

Translation of English Causative Verbs into Persian: A Comparative Study of Professional Translators and Translation Trainees

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Abstract—According to books of grammar, a causative form is an expression of an agent causing or forcing a person to perform an action. Translation of English causatives into Persian seems to be one of the biggest problems that Translation students and novice translators usually come across. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the translation strategies applied by the professional translator and translation trainees while translating English causatives into Persian. In this descriptive corpus-based study, the present researcher examined sixty causative constructions of novel *Lord of The Flies* by Gerald (1991) and their Persian translation by Mansouri (2003). In addition, twenty causative constructions from the novel were given to the twenty Translation students in order to analyze their Persian translations of causative constructions. Based on the finding, the professional translator has used Non-causative and Positive Implication strategies most frequently, whereas the students have used Auxiliary and Noncausative strategies most frequently. It can be concluded that there is a strategy behind every choice, and a reason behind every strategy, and translators should try their best to transfer all the components of a causative verb as well as possible, because each word or verb has its own value. The translator's mastery over the causative construction in the language pair explores throughout this study reminds us of a point of paramount significance. The main implication of this research may make the translators, at any level, better understand the English causative sentences and avoid producing translations that hinder communication between the translator and the readers.

Index Terms—English causative verbs, Persian causative verbs, translators, translation trainees

I. INTRODUCTION

Causality refers to the relation between two successive events in which the second event (a caused event) is understood as the consequence of the first event (a causing event). If the causing event does not occur, the caused event will not occur, either. (Wolff & Song, 2003; Maat & Sanders, 2001). According to books of grammar, a causative form is an expression of an agent causing or forcing a patient to perform an action (or to be in a certain condition). All languages have ways to express causation, but they differ in the means. In some languages, there are morphological devices (such as Inflection) that change verbs in their causative forms, or adjectives into verbs of “becoming”. Other languages employ periphrasis, with idiomatic expression or auxiliary verbs. All languages also have lexical causative forms (such as in English, Rise → Raise). (“Causative”, 2014)

Causative sentences show that somebody or something is indirectly responsible for an action. The subject does not itself, but causes someone or something else to do it instead. When we look back and remember translating classes, we notice that not only us, but also many of our classmates, we can recall, had problems with the understanding, and production of causative sentences, situations and as a result in mastering till later. When we got into higher translation courses again, we witnessed that, students came across many problems, while translating causative sentences. This was due to carelessness and ignoring the importance of this issue or because of language differences, which most of the time traps or misleads the translation trainees.

One of the most problematic and challenging areas for all those engaged in translating from English into Persian is translating causative sentences. Since this concept and representations for the English Causative sentences may be in different forms in Persian, little place has been given to it in Persian Grammar books. The translators have adopted different ways to convey the meaning of the English causative sentences into Persian, but still the absence of comprehensive research on the approaches adopted in this regard is utterly felt, something that the present study purports to offer.

It seems that when translating from English or some other languages into Persian, there may be some problems, because of differences in grammar, for example, the translation of English passive tenses into Persian sometimes may cause problems. Hence, the present study would investigate the strategies adopted by the professional translators and the translation trainees in handling these ever-present problems.

Since causative sentences do not have a fixed and specific form in both languages (i.e., Persian and English), some verbs by way of example in English, “have” serves as a causative verb in some situations, while serving as a non-causative verb in some other situations, the present researcher studied and analyzed sixty causative constructions of a novel entitled “Lord of The Flies” written by Gerald (1991) and its Persian translation. Therefore, the delimitations of this study were the selection of only sixty causative constructions of the novel entitled "Lord of Files" by Gerald (1991) to trace causative sentences or forms and causative situations. In addition, Mansouri's (2003) Persian translation was considered as the case by a professional translator in order to examine the rendering of English causatives into Persian by the professionals. Moreover, twenty causative constructions from the novel were given to the twenty students in order to study and analyze their Persian translations of causative constructions, too. The number of participants was delimited to twenty under-graduate students who are studying Translation at Islamic Azad University South Tehran Branch. It is noteworthy that their gender and age were not considered for sampling in this study.

II. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study was to investigate the translation strategies applied by professional translators and translation trainees while translating causative sentences from English into Persian. Investigation in this area would lead to the better understanding of the efficient translation of causative sentences and other grammatical points that are usually problematic in translation classes. Therefore, the translation classes would be beneficial for students by providing them efficient exercises.

