Ideological Aspects of Gender in Translation of Literary Texts Based on Weatherall (2002) Model

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ABSTRACT

This study explored males and females binary translations from perspective of gender and ideology. The investigation of males and females gender based ideological behavior was been accomplished following Weatherall (2002) model. Further, for this purpose, English novels of Wuthering Heights andStrangerwhich have been translated into Persian by male and female translators were selected to be used as the corpus. The sentences, phrases and words of ideology and gender load were extracted and investigated according to the three categories of character description, ideology and gender stereotypes and disappearing of agent effect of Weatherall (2002). The comparisons were accompanied by examples. The comparisons indicated that these translationsare not under gender ideological considerations and neither males nor females describe each other as negative or positive; though, cases of male negative description of males and females negative description of females reported. Moreover, the results of the study indicated that neither males nor females give cause of doing or acceptance of an obligatory responsibility to each other. There were cases of assigning agency roles to cross sex characters in the results, but they were not significant and worth mentioning. Lastly, the translator gender ideology did not affect translation.

1. Introduction

Translation always includes changes in source language in order to transfer the message to the target language. Due to interrelationship of language and culture, potential changes may be resulted. Hatim and Munday (2001) believed that "translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life" (p. 3). Since translation happened in the society where people live, it could affect people's behaviors, beliefs and even their culture. Among the factors, which may deviate the translation to a specific path, are the social role relationships, such a gender.

In recent years, the concept of gender has also been the focus of researches in the field of translation studies and scholars like Chamberlain, 1998; Flotow, 1997; Santaemilia, 2005; Simon;1996; have investigated it. Depending on culture and the society the translator lives in, his or her controlson a text may vary. In fact, "translators project their experience and vision of the world in terms of society, community and family; depending on their gender, the translators can be influenced by nationality, culture and race, etc" (Modarresi, 2008, p. 163). Thus, the gender of translators-femininity or masculinity-is an effective factor on translation and no doubt bring different changes forth in translation which need investigation to prove the differences. According to Flotow (2001), gender and translation can be investigated in historical studies, theoretical considerations, issues of identity, postcolonial questions, and questions of cultural transfer.Accordingly, this research sought to find out if really, males and females translate differently, i.e. ideologically, or more clearly, it deals with the issue of the translator's gender ideology and its effect on translation.

In order to explore these issues, the researchersscrutinized the gender ideology in translation based on Weatherall (2002) Categories:A. Character description B.Ideology and gender stereotypes C. Disappearing agent effect,which are explained as follows:

A. Character description

According to weatherall (2002), a grammatical technique in English that may indicate the gender of the person being referred to, is the use of adjectives.

B. Ideology and gender stereotypes

Also, Weatherall (2002) refers to some women's features, saying that, women are more often discussed in terms of their appearance and their family relationships, whereas men are often discussed in terms of what they do.

C. Disappearing agent effect

Weatherall (2002) states that "in sentences with action verbs the subject is the cause of the action whereas in sentences with state verbs the tendency is to see the sentence object as casual"(p. 29).

In line with the purpose of the study the following research questions raised,

1. Do male and female translators manipulate male and female characters in translation?
2. How do translators treat male and female characters in translation with regard to the application of Weatherall categories?
3. Is translation under gender based and ideological considerations?
4. Considering the above-mentioned research questions the following hypothesis has been formulated:

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Ho₁: The translators' gender ideology does not influence the translation.

2. Literature review

Although translation has been described as a cross-cultural transfer (Vermeer 1986), it is important to note that this transfer implies an ideological transfer as well.If ideology is understood in its broad sense, i.e. as the standard set of values, ideas and beliefs that govern a community, a translator must possess in-depth knowledge of the ideas, beliefs, and values that connect to the languages being translated.In other words, ideology and culture are mixed together, accordingly, Fawcett (2001) asserts that "the real problem regarding ideology in translation lies in its very definition, in that at times it is hard to distinguish between ideology and culture" (as cited in Leonardi, 2007, p. 50). Therefore, the thorough inspection of relation of translation in relation to ideology and gender in society is the task of translation critics.

