



**Allameh Tabataba'i University**

Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages

Department of English Translation Studies

**Monolingual Corpora in Translator  
Training: Collocation and Subject-field Understanding  
in 'Service Translation'**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Department of English Translation Studies in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in  
*English Translation Studies*

**By: Majidreza Zahmatkesh**

**Advisor: Dr. Gholamreza Tajvidi**

**Reader: Dr. Hussein Mollanazar**

**February 2011**

**Tehran, Iran**



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**فرم گردآوری اطلاعات پایان‌نامه‌ها**  
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## چکیده

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

در تحقیق حاضر تلاش شده کارایی پیکره های تخصصی زبان مبدأ و مقصد در آموزش مترجم بررسی شود هدف تحقیق بررسی کلّی پیکره های تخصصی زبان مبدأ و مقصد در ارائه ی، به ترتیب، اطلاعات موثق در باب همآیی زبان مقصد و محتویات موضوعی در ترجمه خدماتی بوده است. بررسی کارایی پیکره های تخصصی زبان مبدأ و مقصد در آموزش مترجم از آن جهت حائز اهمیت است که به مدرسین ترجمه (به ویژه بترجمه ی خدماتی) منابعی را معرفی می کند تا بتوان با استفاده ی از آنها بر مشکلات درک موضوعی و همآیی که ترجمه آموزان در کلاس های ترجمه در پیش روی دارند فائق آمد.

### ب. مبانی نظری شامل مرور مختصری از منابع، چارچوب نظری، و پرسش ها فرضیه ها:

چهارچوب نظری تحقیق حاضر بر اساس روش شناسی ای می باشد که Tim Johns در سال ۱۹۹۱ ارائه نمود. این روش شناسی که Data Driven Learning نام دارد شیوه ای پیکره بنیان است که در آن زبان آموزان تشویق می شوند تا فرضیات خود را در باب دادهای متنی ایجاد کنند و همچنین خود راهکار هایی برای بیرون کشیدن اطلاعات از پیکره ها پیشنهاد دهند. Stewart, Bernardini و Zanettin اعتقاد دارند که می توان این رویکرد که بر پایه ی یادگیری از طریق اکتشاف می باشد را به تناسب در آموزش مترجم به کار گرفت.

#### پرسشهای تحقیق:

۱. آیا پیکره ی کمیت تخصصی زبان مقصد می تواند منبع کارآمدی برای ارائه ی اطلاعات در باب همآیی زبان مقصد باشد؟

۲. آیا پیکره ی کیفیت تخصصی زبان مبدأ می تواند منبع کارآمدی در ارائه ی اطلاعات برای درک موضوع باشد؟

#### فرضیه های صفر تحقیق:

۱. پیکره ی کمیت تخصصی زبان مقصد نمی تواند منبع کارآمدی برای ارائه ی اطلاعات در باب همآیی زبان مقصد باشد.

۲. پیکره ی کیفیت تخصصی زبان مبدأ نمی تواند منبع کارآمدی در ارائه ی اطلاعات برای درک موضوع باشد.

### پ. روش تحقیق شامل تعریف مفاهیم، روش تحقیق، جامعه مورد تحقیق، نمونه گیری و روش های نمونه گیری، ابزار

#### اندازه گیری، نحوه اجرای آن، شیوه گردآوری و تجزیه و تحلیل دادهها:

در این تحقیق ۴۰ دانشجوی سال آخر آموزش ترجمه در دو گروه کنترل و آزمایش قرار داده شدند. قبل از مداخله، به هر دو گروه یک پیش آزمون به صورت چهار گزینه ای داده شد. بعد از مداخله، به هر دو گروه متنی برای ترجمه در مقام پس آزمون داده شد. گروه آزمایش ترجمه را با استفاده از پیکره های کمیت و کیفیت انجام دادند در حالی که گروه کنترل ترجمه را به صورت سنتی یعنی با استفاده از لغت نامه دو زبانه انجام دادند برای رسیدن به اهداف این تحقیق از پیش آزمون و پس آزمون دو نمره برای هر گروه به دست آمد. به دلیل نوع متفاوت پیش آزمون و پس آزمون نمره های لازم برای خطاهای آنها درک موضوع و همآیی محاسبه شد. برای محاسبه ی تفاوت میانگین بین پیش آزمون و پس آزمون از آزمون t-test استفاده شد. برای محاسبه ی تفاوت میانگین میان پیش آزمون

و پس آزمون دو گروه به طور جداگانه از آزمون t-test مستقل استفاده گردید.