Since causative sentences or forms are unique to each one of the languages in existence and are presented in different modes in different languages, understanding of them and finding a proper way to render them in the target language is of great significance in this study. Therefore, results of the present research may make the translators, at any level, better understand the English causative sentences and avoid producing translations that hinders communication between the translator and the readers.

To achieve the objectives of the present study, the following two questions were posed:

RQ1. What strategies does the professional translator use in translating causative sentences from English into Persian?

RQ2: What strategies do the novice translators or translation trainees' use in translating causative sentences from English into Persian?

Because of the descriptive nature of the present study, no hypothesis was formulated to achieve the objectives of the study.

III. METHODOLOGY

In this section, we will have a look at the participants and their characteristics as well as instruments utilized in this research, thereafter, we will review procedure and the criteria based on which categorization of different types of causative verbs in English and Persian was carried out as the theoretical framework. Finally, we will review design and method of data analysis as well as ethical considerations applied in this research.

A. Participants

Participants of this descriptive design and corpus-based study were twenty undergraduate students of English Translation at Islamic Azad University, South Tehran Branch, where their gender and age were not considered for sampling in this study.

B. Instrumentation

The corpus consisted of sixty causative sentences and their Persian translation found in the novel “Lord of The Flies” written by William Gerald (1991). Mojgan Mansouri in Iran (2003) translated this novel into Persian. The twenty sentences containing causative verbs were chosen from this book in order to compare the translation of professional translator and translation trainees or novice translators in terms of Persian grammatical rules.

C. Procedure

Since different words are representing causative verbs in English and Persian, it was impossible to make use of the software tools to spot such verbs. Consequently, the examination of the texts was conducted manually and without use of automated running texts. In doing this research at the first step, sixty sentences contain causative constructions were selected from the novel entitled *Lord of the Flies*. Then, the English causative sentences and their Persian translation were tabulated to show the strategies applied in the Persian translation of "Lord of Flies" by Mansouri (2003) as the professional translator. Then, the twenty English sentences were given to the twenty Translation students without Persian translation. They were asked to translate them into Persian. Through close consideration of their translations, the translation strategies were identified based on the chosen framework of the study.

D. The Theoretical Framework

By a rather comprehensive review of the literature on English and Persian causative constructions (e.g., Shibatani, 1976; Dabir-Moghaddam, 2006), a hybrid framework was proposed to analyze the collected data. This hybrid

framework is based on a set of following twelve translation strategies. It is necessary to mention that translation strategy means that the types of translation of causative construction or ways of translating causative sentences or forms (Shibatani, 1976).

1. Positive Implicative Causative
2. Negative Implicative Causative
3. Nonimplicative Causative
4. Syntactic Causative
5. Morphological Causative
6. Lexical Causative
7. Auxiliary Causative
8. Mediated Causation
9. Permissive Causative
10. Coercive Causative
11. Specific
12. Not Translated

It is noteworthy that, Shibatani's (1976) classification was considered as the benchmark to determine the types of English causative. In his classification, there are following eight types of causatives:

1. Directive Causation
2. Manipulative Causation
3. Lexical Causative
4. Single Causation
5. Double Causation
6. Permissive Causatives
7. Coercive Causatives
8. Reflexive Causative

E. Design of the Study

This is a descriptive corpus-based study that gathered data through comparison of English causative sentences and their translations by two groups of professional and novice translators.

F. Data Analysis

The data collected through comparison of the original causative sentences and their corresponding translations of the two groups were directly related to translation strategies in the framework to decide on the type of strategies.

G. Ethical Considerations

The participants were informed about the purposes of the study and their consent was obtained, before starting the data collection procedure. The participants were informed that their responses on the translation of causative sentences would be kept confidential.

IV. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

In the previous section, the procedure for data collection was explained step-by-step. In this section, the reported data collected through analysis of parallel samples leads the research to stage of analysis and findings have been shown through tables, and figures.

According to the information provided in figure 2, the professional translator has used Non-causative and Positive Implication strategies most frequently. She used Noncausative strategy 13 times (i.e., 21 percent) and Positive Implication, 12 times (i.e., 19 percent) in her translation. Whereas, strategies such as Negative Implication and Non-translated were never used by the professional translator. It is noteworthy that the professional translator has applied strategies such as Auxiliary (11 times or 18.3%), Lexical (8 times or 13.3 %), Morphological (4 times or 6.6%), Specific (3 times or 5%), Syntactic (3 times or 5%), Mediated (twice or 3.3%), Nonimplicative (twice or 3.3%), Permissive (once or 1.6%), and Coercive (once or 1.6%), while translating the novel from English into Persian.

