TABRIZ UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Interpersonal Function Of Language In Subtitling

Thesis

Submitted In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Degree Of Master Of Arts In Teaching Of English As A Foreign Language.

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June 2003

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In the name of Allah

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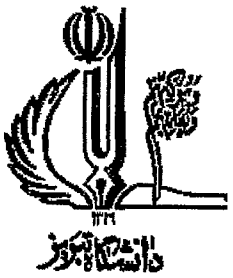

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We hereby recommend that the thesis by:
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Abstract

Translation as a communicative process is always said to be associated with various aspects of meaning loss or gain. Subtitling as a mode of translating ,due to special discoursal and textual conditions imposed upon it, is believed to be an obvious case of this loss or gain. Presenting the spoken sound track of a film in writing and synchronizing the perception of this text by the viewers with the pictorically presented events of the film can certainly be serious challenges for the act of translation equivalence. (cf. Hatim and Mason 1997).

Among the three major functions of language ,i.e. ideational, interpersonal and textual, (see Halliday 1970, 1973, 1978 and 1985) ,interpersonality has been focused upon in the present study.The major goal here has been to try to find out how and why interpersonal dimension of the intended message is affected in subtitling process.For this purpose certain textual strategies or indices representing interpersonality have been located in English first.These indices are:modals,tag- questions,verb1+to+verb2 sequences,pre-that verbs and pronouns of address.Having identified these,a film where the original English translations have been subtitled in Farsi (ie. Titanic) was chosen as our data and the rendering of these interpersonality indices was examined.The result showed that in many cases the subtitler has neglected these indices.The study can certainly have implications for TE and ELT which have been discussed in details.

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List of symbols and abbreviations

CP:Cooperative principle
D:Distance
ELT:English Language Teaching
F:Feedback
FTA:Face Threatening Act
H:Hearer
I:Initiation
Infm:inform
IP:Irony Principle
MP:Model Person
P:Power
PP:Politeness Principle
R:Response
S:Speaker
SL:Source Language
TE:Translation Equivalence
TL:Target Language

To the memory of my brother

Chapter One: **Introduction**

1.1. Background and the purpose of the study

Subtitling is a mode of translation in which the spoken sound track of the film is represented in written mode.(Hatim and Mason ,1997). Due to the limitations of task of subtitling on the one hand and the differences existing between spoken and written language on the other hand and also because of differences between languages, there might be some loss of meaning in subtitling. It is believed that interpersonal meaning is amongst one of the most important aspects of meaning sacrificed in subtitling (cf.Hatim and Mason, 1997).The purpose of the present study is to investigate the nature of this meaning loss in terms of interpersonal function of language as characterized by Halliday (1985). In other words the main purpose of this study is to determine which aspects of interpersonality are lost in subtitling. For this purpose, the interpersonality indices were identified carefully and then our data (the Farsi subtitled version of a film called Titanic) were examined to determine the effect of subtitling on interpersonal dimension of the intended message.

1.2. The organisation of the study

The present work is composed of five chapters. After introduction,the second chapter is devoted to review of literature which is composed of two parts.The first part deals with translation and the second part deals with interpersonality and its textual manifestations. In this chapter issues ranging

from definitions and typologies of translation,translation theory,translation equivalence and subtitling will be covered.

In the second part of literature review, after looking at different functions of language, Halliday's tripartite functions of language will be elaborated on with special reference to interpersonal one. Also discoursal and textuall strategies will be discussed.

The third chapter deals with methodology.

The fourth chapter is data analysis and results of the study. In this chapter the data source namely the movie "Titanic"will be investigated to see how five identified interpersonality indices have been dealt with followed by results of the analysis.

The fifth chapter discusses implications of the study for TE and ELT.