#### **ت: یافته‌های تحقیق:**

داده‌های به دست آمده از پیش آزمون نشان داد که قبل از مداخله بین دو گروه تفاوت معنی داری در ترجمه‌ی هم‌آیی و درک موضوع وجود نداشت. داده‌های بدست آمده از پس آزمون حاکی از آن است که بعد از مداخله بین دو گروه در ترجمه‌ی هم‌آیی و درک موضوع تفاوت معناداری ایجاد شد. داده‌های گرد آوری شده از مقایسه‌ی پیش آزمون و پس آزمون گروه آزمایش نشان داد که خطاهای گروه آزمایش، بعد از مداخله، در درک موضوع و ترجمه‌ی هم‌آیی بصورت معناداری کاهش یافت.

#### **ث: نتیجه‌گیری و پیشنهادات:**

از تحلیل داده‌های به دست آمده از این تحقیق می‌توان نتیجه گرفت که پیکره‌ی کمیت تخصصی زبان مقصد می‌تواند منبع کارآمدی برای ارائه‌ی اطلاعات در باب هم‌آیی زبان مقصد باشد. بر اساس یافته‌ها همچنین می‌توان ادعا کرد که پیکره‌ی کیفیت تخصصی زبان مبدأ می‌تواند منبع کارآمدی در ارائه‌ی اطلاعات برای درک موضوع باشد. نتایج به دست آمده از این تحقیق می‌تواند کمک شایانی به بالا بردن هر چه بیشتر کیفیت تربیت مترجمین کند در مواردی که ترجمه‌آموزان در درک موضوع متنی که قرار است ترجمه شود با مشکل مواجهند و همچنین در مواقعی که لغت نامه‌های دو زبانه نمی‌توانند معادل‌های مناسبی برای عبارات هم‌آیی به ویژه در ترجمه به زبان غیر مادری ارائه دهند، پیکره‌های تخصصی کیفیت و کمیت می‌توانند نقش بسزایی در حل این مشکلات ایفا کنند.

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

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# **Abstract**

The present study aimed at investigating the efficiency of monolingual, specialized target and source corpora in improving translation skills, collocation and subject-field understanding here. The corpora employed in this study were a quantity corpus for providing information on collocation and a quality corpus for providing information on the subject-field. To do so, 40 senior students of translation training at Imam Reza University participated in this study. The participants were put into two groups of control and experiment. The experiment group received the instruction using the corpora while the control group was instructed conventionally having only an instructor and a bilingual dictionary at their disposal. A pre-test was given to both groups including collocation and subject-field items. After the treatment, the participants were provided by a translation task as a post-test. After gathering the relevant data, appropriate statistical tests were employed to find the answers to the research questions. The results of this study showed significant decrease in experiment groups' collocation and subject-field understanding errors.

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# Chapter 1

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## Introduction

## 1.1. Introduction

The field of translation studies (TS), as a distinct discipline, emerged in 1970s owing its birth to James S. Holmes (Munday, 2004). Holmes provided a map demonstrating the areas of study in this field as being divided into two general areas as "Pure and Applied" with their respective sub-areas (Toury, 1995, p.10; as cited in Munday, 2004, pp. 10-13). Based on this map, translation training falls under the applied area of translation studies covering teaching methods, testing techniques and curriculum design (Munday, 2004).

Some approaches have been proposed for applying the information gained from the 'Pure' area of translation studies discipline in training translators. Acknowledging the fact that in the new modern era, new technologies have an "essential role" to play in training courses (Kelly, 2005), it seems that TS areas of studies including translator training need to be modernized. One of modern approaches towards translator training is the corpus-based one which, based on the needs of education, implements different kinds of corpora as a source for varieties of data in translating classes or workshops (Olohan, 2004). Since contextualization is very significant in descriptive translation studies, corpora may provide students with such contextualized data (Olohan, 2004) and as Bowker (2000) notes a translator trainer needs to provide the trainees with "concrete evidence" about their problem-solving strategies, corpus has proved to be a very useful source for providing such evidence contrasting the conventional ones as dictionaries, parallel texts, intuition, etc. (Bowker, 2000)

The aim of this research was to investigate the application of original, monolingual, specialized source and target language corpora in "service translation" (Newmark, 1988; p.52) as sources for providing subject-field content information and collocation respectively by translator trainees and to highlight its effectiveness over the conventional approaches.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

As cited by Bowker (2000, p.184), "a translator must have at least the following skills: a good knowledge of the source language, an excellent mastery of the target language, and an understanding of the subject-field".

