

Obstacles Encountered in Translating Linguistic Discipline text From English into Tamil-A Study Based on the Book “Language and Common Sense”

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ABSTRACT: Translation is a production process of conveying meaning and information underlying in the source language into target language with the help of linguistic and cultural convenience. The present study deals with the ‘‘obstacles encountered in translating Linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil’’. This analysis based on the book ‘‘Language and Common sense-a collection of essays’’ written by Emeritus Professor Deshamanya Jayaratna Banda Dissanayake. The key aim of the study is to overcome the obstacles encountered in translating Linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil with the help of appropriate strategies while maintaining moral codes of translation. It is also intended to help budding translators identify the difficulties they face in translating linguistic discipline texts, and to suggest ways and means for them to prepare themselves in advance for their professional task. Translators of Linguistic discipline texts should have a good knowledge of the subject matter, update their knowledge of specialized field and possess a wide understanding of Linguistic jargons and phonetic transcription. It is a precious suggestion for the Tamil Academics to make an effort to produce an English-Tamil dictionary for Linguistic discipline jargons to support the Professionals both in Translation and Linguistic field.

KEY WORDS: *Obstacles, Linguistic discipline, Linguistic jargons, Techniques, Academic translation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Translation of a linguistic discipline text is not an easy task. It is not similar to translating a literary work or an official document. Terminological choices, in this context, pose a serious obstacle to be overcome through accurate translation up to the utmost satisfaction of the audience. There are several terms in linguistics field and those technical terms have to be correctly translated. No one can downplay the crucial role played by translators in serving as a bridge between languages thereby coming to the rescue of monolingual speakers.

That is why translation is viewed as a means to reinforce international and intercultural relationship. Linguistics, inevitably, plays a decisive role in the translation of documents from one language into another. Accurate translation from one language into another invariably relates to the function of linguistics in its entirety.

In other words, translation and linguistics are inseparable domains. Translation plays a vital role in the transfer of information from one linguistic code into another. Translation is a big task. Because, In English, The Sentence structure may be complex one. Sometimes there may be one sentence. While we are translating it into Tamil, You may have to break it into two sentences. In English, They have several words for one meaning. But In Tamil, We don't have such words. These short comings are there and thus you have to face numerous challenges. However translation of linguistic text is very much important as any other translation. In this background, I have chosen to translate four linguistic research articles.

- I. Inadequacy of swabhashas
- II. Second language teaching
- III. Problems of translation
- IV. Machines for translation

This analysis is based on the study "Language and Common Sense". The study covers a wide range of topics relating to language and linguistics intended for the layman. Although the study cuts across a wide linguistic field, they are all intended for an approach to language issues from a general point of view. This study was serialized by the Ceylon Daily News during the period of 1964 to 1966.

He (*Emeritus Professor Deshamanya Jayaratna Banda Dissanayake*) limits the use of technical terms to a minimum. He avoids footnotes as they may terrorizes lay readers. Even though he belongs to a majority group.

He is not linguistically biased in his writing. It was written by Emeritus Professor Deshamanya Jayaratna Banda Dissanayake and published by Lake house investments LTD. The author, Emeritus Professor Deshamanya Jayaratna Banda Dissanayake, is one of the leading authorities in Sinhala language. He was former ambassador of Thailand. Some of his writings are

- I. How Gamarala went to Heaven
- II. Understanding the Sinhalese
- III. Sinhala ,Tamil, English trilingual writing and so forth.

1.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The key aim of the study is to overcome the obstacles encountered in translating linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil with the help of appropriate strategies while maintaining moral codes of translation.

1.1 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on the obstacles involved in translating linguistic discipline Texts. It only focuses on Linguistic discipline because there are many kinds of translations and the difficulties faced by the students in translation studies. Basically, the whole study is aimed to answer the below mentioned research questions in order to finding the solutions for them.

1.2 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- I. It may be hard to understand the articles as a whole because they deal with different topics.
- II. A translator of these articles may encounter difficulties in translating certain terms from Sinhala, Latin and Old English into the target language.
- III. Once barriers of translations are identified, translation techniques can be improved.

