



ISLAMIC AZAD UNIVERSITY

At Central Tehran Branch

Faculty of Foreign Languages-Department of English Language

**A Thesis Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Master of Arts in English Translation Studies**

Subject:

**On The Relationship between Creativity and Translation Quality of
Iranian EFL Learners**

Regarding Journals and Literary Texts

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January 2012

In the Name of God

Dedicated to my mother

Acknowledgments

Doubtlessly, the preparation of the present research heavily rests on the support and contribution of a number of individuals who assisted the researcher in each and every phase of its development.

Firstly, I would like to convey my heartfelt and amicable gratitude to Dr. Fahim, my dear advisor for his invaluable comments and encouragement.

Next, I am indebted to the distinguished reader of my thesis, Dr. Khanmohammad whose thoughtful comments facilitated the development and progression of the present work.

My thanks are also due to Ms. Mansoori and Mr. Saeedpour, at Islamic Azad University, Tehran Central Branch, for their cooperation in giving me time to collect the samples of this research.

The last but not least, I am sincerely grateful to my family especially my mother for her ongoing patience and affectionate supports.

There are some more without whose support this study would not have been accomplished; to all of them, named or not, I offer my thanks and acknowledge their helps.

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Abstract

In the present work, the correlation between creativity and quality of translation regarding literary and journal texts by translation students has been studied. Out of 90 students, 70 senior students in Azad University, Tehran Central Branch in English courses (Exclusively in Translation) were selected. These students were assessed by PBT TOEFL test (2005) of English proficiency. This test was done for homogenizing their English proficiency level. The Abedi creativity test (1983) was also administered for measuring participants' creativity level. Finally two texts (literary and Journal texts) were given to the students for assessing their translation quality. Their translation quality was evaluated by two professional raters according to Waddington's model (2001). After that, the correlation between raters' scores was calculated. Also, the correlation between creativity and translation in literary and journal texts was done. The results showed due to this fact that creativity is a relative concept in people personality; there is no significant relationship between creativity and quality of translation neither in literary texts nor in journal texts, while translation quality depends on a good command of vocabulary and being dominant in translation's strategies .

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Creativity is a concept, which has been written about very extensively in the literature, and translation is often considered a creative activity. Only recently in the history of translation, translators have been regarded more as textual creators in their own right. One domain where translators can perform their art is composed, as Savory (1957) puts it, of the existence of possible alternatives between which the translator must make his/her own choice. However, although making choice may have been an important part in the practice of this art, the art truly begins only when you have to produce the material of the signs and their physical properties. (Perteghella, 2006)

This paper explores the relationship between Creativity and quality of translation regarding Literary and Journal texts. In recent years, the growth and development of translation studies in academia has been accompanied by different theoretical approaches to translation. In other words, translation studies have witnessed some major turns in their approaches among which, the influential “cultural turn”, accompanied by (Bassnett and Lefevere 1998), marked an important step as it placed the practice of translation and then emerging discipline of translation studies within a multifaceted, contextualized cultural framework. Turn after turn, translation as concept, practice and scholarship has thus changed, indicating further

shapes and has been nurtured by many other disciplines which in Venuti's word (1995), even if do not share conceptual paradigms and research method, they might nonetheless be joined together to advance a project of translation. One of these field is psychology which majorly deals with the (mental) process of translation; have creativity as one of the mental capabilities, resulting in different interpretation and result (product) of translation is to be studied, so that we can come to a certain correlation between these two (Creativity and Translation quality) and see how creativity affects on the quality of translation. The investigation of the notion of creativity in translation has long been around from different perspectives for example, cognitive standpoint to creativity focuses on the creative person and places the source of creativity inside the individual; in this content, researcher's efforts are devoted to describing the patterns underlying the mental processes leading to the creation of creative products. From this kind of study, the possibility of making claims for universals in creativity would be probed, especially once the attention turns to the thinking process. "Creativity then becomes an activity that is similar to a practical thinking skill that is not to everybody." (Perteghella, 2006, P.9).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The polarity between “original” writing and its translation has long been around, yet not ontologically determined. How can we reconcile between these two activities, creative writing and translation? How they can be related, if any? How can it be made justified to shift from derivative, re-production, subordinate, social culturally low status (in power relations) perspective of translation to a view which finds translating a task brimful of novelty, process of creative thinking. There is no denying the fact that, as far as the mental processes of translation is concerned, creativity as a mental capability, though of different degrees, inside the individuals in dealing with the unavoidable problems of translation task, can lead to different effects in terms of its production (result). Much has been written down about creativity, creative writing and translation but the notion is never been put in a test in a shape of research. In other words, reviewing through the literature of translation, you will be able to find many yes vote on the role of creativity. Like any other statement of the theory, it has own opponents; however, as much it is felt duty bound by this research, it is going to conduct an empirical study on the role of creativity as an existing mental activity involved in the task of translation, and its influence on the quality of translation. In other words, it attempts to find if there is any significant relationship between creativity and quality of translation in Journal and Literary texts or not. The researcher thinks having theoretical matters tested

and giving them as empirical study make our work much easier whether to decide upon them as a fact or not. This research, being aware of its deficiencies, in its best attempt, would hopefully aim for, even in some small way, making translation developments a step forward.

1.3 Research Question and Hypothesis

The present research is to explore the relationship between translation quality and creativity, so the following research question is indicated:

Research Question: “Is there any relationship between creativity and the quality of translation regarding Journal and Literary texts?”

Hand in hand with the above-mentioned question, the following hypothesis may be propounded:

Null Hypothesis: “There is no relationship between creativity and the quality of translation regarding Journal and Literary texts.”