Investigating Nonliterary Translation Shifts by Concentrating on United Nations Texts Using Pekkanen's (2010) Model

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Abstract—**Translation shift especially within UN texts is a new area of interest in the field of translation studies. The concept uses linguistic translation as a tool or metaphor in analyzing the nature of transformation and interchange in the political text. The main objective of the present study was to study translation shifts in non-literary texts – those from the UN documents. The study intended to compare strategy application in translation of shifts by Pekkanen (2010), extracted from three UN documents, between two English-Persian dictionaries (one by Khiyabani (2013) and the other one by Aryanpoor (2006)). The contraction strategy was the most frequent strategy applied by Khiyabani (85 times, 56.7%) and the least frequent strategy was shift in order (11 times, 7.3%). The expansion strategy was the most frequent strategy applied by Aryanpoor (66 times, 44%) and the least frequent strategy was shift in order (6 times, 4%). The findings of the present study were in line with those reported by Pekkanen (2010). The two translators were not significantly different with regard to application of miscellaneous and shift in order strategies and were significantly different with regard to application of contraction and expansion strategies. The results obtained in this thesis could in general be useful for students of translation, instructors and university professors, syllabus designers, freelancers, book compilers and all those who are involved in one way or another in translation issues.**

Index Terms—**translation shifts, non-literary documents, shift strategies, political text translation, translation strategies**

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the inevitable phenomena in translation is translation shift. Shifts are variations that happen during the process of translation from Source Language (SL) to Target Language (TL). In comparing texts in diverse languages, translation shifts are noticeable everywhere (Hosseini Maasoum & Shahbaiki, 2013). Probably for the first time, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958) tried to term the linguistic variations that happened during translation as 'translation procedures'. As cited in Cyrus (2006, p. 1):

Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), working in the field of comparative stylistics, extended a system of translation tenors. Some of them were direct or literal, but some of them were oblique and eventuate in various diversities between the source and the target texts. These tenors were called transposition (change in word class), modulation (change in semantics), equivalence (completely different translation, e. g. proverbs), and adaptation (change of situation due to cultural differences). There is an insignificant prescriptive voice in the work of Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), because they mention that oblique tenors should only be used if a more direct one would actuate to an awkward translation. Nevertheless, their approach to translation shifts, even though avant la lettre, continues to be highly influential.

As cited in Khanmohammad and Mousavinasab (2014, p. 1):

A decade later, Catford (1965) explicitly used the term 'Translation Shifts' for the same reference which he defined as departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL. This method of translation analysis was solely based on linguistics (belonging to the formalism era). He classified linguistic shifts from a very general view as 'shift of level' and 'shift of category'.Shift of level was something expressed by grammar in one language and lexis in another, and shift of category as changes which were only grammatical.

The latter was divided into five sub-categories as follows:

1) Level shift: "Expressed by grammar in one language and lexis in another" (Catford, 1965, p. 141). 2) Class shift: A shift from one part of speech to another. 3) Unit shift or rank shift: Unit shift or rank shift was defined by Munday (2008) as "Where the translation equivalence in the Target Language (henceforth TL) is at a different rank to the Source Language (henceforth SL). Rank here refers to the hierarchical linguistic unit of sentence, clause, group, word and morpheme" (p. 61). 4) Structural shift: According to Catford (1965) (as cited in Munday, 2008, p. 61), "This is the most common form of the shifts which involves mostly a shift in grammatical structure." 5) Intersystem shift: A shift that

takes place when there is an approximately corresponding system between the SL and the TL, but is not applicable in the process of translation.

A study by Vossoughi and Pourebrahim (2010, p. 81) investigated:

… the realization of Catford's shifts in Farsi translation of English psychology texts, from a product-oriented point of view, shedding light on the areas where Farsi is different from English. Inspired by a study conducted by Khorshidi (2010), the two questions raised in the study sought to detect the kinds of shifts applied in the translation of English psychology texts according to Catford's theory, and to explore the most frequently used shifts in those texts which include the normal aspects of Farsi psychology texts. To this end, five books on psychology (originally written in English) and their Farsi translations were chosen and a total of six chapters were selected randomly for the analysis. Through a contrastive analysis, 307 coupled pairs of ST and TT segments were detected and extracted from these six chapters and then tabulated and analyzed, being observed as instances of the realization of Catford's model of shifts. The obtained results of the corpora demonstrated that all types of shifts were used in the translation of psychology texts from English to Farsi according to Catford's theory. Furthermore, the results proved that structural shifts were the most frequently employed kind of shifts.

