

In the Name of God

Allameh Tabataba'i University
Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages
Department of English Translation Studies

**Dialects as Translated into Persian in
Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and
William Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury***

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

By Alaleh Shah Ali

Advisor: Dr. Gholam-Reza Tajvidi
Reader: Dr. Golnaz Modarresi-Ghavami

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Abstract

Translation scholars have proposed and sought ‘universals of translation’ under the title of ‘universal hypotheses’. This thesis is a comparative study of translated texts containing one of the universals known as ‘Standardization’ of dialects exploited in Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* and William Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury* and two Persian translations of each of the fore-mentioned novels.

Key words: translation, dialect, standardization, official language, un-official language, colloquial language, conversational language

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Francois, Duc de La Rochefoucauld says:

'True love is like ghosts that everybody talks about, but few have seen.'

I am certainly one of those few lucky ones.

To my caring husband,

devoted mom

and

sweet Melody

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Abbreviations

Add.	Addition
AAVE	African American Vernacular English
BNC	British National Corpus
Collq. Stl.	Colloquial Style
DTS	Descriptive Translation Studies
NC	National Corpus
OED	Oxford English Dictionary
Orth. Phon. Dev.	Orthographical Phonological Deviation
Orth. Dev.	Orthographical Deviation
SAE	Standard American English
SA	Sound Addition
SC	Sound Change
SD	Sound Deletion
SE	Standard English
SF	Short Form
SL	Source Language
ST	Source Text
Std.	Standardization
TEC	Translational English Corpus
TL	Target Language
Tr.	Translation
TT	Target Text

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 1 - Introduction

1.1. Preliminaries

Baker (1998:277-80) writes: ‘interest in translation is practically as old as human civilization and there is a vast body of literature on the subject dating back at least to Cicero in the first century B.C.’

The 1980’s saw the foundation statement of the field of translation studies and the search for universals of translation has experienced a surge of research interest since the mid-nineties especially since the advent of electronic corpora as research tools in translation studies.

As an academic discipline, translation studies date back to the second half of the twentieth century of course as a sub-discipline of ‘comparative literature’ or ‘contrastive linguistics’(ibid.). Later the way was paved for initiating scientific and empirical approaches to translation studies and eventually it gave rise to many new concepts which have so far been studied and subjected to objective researches. One of these concepts is the issue of universals of translation including standardization, normalization, explicitation, simplification, convergence and leveling out, exaggeration of target language features and unique items.

As House (2002:107) puts it : ‘ In the course of today's steadily increasing process of globalization and internationalization in many aspects of science, politics, culture, and economics, the question of “universality” in translation as a particular type of culturally determined practice and a predominantly linguistic procedure’ and thus would become a well-justified topic to be discussed. Thus the researcher in the present research aimed at exploring one of the translated universals termed as ‘Standardization’.

1.2. Background of the Problem

According to Baker (1997:288): ‘universals of translation by definition are linguistic features which typically occur in translated texts and are thought to be the almost inevitable by-products of the process of mediating between two languages rather than being the result of the interference of one language with another.’

This controversial issue has its own advocates including Laviosa- Braithwaite (1996:147 in Paloposki:267) who claim that they have found clear support for hypotheses concerning general linguistic properties of translated language such as simplification or Greenberg (1996) who believes : ‘all language universals are by their very nature summary of statements about characteristics or tendencies shared by all human speakers’, while others including Tymoczko and Paloposki (2001:711-89) maintain that ‘the very idea of making claims about universals in translation is inconceivable since we have no way of capturing translations from all times and all languages’. And yet some have the in-between ideas such as new subtypes of universals (see

Chesterman 2001) or questioning of further developing already established consents (see Toury 2001, Klaudy 2001) or even wondering if the term was felicitous (see Baker 2001).

1.3. Significance of the Study

- The findings of this study may help Iranian translators and the Academy of the Persian Language and Letters to find a solution for the varieties of writing colloquial Persian and to determine the acceptable and misspelled versions used presently by the translators.
- The findings of this study have pedagogical implications for teaching and learning translating and also in translator training courses.
- The findings of this study also help propose dialect-specific translation strategies, as in any language there are various dialects which should be observed when translating into and from other languages.
- They may be used to design and develop more effective translation soft wares for the field of machine translation.
- The findings may shed some light on the much debated topic of translated texts as ‘autonomous’ and independent texts.
- The findings may also help the researchers who investigate the question of the ‘third code’.

1.4. Purpose of the Study

This research intended to investigate the strategies applied by the translators when translating dialects and to see whether the features constituting dialects were preserved, eliminated and standardized or translated into colloquial