As a link between translation theories and translation practices, translation criticism is a very enjoyable exercise. Boostani (2015) claimed, many scholars in translation studies have worked on translation criticism, but most of them made no clear distinction between translation evaluation and translation criticism, so their works become merely a comparison between two texts, assessing their relative match, and discussing their adequacy and accuracy. As such, the inspection and performance of critical affairs of language, translation and society falls within the field of critical discourse analysis (CDA).

Van Dijk (1995) considers the responsibility of CDA to look for implicit and underlying ideologies in the text. He is of the idea that with a few exceptions, surface structures of text and talk does not have explicit meaning of their own and they are not only the conventional meaning. ButFarahzad (2009) in her model for translation criticism focused on concepts such as power relations and ideology which can be revealed by examining textual features through critical discourse analysis. The purpose of translation criticism is to analyze and judge the meta-text in comparison to its proto-text, which is normally not analyzed for its own sake, but as a means of throwing light on the properties or aspects of the meta-text. Such a comparison is not to see if the meta-text qualifies as an equivalent to the proto-text in terms of right/wrong, but to see whether it bears similar/different ideological implications. According to Farahzad (2009), criticism should take into account the presence of ideology in translation. Critics may also have their own hidden ideology conditioning their criticism. A reviewer's motivation may be political, or of other nature.

The differentiated use of language by males and females is more than just a matter of linguistic forms; it is the use of these forms in society and is ideologically constructed. According to Leonardi (2007), it is clear that men and women speak differently. These differences range from the amount of control each sex has over the topic of conversation to the pitch and tone of voice each sex uses. However, it is not fair to say that all women speak in a 'female' style and that all men speak in a 'male' style. There are many aspects of language that areno longer what was previously considered as typical of each sex.

Ideology may play an important role in translation, since translators consciously or unconsciously show a certain degree of mediation in the text they are working on. Sometimes the translators, especially women, make some changes in source text in order to make themselves visible.

Robinson (1997, cited in Leonardi, 2007) expresses that "translators like all professionals want to take pride in what they do" (p.29). Furthermore, Leonardi (2007) believes that "feminist translators are a case in point. They consciously change the ST form and/or meaning in order to free the text from patriarchal language and mentality" (P. 29).

Leonardi (2007) noted that the differentiated use of language by males and females is more than just a matter of linguistic forms; it is the use of these forms in society and is ideologically constructed. However, it is not fair to say that all women speak in a female style and that all men speak in a male style. Weatherall (2002) believes that "language not only reflects and perpetuates gender but language constitutes gender and produces sexism as a social reality" (p. 5). Tannen (1993, 1994) also argues, "Gender differences in interaction can be explained by the fact that women and men have different goals and in order to achieve them, they use different techniques" (as cited in Leonardi, 2007, p. 38). However, the presence of women in the society became remarkable after this movement, and some theorists believe that it was not enough, so Spender (1995, cited in Weatherall, 2002) argues that "women must be involved as users and innovators of the world wide web; otherwise it will develop to serve and promote men's interests over women's" (p. 3).

According to Mirza and Khanjan (2006), the first one who propounded issue of impact of ideology on translation was Lefever (1992) who used concept of "lexical refractions" and investigated ideological manipulation in specific text such as children's literary books. After Lefever (1992), many translation scholars focused on the role of the hidden factors on translation. Venuti (1997) emphasizes that selection of one of these strategies is actually ideological. Hatim and Mason (1997) also believed factors such as 'politeness, power and ideology have a role to play in the choices we make ranging from the smallest to the largest unit of linguistic expression" (Hatim and Mason, 1997, p. 3). Hatim and Mason (1997) believed that ideology shapes discourse, and on the other hand, discourse maintains ideologyand then they illustrated the result of ideological choice of translators in translation. Entering concept of ideology into translation area, translation theorists were no longer interested in linguistic theories of translation. In this regard Karoubi (2005, p. 1) stated that "the linguistics-oriented approaches to translation studies have failed to address the concept of ideology through years of their prevalence, because such approaches are limited to their scientific models for research and the empirical data they collect. Venuti (1998a) pointed out that these theories "remain reluctant to take into account the social values and ideologies that enter into translating as well as the study of it. Lefevere (1992b) stated"translation is a rewriting of an original text which reflects a certain ideology and a poetics and as such manipulate literature to function in a given society in a given way" (p. vii). For Hatim and Mason (1997) ideology encompasses "the tacit assumptions, beliefs, and value systems which are shared collectively by social group". They make a distinction between 'the ideology of translation' and 'the translation of ideology'.