1.3 SOURCE OF THE STUDY

The book consists of eleven research articles. Four research articles are extracted from the research book titled as "language and common sense" as primary sources. The research articles ,books, magazines , interview and journals related to this study are secondary sources. I approached budding and experienced translators, terminologists and linguists for their input by way of interviews, discussions and observations in an effort to produce a comprehensive and successful study.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Obstacles can be found in the field of translation all over the world. Problems in translation is a matter of concern for professional translators, for both novice and veteran translators. This problem has been addressed with the help of a few researches into the factors affecting the translation of linguistic discipline texts.

1.5 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

These studies point out the challenges and barriers that a translator has to meet when he or she is engaged in linguistic translation.

- i. Antar Solhy Abdellah examined "**The problem of translating English Linguistic Terminology into Arabic**"(SOAS, University Of London,2003).
- ii. Dr. J. Arun Raja Selvan discussed "**Problem of Equivalence in Translating English text into Tamil**"(2010).

II. METHODOLOGY

This study deals with "Obstacles encountered in translating linguistic discipline text from English to Tamil". The selected chapters of the "*Language and common sense*" are translated and analyzed via mixed methodology.

- I. Comparative methodology-After the end of translation, source text is compared with the target text.
- II. Descriptive methodology uses to analyze the techniques of overcoming obstacles in translating linguistic discipline texts.

III. ANALYSIS AND SOLUTIONS

Similarities and dissimilarities between both SL and TL may cause obstacles in the structure of the translation. For instance ,A second language learner does not face any problems if his/her first language and second language belong to same linguistic structure.

On the other hand, Second language learner must face problems if there are any dissimilarities between the structure of the both Native and Second language. Likewise, the similarities between both SL and TL language may help to produce a proper translation. On the whole, complete or incomplete translation of a text depends on the similarities and dissimilarities between both SL & TL. There is an essential need for the translation of linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil in order to spread the knowledge among Tamil speaking community. It is a social need in Sri Lanka.

A translation problem is any difficulty we come across at the level of translating in order to check, recheck or re-write it or use a dictionary help us to overcome it and make sense of it. It is anything in the source language text which forces us to stop translating. Likewise, The translation of linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil also posed obstacles. The obstacles are enumerated as follows;

I. Linguistic problems

- Syntax: Syntax is arrangement and relationship between words. Syntax is more obvious as the word order arrangements and relationship between them varies according to the languages. Most English tenses do not exist in Tamil grammar. All English tenses are verbal. Likewise some modal auxiliaries have no grammatical equivalent. All English tenses are usually start with the subject followed by the verb whereas in Tamil sentences are usually start with subject followed by object and verb. This is a challengeable risk for the budding translator of linguistic discipline text. For instance,
 - Source:-Sinhala and Tamil become important second language to those whose mother tongue or first language is one of them.
 - Translation:- ,tw;wpy; xd;wpid jha; nkhopahff; nfhz;l xUtUf;F jkpo; kw;Wk; rpq;fs nkhopahdJ kpf Kf;fpakhd Xu; ,uz;lhk; nkhopahf fhzg;gLk;.
- The other linguistic problem is the usage of complex sentences:- English-Tamil translation of linguistic discipline text is a course of converting the information from English into Tamil correctly, smoothly and coherently. Logically it consists of two stages: receive, understand the meaning of the source language-English, and rearrange it into target language-Tamil. This process requires that the translator possessed a sound knowledge of linguistics, semantics and SL cultures.

Due to the intrinsic difference between English and Tamil language the long English sentence, more often poses a problem for English-Tamil translation of Linguistic discipline text. The fact that Tamil and English have different thinking habits, which naturally leads to their difference in ways of expression and sentence structure. In a nutshell, long sentence are characterized by frequent use of attributive and adverbial clauses, compound structures and parenthesis.

In translating English compound-complex sentences, the students have faced difficulties to comprehend the meaning of those sentences. In fact, compound-complex sentence is more difficult to understand than the simple one because it consists of some clauses and have one or more independent clauses.

The students will be difficult to determine main clauses and independent clauses, so it makes students cannot comprehend the message of the sentence. In translating, students also face difficulties in the choice of words, arranging good sentence and determining the appropriate message. While consider the examples from this SL text,

- i. "Time was When it was fashionable for Ceylonese intellectuals to sun their own mother tongue as an undeveloped vernacular suitable only for less serious activities of life like gossiping and abusing".
- ii. " Thus the collocation 'poor devil' , by virtue of not being analyzed into two individual units would automatically produce 'duppəta'(දුප්පතා) , 'asəɾənəyaa'(අසරණයා) instead of an unidiomatic 'durvələ yaka'(දුර්වලයකා) .

