A Study on Explicitation in Farsi to English Translations

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ABSTRACT

The current study contended with studying explicitation phenomenon in a Farsi-English corpus. For doing so, five anecdotes selected at random from Sa'di's Golestan and their English translations extorted from "Sadi's Gulistan or Flower Garden" by James Ross (1890) were analyzed. In view of that, the researchers went through the anecdotes and their translations to extort the explicitation cases occurred through the procedure of translation. The result of the study showed explicitation has been used in the translations.

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1. Introduction

Using the modes and rules of corpus linguistics to study translation has lately been focused on, not to evaluate translations but to recognize what essentially occurs in the translation. Consequently, corpus-based translation studies have gotten recognition for exploring translations in the current decade.

Many scholars wrote on the explicitation phenomenon in translation. It has also been one of the contentious issues in translation studies in current decades. It says that explicitation can be frequently observed in translation. The aim of the current investigation is to study the explicitation in a corpus of Farsi and English.

2. Review of the related literature

2.1. Explicitation

Explicitation has been described variously. Here, the concept is regarded through a variety of dissimilar outlooks; though, the fact that in explicitation something is added is an agreeable idea among them.

Pápai (2004, p. 153) states that explicitation is "a translation technique involving a shift from the source text (ST) concerning structure or content" (cited in A. Mauranen and P. Kujamak). Besides, he deems elucidation, and adding linguistic information as explicating procedures required by target readers. Klaudy (2004) considers explicitation as the act of explicating the information in the target text, which is implicit in the source text (cited in M. Baker). Baker (1996) mentions that explicitation is "the tendency to spell things out in translation, including the practice of adding background information" (p. 180). According to Øverås (1998) and Perego (2003), explicitation is addition of illustrative phrases or connectives and specification in translation.

2.2. Outlooks about Explicitation

Commonly, there are two outlooks about explicitation. The first outlook tries to show that procedures of explicitation are the outcome of translation; while the second outlook tries to state that the linguistic dissimilarities between the two languages, source language and target language, induce the explicitation from the source text to the target text.

Accordingly, Pym (2005) deems that one of the accounts for explicitation is regarding it as a translation universal. Consequently, like two other translation universals, *normalization* and *simplification*, explicitation is also a universal reality in translation (cited in K. Kàroly & À. Fóris).

Quite the opposite, Barkhudarov (1975) deems that explicitation is rooted in the structural dissimilarities between languages, the SL and the TL. In his explorations on English-Russian translated texts, he sees examples of addition in translation from English into Russian, because of structural dissimilarities; when translating English texts into Russian, the translators ought to explicate the ellipses of English nominal structures, specifically the erasure of special semantic components in English surface structure that were in the deep structure so as to pursue the Russian language structures. Hence, the erased semantic components are employed in Russian surface structure.

3. Methodology

For exploring explicitation in a Farsi-English corpus, five anecdotes from Golestan were selected at random. The researcher went through the anecdotes and their translations to investigate the explicitation cases occurred during the procedure of translation. The English translation that was employed in this study is "Sadi's Gulistan or Flower Garden" by James Ross (1890).

4. Data Analysis

In the following some examples for explicitation used by the translator of the corpus of the study and the given explanations regarding them can be seen.

Examples:

<div dir="rtl">

صیاد بی روزی در دجله نگیرد...

</div>

Ross: And they have said: Unless it be his lot, the fisherman cannot catch a fish in the Tigris…

"And they have said" in the translation, is not mentioned in the source text, and can be viewed as an explicitation case. By adding this explicitation, the translator tried to show that the

sentence is a known and proverb-like sentence in the source language. He wanted to communicate this fact to his readers.

پسر را گفت نباید که این سخن با کسی در میان نهی.

Ross: He said to his son: It will be prudent not to mention this loss to anybody.

In translation of the Farsi word "پسر", the translator explicated the possessive adjective "his" in his translation, which was implicit in the source text, but it had to be explicated in the target language, i.e. English, due to dissimilarities in the syntactic structure of the languages. It can be an instance of explicitation.

ملک فرمود استاد را خلعت و نعمت دادن...

Ross: The king ordered them to give the master an honorary dress and handsome largess…

The Farsi word "خلعت" is a culturally loaded word which means a cloth given to somebody as a present by an important person. The translator used a phrase "an honorary dress" for conveying its meaning into the target text. It can be viewed as an explicitation case.

گفت این دعای خیر است تو را و جمله مسلمانان را.

Ross: He answered: it is a salutary prayer for you, and for the whole sect of Musalmans.

In translation of the Farsi verb "گفت", the translator used "answered". He made explicit his translation by using this verb instead of the verb "said". This can be regarded as an explicitation case.

5. Conclusion

Following the study of the data accumulated in this research, it was found that the translator distinctly applied explicitation in translation of Golestan into English. As a whole, there were noticeable cases of explicitation found in this study. Thus, the outcomes of this research provided quantitative proof in favor of explicitation, specifically the idea that translations have explicit information.

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