3. Methodology

3.1 Corpus

This study explored males and females binary translation from perspective of gender and ideology. For this purpose, the novels of Wuthering Heights of Emily Brontetranslated byTahminehMehrabani and Reza Rezaee and Stranger of Albert Camus translated by Delara Ghahrananloo

and KhashayareDeihami as female and male translators respectively were selected.

3.2 Procedure of data collection

From every one of the above novels,both Persian and English, which have been translated by one male and one female,100 similar pageswere selected from the beginning. In order to perform the comparison between male and female translators with regard to ideologicalbehavior of males and females, the researchers acted according to Weatherall (2002) categories of character description, ideology and genderstereotypes and disappearing agent effect. Since every novel translated by one male and one female translator, i.e. a binary translation done of every novel, a comparison was done firstly on the extracted pages of the translations of one of the novels, then on the pages of another novel. Lastly, after comparisons performed, the extracted samples one by one interpreted, one general comparison was drawnconsidering the ideological and gender based conditions of males and females in translation. More clearly, once male and female translators of each novel were compared then all males and females compared in general to answer the research questions.

3.3 Data analysis

The linguistic level (word, phrase, clause and sentence) of the extractedsamples of the translations was written. Then Weatherall (2002) categories applied to every linguistic level Further, when all sentences or expressions compared between males and females considering Weatherall (2002) categories, the results were given in the forms of tables including the number of every category of the three categories of Weatherall across novels and their translations. In another table the general frequencies of males and females were given. Lastly the results justified and interpreted in order to answer the questions presented.

4. Results and discussion

In this part every novel, along with translations of the ideological constituents and applied categories, is presented separately. Further, a comparison is drawn between the male and female translators. Lastly a general comparison is drawn between males and females regarding ideological considerations in translation.

4.1.1 Character description

Table 4.1, presented the general description of the data which has been analyzed. In this table, Wuthering Heights and Stranger ideological samples have been given proper description according to Wetherall (2002)categories.

The categories of every novel have been recorded along with their frequency. For example, character description in Wuthering Heights occurred 10 times and in Stranger 10 times too. Further, as is clear in the table, every male or female chance of ideological manipulation in relation to every category of Wetherall (2002) has been given. As example, males and females could describe the characters of the novel of Wuthering Heights 10 times, while regarding the category of ideology and gender stereotypes in the translation of Stranger, males and females, 9 times applied this category.

Table 4.2, is devoted to male/female character description by male and female translators. Four conditions of "positive" (desirable or constructive quality or attribute), "negative" (of a person, attitude, or situation not desirable or optimistic) and "neutral" (neither positive nor negative) and "not translated" have been considered.For example, regarding the character description in the novel of Wuthering Heights (table 4.2), male translator described male character two times positively,(i.e. two times the male translator described the male character in a positive way) and three times negatively (i.e. described the male character using negative adjectives). The female translator described male character two times positively and two times negatively (table 4.2).

Table 4.3 is representative of male/female character description by male and female translators in the novel of Stranger. As example, it is clear that male translator of Stranger described male characters 2 times positively and 3 times negatively. On the other hand, the female translator described male character 2 times positively and 3 times negatively. Therefore, the difference between males and females translators regarding the description of males and females characters was not significant.

4.1.2 Ideology and gender stereotypes

Table 4.4a.Ideology and gender stereotypes in Wuthering heights.

Wuthering Heights	Male character	Female character
Male translator	5	1
Female translator	8	2

Table4.4b. Ideology and gender stereotypes in Stranger.

Stranger	Male character	Female character
Male translator	2	6
Female translator	2	6

Table 4.4 reported the manipulations done in Stranger novel translations by female and male translators. Male translator applied his ideology of gender on male character 2 times and on the female character 6 times.

Table 4.1.General presentation of data.

Novels	Wetherall (2002) categories	Frequency of ideological expressions	Chance of manipulation for every male and female translator
Wuthering Hieghts	Character description	10	10
	Ideology and gender stereotypes	10	10
	Disappearing of gender effect	10	10
Stranger	Character description	10	10
	Ideology and gender stereotypes	9	9
	Disappearing of gender effect	6	6

Table 4.2.Character description of Wuthering heights.