TABLE 1
APPLIED STRATEGIES BY ALL 20 STUDENTS IN RENDERING CAUSATIVE SENTENCES

Translation Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Nonimplicative	53	13.25%
Auxiliary	134	33.5%
Mediated	34	8.5%
Coercive	1	0.25%
Positive Implication	57	14.25%
Syntactic	17	4.25%
Morphological	4	1%
Negative Implication	3	0.75%
Permissive	1	0.25%
Specific	0	0%
Lexical	3	0.75%
Noncausative	84	21%
Not Translated	9	2.25%

According to the information provided in table 1, as shown in figure 1, all students have used Auxiliary and Noncausative strategies most frequently. Accordingly, they used strategy Auxiliary 134 times (i.e., 33.5 percent) and Noncausative 84 times (i.e., 21 percent) in their translations. Whereas, strategy named Specific was never used by the students. It is noteworthy that the twenty students have applied strategies such as Positive Implication (57 times or 14.25%), Nonimplicative (53 or 13.25%), Mediated (34 times or 8.5%), Syntactic (18 times or 4.25%), Not translated (10 times or 2.25%), Morphological (4 times or 1%), Lexical (3 times or 0.75%), Negative Implication, Permissive and Coercive (once or 0.25%), while translating the novel from English into Persian.

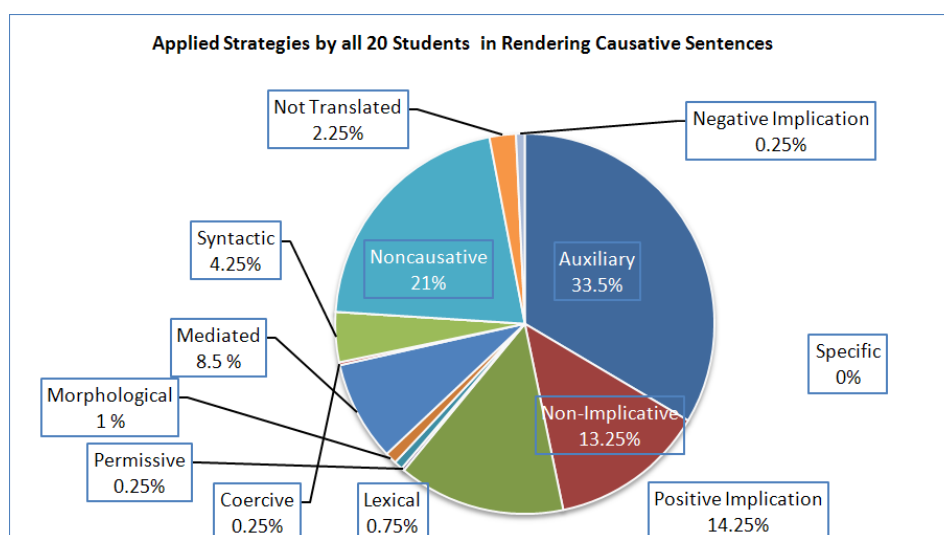


Figure 1. Strategies by all 20 Students in Rendering Causative Sentences

TABLE 2
STRATEGIES APPLIED BY 20 STUDENTS VS. STRATEGIES BY PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR

Translation Strategy	Students	The Professional Translator
Nonimplicative	53	2
Auxiliary	134	11
Mediated	34	2
Coercive	1	1
Positive Implication	57	12
Permissive	1	1
Syntactic	17	3
Morphological	4	4
Negative Implication	3	0
Lexical	3	8
Noncausative	84	13
Specific	0	3
Not Translated	9	0

On the one hand, the professional translator (See Table 2 and Figure 2) has used Non-causative and Positive Implication strategies most frequently. She has used Noncausative strategy 13 times (i.e., 21 percent) and Positive Implication, 12 times (i.e., 19 percent) in her translation. Whereas, strategies such as Negative Implication and Non-translated were never used by the professional translator. It is noteworthy that the professional translator has utilized translation strategies such as Auxiliary (11 times or 18.3%), Lexical (8 times or 13.3 %), Morphological (4 times or

