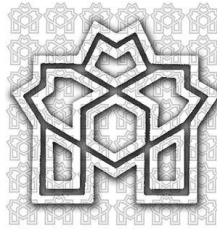


In the Name of the Lord



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**Manipulation: Retranslations of Literary
Texts in Different Eras**

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in English Translation Studies

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Abstract

Translation as a means of communication between people of different languages has always been the subject of different tastes and different ideologies; such ideologies can emanate from different spaces, namely personal or group tastes, interests, and beliefs. The present research was carried out to study the levels at which translations of literary texts undergo manipulation in different eras of post-revolutionary Iran. This study consisted of measuring and comparing the subjects as well as the strategies of manipulation in the process of translating literary works, to see whether even in different eras after the Islamic Revolution such measures show a significant difference or not.

The results of the study show that even after the Islamic Revolution there is a great discrepancy between the ways literary translations undergo manipulations both in strategies and subjects which are manipulated. There are different ideas about the level of sensitivity toward literary translations. Some believe that the first decade after the Islamic Revolution was the era of higher pressure on literary translation canons and manipulations were more prominent, on the other hand, some believe the past ten years (1382-1392 (2003-2013)) are the years of highly applied manipulations on literary translation. The final results of the study are more congruent with the second

idea. And suggest that manipulations of the literary translations in the second era are more prominent than the translations in the first era.

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List of Abbreviations

ST: Source Text

TT: Target Text

SL: Source Language

TL: Target Language

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Communicating with others and sharing information, thoughts and ideas with people around us are of subjects that are always affected by the environment, and translating as a means of connecting with the speakers of other languages is not excluded from this very fact. Since long ago, translation process has been afflicted by powerful, ruling ideas and inclinations. Therefore, it seems that ruling ideologies, especially the target society ideology, as one of the most effective factors, control the approaches, methods and even the texts to be translated. Generally speaking, translation is a highly sensitive aspect of literature; Eagleton (1996: xi) in the introduction to his book, argues that translation is best defined as "a highly sensitive kind of writing" and goes on to stress the social and ideological conditioning of values and value judgments. Bassnett (2005:54) suggests that "translation plays a major role in shaping literary systems, and the translator is involved in complex power negotiations (mediating between cultures, as it were), and translation is always a rewriting of an original."

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to Gentzler (2001: 70), there are two major shifts in the history of translation over the past two decades: "(1) the shift from source-oriented

theories to target-text-oriented theories and (2) the shift to include cultural factors as well as linguistic elements in the translation training models.” Also , cultures change over time with the change of ruling powers, ideologies and beliefs; and, although translators' ideology can affect translations of a text in a single period, this changes in political rules and regulations will put an emphasis on this issue, and the possibility of manipulation of one single literary text by two or more different translators in different periods is highly increased; therefore, translations that have to obey target culture rules in their own time, may undergo some important changes and the texts to be translated may be manipulated even when another translation of the same text is created in a different era and by another translator.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The effects of ideology, power, and patronage in translation are of highly sensitive subjects not only in Translation Studies, but also in Cultural and Historical Studies. Different eras, various translators and their diverse ideologies may have direct and indirect effects on translation process; therefore various translations or re-translations of texts, especially literary texts can be strong example of such incidents like manipulation of translations. In recent years, a move toward studying the effects, methods and

strategies of manipulation in translation has been initiated. The present thesis is an attempt to contribute to this line of research.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The present study was carried out in order to find out whether change of time, and respectively changes in political views, rules and regulations in publishing literary works and translations and also different translators who work in these different eras affects the way translations of literary works are carried out and manipulated in some perspectives.

1.4 Research Questions

This section presents the questions of the study.

RQ1: which domains have been mainly manipulated in the First decade (1358–68 (1979–1989)) of the Islamic Revolution and the past ten years (1382–92 (2003–2013))?

RQ2: which strategies are more frequently applied in the manipulation of translations in the above mentioned time spans?

RQ3: in which era are the manipulation of translations of literary texts more prominent?

1.5 Research Hypothesis

In order to gain a proper answer for the third question of the study, which in fact is the main concern of the present research, the author of the study puts his hypothesis on the idea that the translating processes carried out in the first decade of the Islamic Revolution, due to the novelty of the Islamic Republic system and the emphasis on Islamic culture might have been more discreetly supervised, and ideological manipulations were more outstanding in translations of that period than the ones performed in the past ten years (1382-1392 (2003-2013)).