Character Description	Male Character				Female Character			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Not T	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Not T.
Male translator	**	***		*	****		*	
Female translator	**	**	*	*	**	*	*	

Table 4.3. Character description of Stranger.

Character Description	Male Character				Female Character			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Not T	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Not T.
Male translator	**	***		*	*	**		
Female translator	**	***	*	*	*	**		

While, female translator acted ideologically towards male characters 2 times and female characters 6 times respectively.

4.1.3 Disappearing of agent effect

Table 4.5. Disappearing agent effect in Wuthering Heights.

Wuthering Heights	Male character	Female character
Male translator	1	3
Female translator	0	5

Table 4.5 reported the translators' ideological treatment of male and female agency in translation. As can be seen, the male translator has manipulated the translation one time to give the agency to male character and 3 times to female character. Further, the female translator did not give agent role to male character while gave 5 agent roles to female character.

Table 4.6. Disappearing agent effect in Stranger.

Stranger	Male character	Female character
Male translator	4	3
Female translator	3	5

The table 4.6 shows the male and female ideological treatment of male and female agency in translation of Stranger novel. As it is clear, the male translator has manipulated the translation 4 times to give the agency to male character and 3 times to female character. Further, the female translator did give agent role to male character 3 times, while she gave 5 agent roles to female character.

5. Discussion

The results of this study support the idea of Gender Equality(Bolzendahl and Myers, 2004; Gilbert, 1993; Inglehart and Norris, 2003; Kabeer, 2005; O'Connor, Orloff and Shaver, 1999; Sainsbury, 1996 and Verloo, M, 2007). Based on Gender equality, also known as sex equality, gender egalitarianism, sexual equality, or equality of the genders, is the view that everyone should receive equal treatment and not be discriminated against based on their gender. Prewitt-Freilino, Caswell and Laakso (2012) claim that although all languages distinguish between genders, the degree to which they do so vary.

Besides, in order to find more justifications for the same translations of males and females, there is place to claim that the translators resort to literal translation and want to be faithful as much as possible to the source text. Appealing to this thinking, males and females or gender and ideology are not imposed on the text. However, it is of value to see if the text manipulation is significant or striking in comparison to meaning of the text. According to Munday (2009)manipulation of text in translation refers to the close reproduction of source text meaning in the target text within the requirements of the target language without gain or loss in meaning; also called loyalty or faithfulness. Translations characterized by fidelity usually exhibit the following feature: transferred cultural words, no unnecessary deviation from the grammatical and lexical source text structures, unless stipulated by target constraints, and loyalty to the source text author textual objectives.

Another pole of justification for lack of gendered manipulation across the text may refer to observing the authenticity of the text; that is to say, transferring the exact items and structures from source text to target text. So, if the desire would be to manipulate the text based on any type of ideology, the text is not authentic and communicative (Brown and Yule, 1983; De Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981; Hutchinson and Waters, 1987; Morrow, 1977; Van Dijk 1972; Schiffrin 1994; Taylor, 1994).

6. Conclusion

The current study aimed at investigating the effects of gender ideological aspects in two English novels translated by four male and female translators.Moreover, the results of the study indicated that neither male translators nor femaletranslatorsgave the cause of doing or acceptance of an obligatory responsibility totheir same gender i.e. male or female character of the novels. This is also said that there were cases of assigning agency roles to cross sex characters in the results, but they were not significant. More clearly, the analysis of the data showed that male's descriptions of females were not negative and female's character descriptions of males were not negative. Either, maletranslatorsdid not describe malecharacters of the translation positively and females did not describe females'characters of the translation positively. In addition, considering gender ideological aspects, males and females who translated the novels, performed their job of translation without adhering to any trace of ideology. Moreover, in relation to disappearing of cause of action across males and females by translators, it has been proved that neither males nor females tried to attribute more cause to the sentence subject when the sentence object was a female and on the other hand, when the sentence object is a male less cause was attributed to the sentence subject. There is the possibility of reproducing this study with using quantitative measures.In addition; variables like age, religion, background and race of translators are also important variables for investigation.

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