Another study intended to find the realization of Catford's shifts in the Persian translation of Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" by Ebrahim Younesi. The aim of Hosseini-Masoum and Shahbaiki's (2013, p. 391) study was:

… to find which types of shifts the translator uses, to compare the SL and the TL versions, and to investigate how faithful the translator was to the original text. Furthermore, it intended to find the problems translators faced during the translation process. Their study analyzed different kinds of category shifts which Catford divided into four subgroups: structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts and intra-system shifts. To this end, forty sentences of the first six chapters of the novel were selected randomly and compared with their corresponding parts in the Persian translation. Their study showed that among forty sentences that included forty-three shifts, unit shift was the most frequent − 37.5% of shifts were unit shifts, 30% class shifts, 12.5% structure shifts and 27.5% intra system shifts. It also showed that shifts were inevitable in some places in the translation process and this is because of different natures of languages and variations that exist among them, so the translator is forced to deviate from the source text.

The purpose of Khanmohammad and Mousavinasab's (2011) study was to conduct a linguistic-based investigation into the frequency of translation shifts in the process of translating medical texts from English into Farsi in Iran. Five books were sampled from five branches or sub-branches of medicine in which a large number of English-to-Farsi translations were done in Iran. Then, two chapters from each of these books were selected. Afterwards, 10% of the sentences of each chapter were sampled and the analysis was conducted on them. On the whole, from among 320 sampled sentences, most sentences had undergone structural shift, 4.06% had undergone class shift, 5.31% had undergone unit shift, and 7.81% had undergone intra-system shift. In conclusion of this study, considering the features of English and Farsi, the low number of shifts in medical texts suggested that in many cases no translation actually took place and transliteration was the preferred approach for the erudite terms.

II. QUESTIONS

The following research questions will be answered in this study:

1) Does each of the two translators use Pekkanen's (2010) four strategy types similarly?

2) Are there any statistically significant differences among the two translators in the application of each of Pekkanen's (2010) strategy types used for translation of shifts?

III. METHOD

A. Data

Since the prime objective of the present study was to study shifts in UN documents, the researchers purposefully selected all the data of the study from UN documents. Three pieces of documents, all in English, were randomly selected from the United Nations Human Rights website (http://www.ohchr.org). The three documents used were as follows: 1) "United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training" (2011); 2) "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS-Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS" (2011), and 3) "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure" (2011) all retrieved from (http://www.ohchr.org). Fifty technical words and phrases from each source were selected through purposive sampling (Persian political dictionaries were used as an acid test to determine such technical terms). Besides these English sources, two English-to-Persian dictionaries of political terms (those by Khiyabani (2013) and Aryanpor (2006)) were also used as the second data source of the study. In fact, the researchers first extracted through purposive sampling the 150 political words from the three English sources and then looked up the words in the two English-Persian Dictionaries for their Persian equivalents and recorded the first Persian equivalent recorded for each term.

B. Procedure

The following steps were taken to perform the research. First, three documents, all in English, were randomly selected from the United Nations Human Rights website (http://www. ohchr.org). Further, two English-to-Persian

dictionaries of political terms (those by Khiyabani (2013) and Aryanpoor (2006)) were also used based on expert views as the second data source of the study. Then, fifty terms from each English source were selected through purposive sampling. After that, their Persian equivalents (the first equivalent recorded in each entry) were extracted from the two English-to-Persian dictionaries. Later, the English data along with their Persian equivalents were analyzed with regard to the shifts based on the model proposed by Pekkanen (2010). The data collected were then input in SPSS (Version 21) for further analysis.