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The present study's focus was established after the hypothesis of Manipulation School of Translation Studies, over the issue of manipulation of translation according to a broad perspective of factors to be discussed. The fact of manipulation of literature may have various motives, namely: concealing the political manifestations, religious nonconformities, or social and behavioral inappropriateness. All of these issues can build up a justifiable reason for the ruling ideology to have a hand in determining the published literature. Overall, this act could be done with different intentions.

The classification of the manipulations of translation in the present study is based on Zauberga's classification.

In one of her latest publications, "Theoretical Tools for Professional Translators", Zauberga (cited in Dukate; 2007: 67) also concentrates on ideological manipulation.

On the one hand, the translator may come out with a clearly defined political message, in which case the translator acts visibly and the text qualifies as a politicized translation. On the other hand, translation strategies resulting in a somewhat modified image of the original may evolve naturally from the cultural context of the target text, in which case the translator tends to act in a way that can be described as systematic rather than idiosyncratic.

Dukate depicts Zauberga's classification of ideological manipulation as follows:

- Deletion (omission)
- Substitution
- Addition
- Attenuation

The other Framework used to answer the second question of the study is Nista's (2000) typology of manipulation subjects, who claims all manipulations of translation fall under the categorization of "Cultural,

Religious, or Political subjects", and goes on the stress that no manipulation of translation is excluded from these three categories.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Manipulation: manipulation refers to “any deliberate or unconscious altering and controlling of the source language concepts in the target text for ideological reasons.” (Farahzad, 2000: 84)

Re-translation: Re-translation as Hatim and Munday (2004: 347) put it, is "a practice of ‘resistance’ by translating anew key texts to subvert colonialist discourse. The less technical meaning of 'retranslation' refers to the new translation of (normally) canonical works.

Ideology: ideology is defined in its negative political sense as ‘a system of wrong, false, distorted or otherwise misguided beliefs’ (van Dijk, quoted in Calzada-Pérez, 2003). Or as Simon says, “[Ideology is] ideas and beliefs which help to legitimate the interest of a ruling group or class by distortion or dissimulation” (Bassnett; 2002: 136)

1.8 Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

The present study was an attempt to find the proper answers to the research questions based on the supposition that the change of different ideological eras, would have a direct effect over the ways literary translations are manipulated.

Therefore, in order to find the proper answer, the author needed to search for proper English literary texts that have various Persian translations in the both defined eras of the study. And as the political powers change over time, finding old translated versions of such texts was somehow a difficult task.

Another limitation on the way of the present study was choosing the original text, and also the questions that could be posed in the way of translation manipulation and censorship (some questions will be definitely rejected and we cannot freely put anything we want under the arrow of questioning.)

CHAPTER TWO

Review of the Literature

2.1 Overview

The present chapter is a brief survey over the theoretical and historical background of ideology and manipulation and their effects on translation and translation strategies.

2.2 Cultural Turn

What we now, call the "cultural turn" stems from the collection of articles Translation, History and Culture edited by Bassnett and Lefevere (1995) that initiate a new aspect of translation to survey. According to this trend, translation is studied within a broader political and cultural context, and leads us to focus on the very specific context in which translated texts are produced. Translators themselves are increasingly seen as authors of new texts so that instead of a prescriptive approach which looks for mistakes in translation, specialists now identify the strategies used and argue reasons for the choices that are made.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, translation studies have been inspired by political factors. In their book, "Translation, History and Culture", Bassnett and Lefevere called for more specific attention to changes that they believed were increasingly encompassing the research area of translation studies, changes that signaled a shift from a more formalist approach to translation to one that laid greater emphasis on extra-textual factors. The era

of formalists had faded, and the study of translation had seen a new movement toward the need to heed on broader issues of context, not only on what is on text, but what is not in it, but has a hand in directing it.

The overview of different theories and statements of those standing in a position of talking about cultural issues and its aspects requires some pre-knowledge of some vital terms of the field.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary in its fifth definition of the entry of Culture divides its explanation in four parts:

Culture: 5. a : the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations b : the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group ; also: the characteristic features of everyday existence (as diversions or a way of life; shared by people in a place or time c : the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization d : the set of values, conventions, or social practices associated with a particular field, activity, or societal characteristic <studying the effect of computers on print.

The Sage Dictionary of Cultural Studies defines Culture in a very fashionable way as it claims the term culture to be "a complicated and contested word" because the concept does not represent an entity in an independent object world" (Barker; 2004: 44)