6.6%), Specific (3 times or 5%), Syntactic (3 times or 5%), Mediated (twice or 3.3%), Nonimplicative (twice or 3.3%), Permissive (once or 1.6%), and Coercive (once or 1.6%), while translating the novel from English into Persian. On the other hand, the twenty students (See Table 2 and Figure 2) have used Auxiliary and Noncausative strategies most frequently. Accordingly, they used strategy Auxiliary 134 times (i.e.,33.5 percent) and Noncausative 78 times (i.e, 21 percent) in their translations. Whereas, strategy named Specific was never used by the students . It is noteworthy that the twenty students have applied strategies such as Positive Implication (57 times or 14.25%), NonImplicative (53 or 13.25%), Mediated (34 times or 8.5%), Syntactic (18 times or 4.25%), Not translated (10 times or 2.25%), Morphological (4 times or 1%), Lexical (3 times or 0.75%), Negative Implicaton, Permissive, and Coercive (once or 0.25%), while translating the novel from English into Persian.

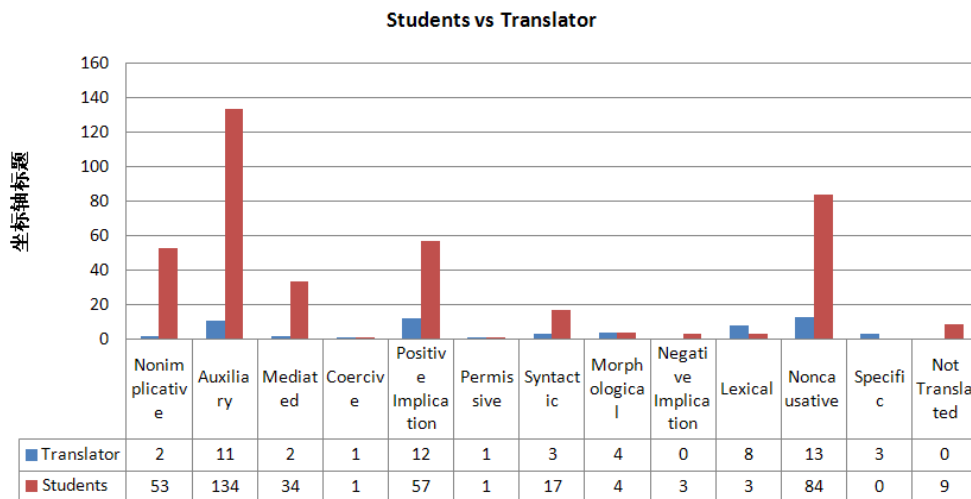


Figure 2. Strategies by 20 Students versus Strategies by Professional Translator

V. DISCUSSION

Analysis of the translation provided and the strategies utilized by the translator are indicative of the fact that usually the causative construction that appears in the source language has the disposition to be retained in the target language, when failing in translating. According to Williams (2005), there are some forms and constructions in English language in which the causative may appear, the same does hold true with regard to Persian language. As proven and evidenced by the findings and outcomes of the present study, to the extent reasonably possible, any translator is bound to make its utmost efforts to present the causative forms and constructions which are given in the source text (ST) with the same form and same meaning construction in the target text (TT). Otherwise, particular intention of the causatives may be distorted. (Randall, 1982)

Statistics in this research indicate that most strategies used by the twenty students are Auxiliary, Non-causative, and Positive Implication. On the other hand, the statistics from professional translator was same as students, whereas the twenty students in some cases acted like the professional translator. In some cases, the translator and twenty students put non-causative forms for the causatives that are provided in the English text. Therefore, it can be ventured that the translator and participants whose translations were investigated through the present study had a satisfactory understanding of the causative construction in both Persian and English. Such a satisfactory understanding accompanied with the capability to use the acceptable form of causative in its right place that has given the professional translator the advantage to present as appropriate as possible the causative construction in the intended language, preserving fidelity to the source text to the extent permitted by the context.

Having a deep look at the strategies adopted by the professional translator let us come to this conclusion that being acquainted with the subject matter, in this case causative forms and construction, is bound to contribute to the betterment of understanding and translation of the text with which we are dealing. The students conversely did not have access to original text that had effects on their translation. In addition, most of the causative types are used by the professional translator at different given situations. It shows the fact that Persian and English enjoy some forms and constructions that presentation of the same is feasible in the same and similar way and manner.

In some cases, the students deviated from the principle of preserving fidelity to the causative form and construction used in the English text and used a different form and construction to represent the English causative forms used in the Persian target text. Of course, the cases in which such deviations happen are proven to ignore fidelity; therefore, there was no option open to the students but to use a non-causative form to show the causative form and construction used in the source text. Such deviations also made it known that in some cases the causative forms are language-specific and every language has its unique form of presentation of the causative construction.

