



Allameh Tabataba'i University

Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages

Department of English Translation Studies

A Diachronic Study of Translation of Allusions in English Novels

By Belqeis al-Sadat Arasteh

**A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in
English Translation Studies**

Advisor: Hussein Mollanazar, PhD

Reader: Farzaneh Farahzad, PhD

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فرم گرد آوری اطلاعات پایان نامه ها
کتابخانه مرکزی دانشگاه علامه طباطبائی

عنوان: مطالعه در زمانی ترجمه تلمیحات در رمانهای انگلیسی		
نویسنده/محقق: بلقیس السادات ارسته		
استاد راهنما: جناب آقای دکتر حسین ملانظر استاد مشاور: خانم دکتر فرزانه فرح زاد استاد داور: جناب آقای دکتر غلامرضا تجویدی		
کتابنامه: دارد		واژه نامه: دارد
نوع پایان نامه: بنیادی <input type="checkbox"/>	توسعه ای <input type="checkbox"/>	کاربردی <input type="checkbox"/>
مقطع تحصیلی: کارشناسی ارشد		سال تحصیلی: 1391-92
محل تحصیل: تهران	نام دانشگاه: علامه طباطبائی	دانشکده: ادبیات و زبانهای خارجی
تعداد صفحات: ۱۶۴		گروه آموزشی: مترجمی زبان انگلیسی
کلیدواژه ها به زبان فارسی: تلمیح، بینامتنیت، راهکار ترجمه، نقش موضوعی		
کلیدواژه ها به زبان انگلیسی: Allusion, Intertextuality, Translation Strategy, Thematic Function		

چکیده

الف) موضوع و طرح مسئله (اهمیت موضوع و هدف): تلمیح به عنوان گونه ای از بینامتنیت و به عنوان یک صنعت ادبی مهم که می تواند معانی عمیقی را به متن القا کند، درخور توجه است. بدیهی است که مترجمان باید تلمیح را به شیوه ای ترجمه کنند که معنی ضمنی و نقش آن در ترجمه تغییر نیابد. تحقیق حاضر ترجمه ی تلمیح ها را در رمانهای انگلیسی بررسی می کند. این تحقیق می تواند به مترجمان کمک کند تا برای ترجمه تلمیح راهکارهای مناسبی بیابند.

ب) مبانی نظری شامل مرور مختصری از منابع، چارچوب نظری و پرسشها و فرضیه ها: تحقیق حاضر در چارچوب نظری بینامتنیت صورت گرفته است. نظریه ی بینامتنیت در سال ۱۹۶۹ توسط کریستوا معرفی شد. در تحقیق حاضر به دو پرسش پاسخ داده می شود:

۱) پربسامدترین راهکارها برای ترجمه تلمیح در رمانهای انگلیسی چیست؟

۲) آیا نقش موضوعی تلمیحا در سطح کلان در ترجمه رمانهای انگلیسی تغییر می کند؟

با توجه به این پرسشها، این فرضیه مطرح می شود که نقش موضوعی تلمیحا در سطح کلان در ترجمه رمانهای انگلیسی تغییر می کند.

پ) روش تحقیق شامل تعریف مفاهیم، روش تحقیق، جامعه مورد تحقیق، نمونه گیری و روشهای نمونه گیری، ابزار اندازه گیری، نحوه ی اجرای آن، شیوه گردآوری و تجزیه و تحلیل داده ها: در این تحقیق از راهکارها و نقشهای مطرح شده توسط لپیهالم (۱۹۹۷) استفاده شده است، تا پربسامدترین راهکارها برای ترجمه تلمیح در رمانهای انگلیسی شناخته شود و همچنین مشخص شود که آیا نقش موضوعی تلمیحا در سطح کلان تغییر کرده است. داده های تحقیق از دو رمان انگلیسی جمع آوری شده اند که عبارتند از: خشم و هیاهو (۱۹۴۶) اثر ویلیام فاکنر، خوشه های خشم (۱۹۳۹) اثر جان اشتاین بک. بعد از خواندن متن اصلی رمانها انواع تلمیح ها همراه با ترجمه فارسی قبل و بعد از انقلاب اسلامی جمع آوری شدند.

