

In The Name of Allah
The All-Gracious, The All-Merciful



Allameh Tabataba'i University

Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages

Department of English Translation Studies

**A Diachronic Study of the Norms Governing the Translation of Proper
Nouns in Plays**

A thesis

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies in

Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master of Arts

Degree in English Translation Studies

Advisor: Farzaneh Farahzad, PhD

Reader: Hussein Mollanazar, PhD

By

Saeed Safari

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Examiner: Salar Manafi Anari, PhD.....

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فرم گرد آوری اطلاعات پای‌ان‌نامه‌ها

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چکیده

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

مطالعه حاضر تلاشی برای بررسی هنجارهای حاکم بر ترجمه‌ی اسامی خاص به صورت در زمانی در نمایشنامه‌ها می‌باشد. این تحقیق به بررسی هنجارهایی می‌پردازد که بر استراتژی ترجمه اسامی خاص حاکم است. این استراتژی‌ها توسط چند مترجم متفاوت در دو دوره‌ی قاجار و پهلوی اتخاذ شده است. به منظور بررسی شیوه‌ی ترجمه‌ی اسامی خاص در این ترجمه‌ها، پژوهش‌گر از چارچوب نظری اِون زوهار و توری استفاده کرده است. با استفاده از این مدل‌ها، ترجمه‌ها بررسی شدند و استراتژی ترجمه-ی اسامی خاص در چهارچوب نظام چندگانه‌ی ادبی در دو دوره شناسایی شدند.

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

مدل‌های اِون زوهار (۲۰۰۰/۱۹۷۸) و توری (۲۰۰۰/۱۹۷۸) برای بررسی این تحقیق انتخاب شدند. محقق به دنبال پاسخ به این سؤال بود که چه هنجارهایی در دو دوره‌ی قاجار و پهلوی بر ترجمه‌ی اسامی خاص در نمایشنامه‌ها حاکم بوده است؟

پ. روش تحقیق شامل تعریف مفاهیم، روش تحقیق، جامعه مورد تحقیق، نمونه‌گیری و روش‌های نمونه‌گیری، ابزار اندازه‌گیری، نحوه‌ی اجرای آن، شیوه‌ی گردآوری و تجزیه و تحلیل داده‌ها:

چهار ترجمه‌ی نمایشنامه که در دوره‌ی قاجار صورت گرفت با چهار ترجمه که در دوره‌ی پهلوی انجام گرفت مقایسه شدند. شیوه‌ی ترجمه‌ی اسامی خاص در آنها شناسایی و در جدول نمایش داده شد.

ت. یافته‌های تحقیق:

تجزیه و تحلیل داده‌ها نشان داد که در دوره‌ی قاجار شیوه‌ی ترجمه‌ی اسامی خاص شیوه‌ی جایگزین سازی اسم فرانسوی با اسم فارسی بوده است. اما در دوره‌ی بعدی یعنی دوره‌ی پهلوی این شیوه متفاوت بوده و مترجمان از روش آوانویسی استفاده کرده‌اند. بنابراین در هر دوره هنجارهای ترجمه‌ی اسامی

خاص متفاوت بوده است. در پایان، دلایل سیاسی، ادبی، و اجتماعی این گرایش تبیین شد.

ث. نتیجه گیری و پیشنهادات:

با توجه به تجزیه و تحلیل داده‌ها، محقق به این نتیجه رسید که پربسامدترین شیوهی ترجمه در دوره‌ی قاجار جایگزین‌سازی بوده اما در دوره‌ی پهلوی آوانویسی شیوهی رایج بوده است. بنابراین در هر یک از این دو دوره هنجارهایی متفاوت حاکم بوده‌اند. چنین هنجارهایی به دلیل شرایط ادبی، اجتماعی، فرهنگی و سیاسی حاکم در آن زمان وجود داشته‌اند.

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Dedicated to Leila,

a mother

who kept me alive

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Abstract

Translators make decisions in every stage of the translation process. This process consists of reflection, selection, change, etc. The decisions made by a translator are the functions of some external forces called *translation norms*. The study of these forces is subjective and needs to rely on the final translation product. On the other hand, the governing norms in translation are not fixed, but rather they change over time. Therefore, in different periods of time, different norms govern the strategy of translation. A diachronic study of the strategy of translating proper nouns in drama translations reveals different norms in different periods. Drawing on the polysystem model and translation norms theory, the thesis attempts to diachronically study the strategy of translating proper nouns in plays to identify the governing norms in two successive eras: Qajar and Pahlavi. To conduct the study, first the strategies adopted in translating proper nouns in the plays of the Qajar era were identified and then contrasted with the strategies adopted in the next era (Pahlavi). Finally, the governing norms of the two successive periods were identified and explained.