In the above mentioned examples, The sentences are lengthy and the foremost obstacle is the usage of Sinhala terms with phonetic transcription. They put me in a greater trouble

II. Extra linguistic problems

The extra linguistic problems are paying attention on cultural issues and terminological problems.

- Culture is the umbrella under many things come in a society including language. It is a problematic issue in translation. Meaning is really down to context, often framed by the cultures of the languages involved. And translation is the compromise between respecting the source text and the need to make it comprehensible in the language you're transforming it to. The translators who ignore this strong interconnection between language and culture will commit a serious mistake. We also understand that culture is a huge problem of translation yet cultural terms and expressions are translatable. While consider this source text, Author included several terms which belongs to the culture of Buddhism.

They are as follows *karunaavy*, *karunaa kereneva*, *Bali*, *Tovil*, *Gammaduabound*, *hooiya* and *aavade aayboova*. These cultural specific terms are not known to me. That caused obstacles at the level of understanding the meaning and find out the equivalence.

- Idioms and proverbs:-Idiomatic expressions are far widely used in articles to present the points crisply. They drive the ideas of the author in a better way and with few words. The usage of idioms show the author's good command over the English language.

Wrong idiom in wrong context will twist the meaning of the sentence. We can't translate the idioms and proverbs by the use of literal translation. It may hinder real meaning of it. The fact is that, It is hard to find the equivalent proverb and idioms from the Tamil language. Because, They are a part of culture. Both languages belong to different language family. For instance

- Proverb:- "To make hay while sun shines"
- Idiom:- "To hit the nail on the head" , "It goes without saying".

III. other problems

- Excessive use of foreign terms :- Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It borrowed numerous words from several languages. According to this study , The source research article consists of several technical terms .For instance ,
 - a) Latin terms :- Some Latin phrases have become so naturalized in English that's why author uses them in the source text without a second thought. Such as *vice versa* , *Sine qua non* , *Dichotomy*.
 - b) French terms :- These words are very difficult to translate without the help of glossary. Such as *Asvaddumize* , *Elite*.
 - c) Sinhala terms :- As it is a language which is spoken by majority people of Sri Lanka It is impossible to translate by a Tamil novice translator specially belongs to Jaffna speech community. දිය කරයි , දිය වෙයි , දුප්පත් , අසරණ , දුර්වල , නිසරු , නිරස , අසාර්ථක , දුප්පතා , අසරණයා , දුර්වලයකා .

Every language accepts in its vocabulary a number foreign words and expressions and often using them in their original meaning.

- Lack of prior knowledge:- One of the main characteristics of professional translation is the level of background knowledge acquisition in addition to knowledge of linguistics, language and writing abilities. While translating these research articles , It is somehow difficult to understand subject matters. Because , Each articles are different from one another. There is no inter connection between them. It is a collection of short essays covering a wide range of topics relating to language and linguistics.

The book was first published in 1973. Thus, unable to know the real background behind the each articles. It is not that much easy to understand/translate without have the enough prior knowledge about each topics. For example , *Normative grammar* , *Agrarian life* , *Paraphernalia* , *Transformational theory* , *underlying structures* and so forth.

- Usage of Linguistic jargons:- One of the biggest challenges for translators is the specific jargon used by the fields. Translator faced with such jargon needs to find a way out and render it in the target language. Not only jargon is difficult for budding translators to understand, it may cause confusion among professional translators who may have a different or incomplete understanding the terms of linguistic discipline. For instance , " *Computational linguistics*" , " *Engineering linguistics*" , " *Mechano linguistics*" , " *Volitive verb*" , " *Idioglossaries*"

3.0 Solutions

Most theorists agree that strategies are used by translators when they encounter a problem. Therefore, different researchers have investigated and described various translation strategies from their own perspectives. During the Study , Following techniques , strategies are used to overcome the obstacles while translating Linguistic discipline text from English into Tamil. Example :-01 ,

- During the translation , cultural equivalent technique is used to translate the proverb.