C. Theoretical Framework of the Study

The model used to analyze the data in this study was that proposed by Pekkanen (2010). Accordingly, in what follows, a brief account of this model along with its four shift types (contraction, expansion, miscellaneous, and shift in order) has been provided:

Contraction Shift: It is a kind of shift where the unit from the source text is shorter or includes less information in the target text. It is classified as 'deletion' and is labeled as loss of information from the semantic viewpoint. In this abridgement, the information is not really moved out, just it is not replicated for the second time (Pekkanen, 2010).

Expansion Shift: It is a kind of shift where the source text is extended during the translation process and finally gets longer in the target text. Extension can be separated into subcategories like 'embedment', and 'augmentation'. The idea of embedment has nothing to do with addition of meaning (Pekkanen, 2010).

Miscellaneous shift: This shift encompasses three squads: tense, condition and voice (Pekkanen, 2010).

Shift in order: Pekkanen's version included four classes of sequence changes: subject, verb (and object); order of expressions of time and place; clauses and other. Based on the similar units as in extension and briefness, a various categorization is used (Pekkanen, 2010).

IV. RESULTS

A. Application of the Four Strategy Types by the Two Translators

Here, a Chi-Square test was performed for each translator separately.

-Translator 1 (Khiyabani):

TABLE 1.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR DIFFERENT STRATEGIES APPLIED BY KHIYABANI

Statistics Strategy	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Contraction	85	37.5			
Expansion	34	37.5			
Miscellaneous	20	37.5	87.387	3	0.000
Shift in order	11	37.5			
Total	150				

According to the above table, the Chi-Square test was significant (Sig. <0.05). Thus, the frequencies differed significantly. Comparison of frequencies showed that the contraction strategy was significantly more frequent than the other three strategies as used by Khiyabani.

-Translator 2 (Aryanpoor):

TABLE 2.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR DIFFERENT STRATEGIES APPLIED BY ARYANPOOR

Statistics Strategy	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Contraction	59	37.5			
Expansion	66	37.5			
Miscellaneous	19	37.5	69.573	3	0.000
Shift in order	6	37.5			
Total	150				

According to Table 2, the Chi-Square test was significant (Sig. <0.05). Thus, the frequencies differed significantly. Comparison of frequencies showed that the expansion strategy was significantly more frequent than the other strategies as applied by Aryanpoor.

B. Comparison of Each Strategy Application by the Two Translators

Unlike research question 1, in which the application of all shift strategies by each translator, was measured, here the purpose was to compare translators regarding the application of each single strategy. A Chi-Square test was performed for each translator separately.

- Contraction strategy:

TABLE 3.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR THE TWO TRANSLATORS IN THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACTION STRATEGY

Statistics Group	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Khiyabani	85	72.0			
Aryanpoor	59	72.0	4.694	1	0.030
Total	144				

According to Table 3, the Chi-Square test was significant (Sig. <0.05). Thus, the frequencies differed significantly. Comparison of frequencies showed that Khiyabani had applied the contraction strategy significantly more than Aryanpoor. So, the hypothesis *"The two translators apply each strategy, for translation of shifts, similarly."* was rejected regarding the contraction strategy.

- **Expansion strategy:**

TABLE 4.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR THE TWO TRANSLATORS IN THE APPLICATION OF EXPANSION STRATEGY

Statistics Group	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Khiyabani	34	50.0			
Aryanpoor	66	50.0	10.240	1	0.001
Total	100				

Based on the above table, the Chi-Square test was significant (Sig. <0.05). Thus, the frequencies differed significantly. Comparison of frequencies showed that Aryanpoor had applied the expansion strategy significantly more than Khiyabani. So, the hypothesis *"The two translators apply each strategy, for translation of shifts, similarly."* was rejected regarding the expansion strategy.

- **Miscellaneous strategy:**

TABLE 5.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR THE TWO TRANSLATORS IN THE APPLICATION OF MISCELLANEOUS STRATEGY

Statistics Group	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Khiyabani	20	19.5			
Aryanpoor	19	19.5	0.026	1	0.873
Total	39				

In the above table, the Chi-Square test was not significant (Sig. >0.05). Thus, the frequencies did not differ significantly meaning that the two translators had applied the miscellaneous strategy more or less the same. So, the hypothesis, *"The two translators apply each strategy, for translation of shifts, similarly."* was accepted regarding the miscellaneous strategy.

