاده از الگوهایی که تردید، دودلی و طفره را در گفتار زنان نشان می‌دهند، بیشتر است. در رمانهای فارسی زنان بیشتر از

واژگان و صفت‌های مختص زنان استفاده می‌کنند و سعی دارند که از بیان قوی و صریح احساسات خودداری نمایند.

ث: نتیجه‌گیری و پیشنهادات:

وجود الگوهای گفتاری زنان در رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی می‌تواند حاکی از آن باشد که نویسندگان زن

گرایش خاصی در به کارگیری این الگوها دارند و مترجمان زن نیز به نوبه‌ی خود سعی در بازسازی این الگوها در متون ترجمه شده

دارند. شباهت رمانهای فارسی و ترجمه شده به فارسی از جهت به کارگیری این الگوها ممکن است به این دلیل باشد که این الگوها،

ویژگیهای منحصر به فرد و جهانی گفتار زنان هستند و مختص به زبان خاصی نمی‌باشند. همینطور حضور این الگوهای در زبان فارسی

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فارسی راه یافته باشند.

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Abstract

Women show a particular tendency in their speech. This tendency concerns with using particular patterns which indicate hesitation and indirectness in women's speech styles (e.g. the use of tag questions, hedges, and epistemic modal forms). Women prefer to employ forms which express their emotions softly; they also have unique choice words while expressing their ideas about something (e.g. the use of weak expletives and women's adjectives). This study was an attempt to investigate five patterns of women's speech in translated and non-translated novels as instances of written materials. It also attempted to find any possible differences between these two types of novels in terms of the use of these patterns. With this aim in view, eight novels (four translated and four non-translated) were collected and around 400,000 words were analyzed manually at the level of words, phrases and sentences to recognize the above mentioned patterns in the speech of female characters. The results indicated that the patterns of women's speech are present in both translated and non-translated novels and there is no significant difference between these two types of novels in terms of the use of the patterns which mark women's speech. It was concluded that, this similarity could be due to some reasons, including the universal features of women's language, manipulation of translated texts and transfer of the elements through translations.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Overview

It is believed that women speak differently from men and have their own speech styles and choice of words. They also have a tendency towards using particular structures and patterns while speaking. This study is an attempt to investigate women's speech in two types of writings, i.e. translated and non-translated novels, and also to find any probable differences between these two types of novels in terms of women's speech.

1.2. Background of the Problem

"Since mid 1970s research on language and sex has concentrated on the role language plays in the location and maintenance of women in a disadvantageous position in society" (Fasold 1990:89).

So the study of the relationships between sex and language is among one of the major issues in the sociolinguistics of speech. Fromkin and Rodman open up another aspect concerning the study of language and sex they believe "language reflects sexism in society"(1974:282); however Language itself is not sexist but it can convey sexist attitudes as well as attitudes about social taboos or racism. According to Cameron, linguists believe that sex differences in language mostly related to the frequent use

of certain forms by one sex whereas the other sex does not use them very often, such difference lead investigators to talk about "separate languages or varieties for the two sexes" (1985:59).

Both feminists and anti-feminists insist on the fact that women speak differently from men, but they believe that women's language is seen "as a deviation from the norm" (Mills 1995:45) by which they mean the male language. In this regard Lakoff explains that women suffer from linguistic discrimination in two ways "in the way they are taught to use language, and in the way general language use treats them." (Ehrlich 2008:12) Lakoff continues that these two ways assign inferior roles and function for women in the society and consequently some lexical items have variety of different meanings when applied to men and women. Lakoff suggests that these differences in men's and women's language "reflects the fact that men and women are expected to have different interests and different roles, hold different types of conversations, and react differently to other people" (Wardhaugh 1986:310).

The differences between women's and men's use of language and speech style are remarkably many and varied; some difference are at the level of phonology which indicates that men and women have different pronunciations, some differences relate to the way women and men conduct conversations and topics they prefer to talk about, women and men

also have different tendencies towards using some certain syntactic structures and lexical items which mark another difference in their choice of words and speech style.