ت) یافته ها و نتیجه گیری تحقیق: محقق به این نتیجه رسید که مترجمان تقریباً تمام تلمیح ها را با کمترین تغییر ترجمه کرده اند، این امر در نتیجه سبب تغییر در نقش موضوعی آنها شده است.

صحت اطلاعات مندرج در این فرم بر اساس محتوای پایان نامه و ضوابط مندرج در فرم را گواهی می نمایم.

نام استاد راهنما: دکتر حسین ملانظر

رئیس کتابخانه:

سمت علمی: استادیار

نام دانشکده: ادبیات فارسی و زبانهای خارجی

Dedicated to

My Dear Parents

Acknowledgements

My special thanks go to the advisor of my thesis, Dr. Mollanazar, without his invaluable guidelines and support, the completion of this study would seem impossible.

I am very thankful to my reader Dr. Farahzad for her invaluable comments.

Special acknowledgments are given to my respected professors at Allameh Tabataba'i University.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my dear parents for their support during this study. I wouldn't have had the ability to complete this study if it had not been for them.

Abstract

Allusion, as a kind of intertextuality, can bring special connotations in texts. It goes without saying that allusions are culture-specific items that can cause dramatic difficulties for translators when translating. This study aimed at finding the most frequently used strategy or strategies in dealing with different types of allusions in English novels by translators. This study can help translators to deal with allusions in English novels. The present research was based on the notion of intertextuality which was proposed by Kristeva in 1969. The research intended to find the most frequently used strategy or strategies in dealing with allusion in English novels. The translation strategies proposed by Leppihalme (1997) were adopted to analyze the most frequently used strategies. Moreover, the thematic function of allusions at macro-level proposed by Leppihalme (1997) was analyzed in these novels. The data consisted of two English novels and their Persian translations before and after the Islamic Revolution.

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Abbreviations

KP	Key Phrase
PN	Proper Name
SAC	Semi-Allusive Comparison
SL	Source Language
ST	Source Text
TL	Target Language
TT	Target Text

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background

Translation has always been considered as a challenging task to perform. Translators are supposed to reproduce and recreate the ST in a way that is intelligible and meaningful to culturally different readers. It goes without saying that literary translation is a very demanding task, since translators must be able to preserve the spirit of the original text and recreate it. So, they must consider all the allusiveness that the text carry and must translate the text attentively and not miss any significant elements. As we know literary texts are replete with literary devices such as metaphor, metonymy, alliteration, allusion and so on. Allusion as a kind of intertextuality requires special attention in translation since its recreation in the target text can preserve the pleasure for readers. According to Genette (1992: 8, cited in Salo-Oja, 2004: 13) allusion is a kind of intertextuality along with plagiarism and quotation. The theory of intertextuality was introduced by Kristeva in 1966 and since then its notion has been captured differently by various scholars in the field. Intertextuality can be defined as the relation between texts. According to Hellgren (2007:9), “intertextuality proposes that any reading of a text always happens in relation to other texts that the reader has knowledge of”. According to Leppihalme (1997:8) “discussion on intertextuality have emphasized that it is a more complex phenomena than mere borrowing of words from earlier texts. What is important is the function of the insertion in