To make hay while sun shines :- 'fhw;Ws;s NghNj Jhw;wfp;nfhs;'

Example:-02

- The long complex English sentence plays a very important role in translation, so more attention should be paid to it. There is simple strategy for overcoming this problem. That is to break the long sentences into small meaning full sentences. Then you have to translate all the small sentences. When you combine them together , you can get over all meaning of the complex sentence easily. This technique is applied to translate the following sentences.

- " *Even those who look down upon Sinhala and Tamil as un-developed , or to borrow still recent neologism from politics , 'under developed' vernaculars , agree that there are certain things that these languages can do , things that are part and parcel of the two cultures but nothing more*".

- 'rpq;fsk; kw;Wk; jkpo; nkhofspid tpUj;jp milahj nkhofshf my;yJ Gjjphf Gidag;gl;l nrhw;fspid; murpaypy; ,Ue;Jk;> tsu;r;rpailahj nkhofspy; ,Ue;J fld; thq;Fk; nkhofshf Nehf;Fgtu;fs; \$l ;t; ,U nkhofSk; fyhrhuj;Jld; neUq;fpa njhlu;gpid nfhz;l Fwpg;gpl;l tplaq;fspid ntspg;gLj;Jk; jpwd; tha;e;jit vd;gjpy; cld;gLfpd;wdu;'.

- Example :-03 Paraphrase technique is used to translate the cultural specific items. There is no equivalent for them in Tamil language. They belong to Sinhala speech community.

1. *karunaavy* -,uf;fk;
2. *karunaa kereneva* -,uf;fkha; ,Uq;fs;
3. *Bali* -
4. *Tovil* -
5. *Gammaduaboundl* - } gypapLk; rlq;F
6. *hooiya*-

7. *aavadeaayboova-ePz;l MASld; ,Uq;fs;*

The lack of equivalents in Tamil language is also cause a major problem. The Tamil language is lacking equivalents than English language. Therefore, Paraphrase technique is again used for the terms which do not have equivalents in Tamil.

1. *Neologism -Gjphf Gidag;gl;l nrhy;*
2. *Formal items -Kiwahd cUg;gb*
3. *Normative grammar -newpKiw ,yf;fzk;*
4. *Contrastive analysis -NtWgLgLj;jp gFj;jha;jy;*
5. *Transformational theory-njhhl; tpUj;jpf;Nfhl;ghL*
6. *Latin terms:-vice versa-,uz;L topapYk; , Sine qua non-kpf Kf;fpakhdJ*
7. *French terms:-Asvaddumize-tay; epyq;fis jahu; nra;jy; ,Elite-gbj;j tu;f;fk;*

➤ Wide reading is the best for acquiring prior knowledge about the subject matter. Students' translation ability and reading habit simultaneously have correlation to writing ability. Student must increase reading activity as much as possible to support their translation ability. With reading any genre and topic will increase their knowledge about language, grammar and vocabulary that they can use it in translation.

It is necessary to improve students' translation ability and reading habit. After knowing the contribution of students' translation ability and reading habit to writing ability, the Lecturer should improve students' translation ability by giving them teaching learning process of translation. English teacher also should improve students' reading habit by giving them more motivation to read English text in book, novel, comic, news and etc.

IV. CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

Translators of linguistic discipline texts should have a good knowledge of the subject matter, update their knowledge of specialized field and possess a wide understanding of linguistic jargons and phonetic transcription. One should be careful in choosing the accurate and exact Tamil equivalent for each English linguistic term in order to arrive at an acceptable translation.

Moreover, It is essential to have a good English - Tamil dictionary specializing in linguistic jargons. It is precious suggestion for Tamil Academics to make an effort to produce an English-Tamil dictionary for linguistic discipline jargons to support the professionals both in Translation and linguistic field.

4.0 Findings

- I. The translator of Linguistic discipline must be bilingual as well as bi-cultural.
- II. The usage of Linguistic jargons and technical terms caused problems .
- III. Complete and accurate translation depends on the prior knowledge of the translator.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. Introducing Linguistics as a subject at School education system.
- II. Explaining the necessity of learning the phonetic transcription.
- III. Including the translation of Linguistic discipline text as a subject title in the syllabus system of Translation Studies unit at Universities.
- IV. Making awareness among the students about this type of translation.
- V. Compiling glossaries.
- VI. Universities should offer theoretical and practical courses of translation concerned with how to translate and deal with Linguistics jargons in this discipline.

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