- Shift in order strategy:

TABLE 6.
THE CHI-SQUARE TEST RESULTS FOR THE TWO TRANSLATORS IN THE APPLICATION OF SHIFT IN ORDER STRATEGY

Statistics Group	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Khiyabani	11	8.5			
Aryanpoor	6	8.5	1.471	1	0.225
Total	17				

Based on Table 6, the Chi-Square test was not significant (Sig. >0.05). Thus, the frequencies did not significantly differ which implies that the two translators had applied the shift in order strategy more or less the same. So,the hypothesis, *"The two translators apply each strategy, for translation of shifts, similarly."* was accepted regarding the shift in order strategy.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The first research question of the study was, "*Does each of the two translators use Pekkanen's (2010) four strategy types similarly?*" Based on the findings of the first research question, the hypothesis, "*Each translator uses the strategy types similarly*" could not be held. It meant that each translator had used the four shift strategies differently. Khiyabani and Aryanpoor used contraction and expansion strategies most frequently. In both cases, shift in order was found to be the least frequent strategy. So, the two translators were similar with regard to the application of miscellaneous and shift in order strategies and differed significantly with regard to the application of contraction and expansion strategies. The findings of the present study were in line with those reported by Pekkanen (2010).

The second research question of the study was, *"Are there any statistically significant differences among the two translators in the application of each of Pekkanen's (2010) strategy used for translation of shifts?"* Based on the findings, the two translators were different with regard to the application of contraction and expansion strategies but were similar with regard to the application of miscellaneous and shift in order strategies. The findings of the present study were in line with those reported by Pekkanen (2010).

The most important objective of the present study was to discuss the strategies used by translators in translation of shifts in political texts based on the model proposed by Pekkanen (2010). In line with the mentioned objective, the researchers conducted a descriptive-comparative study on the strategies used by translators in translation of shifts in political texts. Library review and text analysis were also applied to accomplish this research. Based on the results obtained, the following conclusions were obtained:

• The contraction strategy was the most frequent strategy applied by Khiyabani (85 times, 56.7%) and the least frequent strategy was shift in order (11 times, 7.3%).

• The expansion strategy was the most frequent strategy applied by Aryanpoor (66 times, 44%) and the least frequent strategy was shift in order (6 times, 4%).

• The two translators differed significantly with regard to the application of contraction and expansion strategies.

• The two translators were similar with regard to the application of miscellaneous and shift in order strategies.

VI. IMPLICATIONS

The findings in this thesis are significant pedagogically. In fact, translation shifts problem is a dominant one among language learners. Accordingly, since this thesis has tackled this topic and has reported the main problems authors have within this language skill, it can be very useful for language learners as well as language teachers. Language learners can realize the importance of the translation shifts and hence equip themselves with the necessary capabilities in this regard. Similarly, teachers can benefit a lot from the findings of this study. They can get familiar with the problems language learners face and hence can do their best to find solutions to the problems students have. Syllabus designers and policy makers can also use the findings of this study. They can consider revising the translation courses taught at the university level. They can give more priority to this skill. Policy makers can also introduce policies that can assign more importance to listening courses and the listening skill in general.

The results of the present study had different implications. First, it showed the applicability of the model proposed by Pekkanen (2010) for the English-Persian language pair. Second, the findings in this thesis could be used by teachers of translation studies to make students acquainted with the most applicable strategies for translation of shifts. Third, the results could be applied by students while translating political texts from English into Persian. The results could also be useful for policy makers in the area of education.

VII. LIMITATIONS

The researchers of the present study encountered some limitations during data collection. Some of these limitations were: 1) Due to time limitation, only two English-to-Persian dictionaries were used. Had the researchers more time, they would have used more translations. 2) Only 150 terms were used as data of the study, had the researchers more time, more terms could have been used. 3) Since the data collection procedure of this study was run in summer and at that time there was no classes being held in translation field at the target university, it was difficult to find the subjects of the study to fill up the translation jobs hence, the researchers decided to extract the meanings of the words from two dictionaries only.

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