the new text and recognition that all texts owe something to other texts which colour and may even transform them. So, Allusion as a culture-specific item and as a kind of intertextuality must be dealt with attentively. As we know, differences between cultures result in some problem. Interest in intercultural translation problems arises from a recognition that culture-bound concepts, even where the two cultures involved are not too distant, can be more problematic for the translator than the semantic or syntactic difficulties of a text (Cordero, 1984: 473, cited in Leppihalme, 1997: 2). So, as we know cultural differences can bring about dramatic problems for translators when translating but translators must try to translate allusions in a way that the readers of the translation grasp their meaning. Moreover, they must be careful not to change the function of the allusion. So the allusions and their function ask for attention. Allusion as a kind of intertextuality requires special strategies and the translator is supposed to use the most effective and the most useful one.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Translating from one culture into another has always been accompanied with numerous difficulties. Many items in the ST don't have an equivalent in the TT. Since allusions are culture-bound, translators have difficulty translating them. So, they have to deal with them appropriately by using the most effective strategies. Literary text such as novels, poetry, drama, prose, etc. are

full of allusions which should be translated carefully so that the best option may be chosen to satisfy the needs of reproducing them. By using different strategies for translating allusions in novels, their thematic function may change a great deal. Generally speaking, analyzing thematic function of allusion can contribute to the overall understanding of the novels.

1.3 Significance of the Study

Knowing that allusions are culture-specific items, translators use different strategies in order to translate them effectively. By examining the used strategies adopted by translators, we can see whether allusions have been rendered in ways that are intelligible or not and whether their function changed or not. The present study intended to explore how translators translated allusions in English novels, and which strategies were selected to translate allusions and their thematic function and also to find out whether the thematic functions of allusions changed. By doing research in this field, the most useful and the most effective strategies in dealing with allusions are recognized. The findings of this research can be used in translator training courses and novice translators can benefit from them.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

This study aimed at exploring the most frequently used strategies by translators in dealing with allusions in English novels and to find out whether they were successful in getting the meaning of allusions across. This study also intended to seek whether the thematic functions of allusions changed in translations.

1.5 Research Questions

- a) What are the most frequently used strategies for translating allusions in English novels?
- b) Does the thematic function of allusions change at macro-level in translations?

1.6 Research Hypotheses

As regards research question No. 2, the following hypothesis may be put forth:

"The thematic functions of allusions change at macro-level in the process of translating".

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The present research was based on the notion of intertextuality which was proposed by Kristeva in 1969. According to her, any text is constructed as a

mosaic of quotations, any text is the absorption and transformation of another. (Kristeva, 1969, cited in De Nooy, 1982: 270). According to Hellgren (2007:9), “intertextuality proposes that any reading of a text always happens in relation to other texts that the reader has knowledge of”. The idea of the text, and thus of intertextuality, depends, as Barthes argues, on the figure of the web, the weave, the garment (text) woven from the threads of the ‘already written’ and the ‘already read’. (Allen, 2000:6).

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Intertextuality: According to Kristeva (1986: 36, cited in Allen, 2000: 35) a text is ‘a permutation of texts, an intertextuality in the space of a given text’, in which ‘several utterances, taken from other texts, intersect and neutralize one another’.

Allusion: According to Irwin (2002:521), allusion is a reference which is indirect in the sense that it calls for association which goes beyond mere substitution of a referent. Allusions typically draw on information not readily available to every member of cultural and linguistic community, are typically but not necessarily brief and may or may not be literary in nature.

Translation Strategy: Translation strategy refers to a potentially conscious procedure for the solution of a problem when translating. (Lörscher, 1991: 76, cited in Leppihalme, 1997: 24).

Thematic Function of Allusions: According to Leppihalme (1997: 37) “the use of creative allusions on the macro-level often brings in a suggestion of universality, a heightening of emotion, a desire to imply that there is something about a situation or character in the alluding context that is more important than the reader would otherwise assume, and which may be of thematic importance for the interpretation of the text as a whole.

1.9 Limitations and Delimitations of the Study

This study intended to investigate the strategies adopted by translators in translating allusions and their thematic function in English novels. Other functions of allusions were not analyzed in this research. It must be mentioned that other kinds of literary texts such as poetry, prose, plays, etc. were not included in this research.