Concerning the above mentioned attitudes towards the way gender influences language and the way the sex of the speaker has effects the use of language and also the differences between women's and men's language and speech style, the present study focuses on the way women speak, choose words and use syntactic structures of their language. This research attempts to find out whether patterns of women's language exist in translated and non-translated novels and also to discover the differences between these two types of novels in terms of women's speech.

It is also worth mentioning that the distinction between sex and gender and the role that gender play in language and in translation is still a controversial issue.

1.3. Statement of the Problem

Lakoff and Spender (cited in Mills, 1995:45) characterize women's speech as:

"More hesitant, less fluent, less logical and less assertive than men's speech.

Women in their view are more salient, interrupt less frequently than men,

use tag questions and modal verbs more than men, and use cooperative strategies rather than competitive ones".

Lakoff (1975 cited in Fasold 1990) also identified and described six categories that are sharply differentiated by the sex of the speaker and are recognized in the speech of women: lexical distinctions such as color terms, strong versus weak expletives, women's versus neutral adjectives, tag questions, question intonation with statement syntax, and strength of directive speech acts.

On the basis of the aforementioned quotations, this research attempts to discover whether this particular tendency in the way women talk, which is introduced by Robin Lakoff, comes to surface in women's writings (novels) regarding the speech of female characters or not.

The present study is an attempt to examine and possibly identify the above mentioned features of women's speech in novels originally written in Persian by female authors and also novels originally written in English by female authors and translated into Persian by female translators to discover whether the features of women's speech are present in these two types of novels as instances of written materials and also to determine whether there exists any difference between these two types of novels (translated and non-translated ones) in terms of women's speech.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The present research tends to recognize the categorization of women's speech introduced by Lakoff in novels originally written in Persian by female authors and also novels originally written in English by female authors and translated into Persian by female translators to find if this categorization exist in novels and also to discover any possible difference between these two types of novels in terms of the use of this categorization.

Investigating the way women talk in the two languages (Persian and English) is of great importance since it makes use think more deeply about the way women are presented in these languages and also highlight the differences between the ways of women's presentation in these languages.

1.5. Purpose of the Study

The main aim of the present research is to discover women's speech (the specific features in women's language introduced by Lakoff) in novels as instances of written materials and also to find any possible differences between novels written in Persian and those translated into Persian in terms of features which mark women's speech.

The findings of this research will be of great use to the linguistics and gender study researchers in the way women speak and choose their words. The findings also help them observe whether or not women have a particular tendency towards using specific patterns and if so whether or not this particular tendency exists only in English language or it is evident in other languages such as Persian. This fact can be proved by investigating translated and non-translated novels.

1.6. Research Questions

- Are Lakoff's patterns of women's speech present in both translated and non-translated novels?
- If so, is there any difference between translated and non-translated novels in terms of the use of these patterns?

1.7. Research Hypotheses

- Patterns of women's speech are present in both translated and non-translated novels as instances of women's speech in written material.

- There is no significant difference between translated and non-translated novels in terms of the use of these patterns.

1.8. Theoretical Framework

"Much of the early research on speech by liberal feminists, such as Robin Lakoff (1975), and radical feminists, such as Dale Spender (1980), attempted to prove that women in fact speak quite differently from men" (Mills 1995:45).

In Lakoff's view (cited in Fasold 1990) the language used by women and also the language used for the description of women tend to submerge a woman's personal identity. She believes that women "are denied the means of expressing themselves strongly, encouraged to use expressions that suggest triviality, and to use forms that express uncertainty concerning what they are talking about" (Fasold 1990:103).

Conclusively the theoretical framework adopted for this research was proposed by Robin Lakoff for women's speech; Lakoff categorized several features in women's language. These features convey uncertainty, hesitation and indirectness in women's speech and also demonstrate that