The aim of translator training courses is to train translators for the professional market of translation. Considering the fact that a huge pile of translation projects are commissioned daily, a would-be-translator thus is expected to carry out translation in different subject fields. This requirement of the market implies working on texts in different subject fields and of different text types in translator training courses (Bowker, 2000).

Consequently, the translator trainers are required to supply their trainees with different 'concrete' information on the subject field including its content. In the real world, trainers are not experts in every subject field (Bowker, 2000). Besides, as the mastery of the target language is a required skill for translators, they need to be trained in different aspects of the target language (TL) including collocation. The problem is even worse when doing

service or inverse translation which as Newmark (1988, p.52) notes "is necessary in most countries". Consequently, the trainees require contextualized linguistic items to apply in their translations as the mistakes which translators commit may also be due to lack of cultural competence especially while translating into a foreign language, (Leppihalme, 1997).

### **1.3. Significance of the Study**

Since this research intended to investigate the effect(s) of using monolingual specialized target and source language corpora in translator training courses, it was assumed that the findings and the sub-findings of this study may highlight the probable effectiveness of applying corpus-based methodology comparing to the conventional translation/translation training aids such as dictionaries, parallel texts, etc. for tackling collocation and subject-field understanding problems in service translation which is practiced in Iranian universities holding translation-training courses rarely. Exposure is training (Monzo', 2003). Therefore, the research was done through exposing the trainees to the recurring lexical patterns in the specialized target language quantity corpus as Stewart (2000; as cited in Olohan, 2004) has experienced that students are influenced by the recurring patterns in the corpora. In respect of subject-field comprehension, the



trainees were given a quality source language specialized corpus to apply to their potential comprehension problems.

#### **1.4. Purpose of the Study**

This research aimed at investigating the effects of using specialized target and source language corpora as sources for providing authentic information on TL collocation and subject-field content information respectively. As a sub-finding, it also intended to highlight the probable effectiveness of the corpus-based translator training approach comparing to the conventional ones in translator training courses.

#### **1.5. Research Questions**

1. Is a specialized target language quantity corpus an efficient source for providing the translation trainees with information on target language collocation?
2. Is a specialized source language quality corpus an efficient source for providing the translation trainees with information on subject-field content?

## **1.6. Research Null Hypotheses**

1. A specialized target language quantity corpus is not an efficient source for providing the translation trainees with information on target language collocation.
2. A specialized source language quality corpus is not an efficient source for providing the translation trainees with information on subject-field content.

## **1.7. Theoretical Framework**

Tim Johns is the pioneer in applying corpora in language learning. He proposed a methodology of "data driven learning" (1991; as cited in Bernardini, Stewart, & Zanettin, 2003; p.4). This methodology is a corpus-based one in which the language learners are "encouraged to develop their own hypotheses about textual data and to advise their own strategies for extracting information from corpora" (Bernardini, Stewart, & Zanettin, 2003; p.4). Bernardini, Stewart and Zanettin (2003) claim that the view of 'learning as discovery' could be equally applicable in translator education.

## **1.8. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1.8.1. Corpus**

In linguistics, corpus is "a collection of naturally-occurring language texts, chosen to characterize a state or a variety of a language" (Sinclair, 1991, p.171). In translation studies, corpus is defined as an approximately limited collection of different texts which is totally or partially analyzed to derive specific information (Shuttleworth & Cowie, 2007). Modern corpora are collections of texts in electronic form which are machine-readable (Bowker, 2003).

### **1.8.2. Specialized corpora**

Specialized corpora are collections of texts which are written by experts in a specific subject field (Kubler, 2003). Such corpora are used for special purposes rather than the general description of language, such as corpora for lexicography, corpora for studying spoken language, corpora for research on language acquisition, etc. (Kennedy, 1998)

### **1.8.3. Monolingual corpora**

Monolingual corpora include samples in only one language (Sinclair, 1996).

#### **1.8.4. Quality corpus**

Quality corpus is a collection of high-quality texts which are chosen primarily for their conceptual content and are usually smaller than other corpora. The criteria applied to selecting texts for this type of corpus are necessary conceptual information, the same text type, appropriate style, vocabulary and usage (Bowker, 2000).

#### **1.8.5. Quantity corpus**

Quantity corpus is larger than the quality one. It is compiled to give a larger sample of the LSP in question. The texts collected in this corpus are selected based on keywords, text type and year of publication but are not as closely inspected as the quality corpus (Bowker, 2000).

#### **1.8.6. Service translation**

As Newmark (1988, p.52) defines, service translation "is translation from one`s language of habitual use into another language."

#### **1.8.7. Collocation**

Collocation is defined as "the restrictions on how words can be used together" (Richards & Schmidt, 2002, p.87).