It is on the given translator to make her reasonable efforts to keep the causative form in the target text in cases where it is possible to present the causative construction of the source text in the same form and manner in the target text, but most of the students did not care about the instruction of the test. Additionally, the given students have the responsibility to find the cases, where preserving the same causative construction used in the target text renders the translation nonsense and distorted. In such cases, the students were given the option to have recourse to non-causative form in the target text in order to keep the function of the source text in the target text, providing a translation that enjoys the highly possible proper and appropriate particulars.

VI. CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

In this section, the conclusion of the research is dealt with. Firstly, we have a glance at the strategies adopted by the translator and twenty students. Secondly, the pedagogical implications of the research for both translator training and translation evaluation will be explained. Finally, some recommendations and suggestions are provided for further Research.

A. Conclusions

All kinds of causative verbs enumerated in this research were found in our corpus. In some cases, the professional translator has used some strategies together which are not mentioned in the references existing on causative verbs in Persian. We have labeled and styled them as "Specific" causative provided by the translator. In some other cases, the causative structures of the original English text were rendered into non-causative structure in the target Persian Text.

As previously mentioned, at the first step of this research, sixty sentences containing causatives of the novel entitled *Lord of the Flies* were highlighted. Then, the English causative sentences and their Persian translation were tabulated to show the applied strategies in the Persian translation of the book by Mansouri (2003) as the professional translator. Then, the twenty English sentences were given to the twenty translation trainees without Persian translation and they were asked to translate them into Persian.

Through close consideration of their translations, the translation strategies were identified based on the chosen framework of the study. The finding related to the strategies used by translation trainees were illustrated in the form of figures and tables. The tables showed the disposition to use the causative construction in the target text that is more than moving toward non-causative forms. The results also showed that there are some kinds of causative forms and constructions in the provided translation, such as Auxiliary, Non-causative and Positive implication that were used more frequently than the other forms. It reveals the fact that these forms and constructions are most apt to Persian causative construction and are used with a wider range of frequency in this language. In addition, there is no fixed form of TL construction in source language. It indicates the complexity of the role played by the professional translator in finding the sort of causative construction in the target language that stands more suitable to a given causative construction used in the source language.

As for research question 1, the professional translator (See Table 2 and Figure 2) has used Non-causative and Positive Implication strategies most frequently. She has used Noncausative strategy 13 times (i.e., 21 percent) and Positive Implication, 12 times (i.e., 19 percent) in her translation. As for research question 2, all translation trainees (See Table 2 and Figure 2) have used Auxiliary and Noncausative strategies most frequently. They have used strategy Auxiliary 134 times (i.e., 34 percent) and, Noncausative 78 times (i.e., 20 percent) in their translations.

Insufficient ability of twenty students in translation of causatives could be due to lack of knowledge of recognizing causative situation in their English comprehension, let alone performing correct translation. Another reason might be interference of native language (Persian) and the foreign language (English). In other words, the students unconsciously think in Persian, while rendering English causatives into Persian. Another problem is that when they did not have complete text for translation of extracted sentences, it might put them in problem when they are translating. Moreover, there is a strategy behind every choice, and a reason behind every strategy, and translators should try their best to transfer all the components of a causative construction as well as possible, because each word or verb has its own value.

The translator's mastery over the causative construction in the language pair throughout this study reminds us of a point of paramount significance, that is, the better your understanding of the causative construction used in Persian and English, the better your translation.

B. Implications of Study

The results of this research have some pedagogical implication both for teaching translating and for translation evaluation.

The results of this research could be used in translator training courses particularly in translation from English into Persian. Since the parallel corpus used in this research is of literary genre, the results of this research could be of much more help, if used teaching translation of literary materials.

Teachers and translation evaluators could use the results of this research in evaluating the translation of translators and Translation students. They can also use corpora in various genres and analyze the same in order to have more reliable results for evaluation of various text types.

C. Suggestions for Further Research

The type used in this research was literary. Other researchers can use other text types or increase the size of the parallel corpus in order to find other types of causative or other types of verbs and the strategies applied in their translation into Persian. For example, scientific texts can be examined, because causative situations may be found more frequent in scientific texts.

This research was carried out based on a semantic approach; other researchers can adopt a syntactic approach and carry out the same research based on this approach, for example, the cases of passive voice and active voice and their translation into Persian.

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