Keywords: proper noun, decision-making, strategy, norm, polysystem

List of Abbreviations

SL Source Language

ST Source Text

TL Target Language

TT Target Text

DTS Descriptive Translation Studies

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

The decision-making process has been discussed by some translation scholars, including Levy (1967/2000), Koller (1979/1989). They attempted to find the main forces affecting decision-making and the strategy of the translation. Toury (1978/2000) believes that norms govern the translation strategy. This thesis attempts to identify the norms that governed the strategy of translating proper nouns in plays in two different periods in Iran. It draws on the polysystem theory (Even-Zohar, 1978/2000) to find the relationship between the position of translation (*central* or *peripheral*) and the strategy adopted by the translators. Translations of plays in two periods are studied to identify the governing norms in translating proper nouns in the two eras: Qajar and Pahlavi. This is a diachronic study which is a product-oriented DTS research (Toury, 1995, p. 10).

1.2 Background of the Problem

In the 1970s the polysystem theory was put forward in translation theory by Even-Zohar. According to the theory, translations must be studied within the polysystem of the time concerned. Based on this theory, the strata of a literary system compete for the central position. Translation is also one of the systems of the whole polysystem and has no fixed position. Therefore, when a new

literature is imported into the home polysystem, translation occupies the central position and the strategy of translation is determined by this position. When translation is in the central position, the translator feels no constraint and s/he is free to choose the strategy. After Even-Zohar, Toury (1978/2000) introduced the concept of “norm” into Translation Studies. According to him, translator’s decisions are governed by norms in every stage of translation. Other scholars later elaborated this concept by different models of norm for example Hermans distinguished “conventions”, “norms”, “rules” and “decrees” (1999, p. 32).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

In translating a certain genre translators adopt strategies which are determined within the polysystem of the time. The strategy of translation is the function of some external factors. When a new model is imported into the home polysystem of the TL, the translation occupies the central position of the literary polysystem of the TL. The first plays were imported into Persian literary polysystem in Qajar era. When this genre was imported and the first plays were translated, the strategy of translating proper nouns was different from the time when this genre enriched the Persian literature. There are various strategies available for translating proper nouns and when we study

such strategies since the first drama translations were done in Iran, we identify different norms governing the strategies. Therefore, by a diachronic study of the translation of plays, we see that the polysystem theory and norms are applicable to the Persian literature as well. In this case, we are able to discover these norms in the two periods concerned.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There has been no diachronic study conducted on drama translation norms in Iran so far. This study is an attempt to investigate these norms and their changing state overtime in Iran.

1.5 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research is to identify the norms that governed the translation of proper nouns in plays since the first plays were translated into Persian. This study reconstructs the norms within the Persian polysystem in two successive eras: Qajar and Pahlavi.

1.6 Research Question

This study attempts to answer the following question:

What norms have been governing the translation of proper nouns in plays in the Qajar and Pahlavi eras?

1.7 Theoretical Frameworks

The study draws on the polysystem theory (Even-Zohar, 1978/2000) and norms theory (Toury, 1987/2000) and the Descriptive Translation Studies model (Toury, 1995).

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Norms: regularities of translation behaviour within a specific sociocultural situation (Toury 1978, reprinted in Toury 1980a).

Strategy: Teleological course of action undertaken to achieve a particular goal in an optional way (Kearns, 2009, p. 282).

Polysystem: A general model for understanding, analyzing and describing the functioning and evolution of literary systems (Shuttleworth, 2009, p. 197).

Proper Noun: A name used for referring to an individual, a place, or any entity.

1.9 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study focused on four plays translated in the Qajar period and the other three plays that were translated in the Pahlavi period. As the researcher intended to investigate the norms and the position of translated literature, he needed the first plays that were translated in Qajar era. The first plays that were translated into Persian were French; therefore, the researcher didn't have any English version of these plays in Qajar period. For this reason, the French plays were studied as the first plays that were imported into Persian literature to identify and trace the norms since then. The original proper nouns had been attached to the translated versions (translated plays); therefore, the researcher identified them easily in the TT and the STs were not needed.