

Study of House's Model of Translation Quality Assessment on the Short Story and Its Translated Text

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Abstract

House model on comparative ST-TT analysis is leading to the assessment of the quality of the translation, highlighting mismatches or errors. This analysis is through lexical, syntactic and textual means. Her analysis also refers to what information is being conveyed and what the relationship is between sender and receiver. On the process of comparison ST to TT, errors are produced and categorized according to genre and to the situational dimensions of register and genre. These dimensional errors are referred to as covertly erroneous errors. Also, there are overtly erroneous errors which are denotative mismatches or target system errors. Then the translation can be categorized into one of two types: over translation or covert translation. Through the analysis of the translation and the source text, it is possible to determine whether the text is translated covertly or overtly and the translator made the write decision in choosing the type of translation in his rendering. This paper tends to apply her model on a short story named the Grapes of Wrath by John Stein Beck. It is translated by Mohammad Sadegh Shariati. This paper applies House's model on this short story to find out whether the translated works is translated covertly or overtly.

Index terms—

1 Introduction

ouse's (1997) model of translation quality assessment is based on Hallidayan model which is a systematic - functional theory. This model is a systematic comparison of an original and its translation on three different levels: the levels of language/text, register (filed, tenor and mode) and genre. Register is categorized into three parts: Filed refers to the subject matter and social action, Tenor includes the participant relationship. It involves the author's provenance and stance, social role relationship and social attitude. The last one as a mode relates to channel and the degree of participation between addresser and addressee. She believes that the fundamental criterion of translation quality is the equivalence. The first requirement for this equivalence is the function. This function has two components which she calls them ideational and interpersonal. She also uses the other two terms for these components as referential and non -referential. The function of a text can be determined through opening up the linguistic materials based on the situational constraints. House divided the category of situational dimensions into two sections: dimensions of language user and dimensions of language use. For each part, she uses several subcategories. There are geographical origin, social class and time features for the dimensions of language user. Also she considers medium, participation, social role relationship, social attitude and province features for the dimensions of language use. A textual profile is obtained for the ST by using there situational dimensions, a textual profile for TT is Gotten. There profiles act like a norm against which the quality of the TT is to be measured and the function of ST and TT is matched. Any mismatch along the dimensions is an error. There dimensional errors are called covertly erroneous errors. There are also overtly erroneous errors which result from a mismatch of the denotative meaning of ST and TT elements or from a divergence from the target language system. House focuses on three aspects of the meaning that are important for translation: a semantic, a pragmatic and a textual aspect. She believes that translation is recontextualization of a text in L1 by a semantically and pragmatically equivalent text in L2. House created a translation typology which she

45 considered it is related more to the translators of the texts we are rendering but, it is essential to know that what
46 kind of translation is suitable for the source text. According to house, there are two types of translation, overt
47 translation and it is not the second original. The addresses of this translation text are not directly addressed. The
48 ST is culture -bound. It is tied to the source language community and culture. It is SToriented. Readers know
49 that they are reading a translation. House believes that equivalence has to be chosen at the level of language
50 and text, register and genre. Text function can not be the same in TT and ST because the ST is tied to a
51 special historical event in the source culture or because of the special condition that the ST has in the source
52 culture. For having an adequate translation in overt translation, TT should take a second level function. In
53 overt translation, source text may be divided into two types: overt historically linked STs as non -fictional texts
54 which are related to particular historical facts. These texts focus on specific source receptors in specific occasion
55 such as political discourse. Overt, timeless STs are the other type of source text in overt translation which are
56 fictional texts going higher than a particular historical meaning. They are showing language user dimensions.
57 There two types of STs need overt translation and second level function because the function of ST and TT can
58 not be matched and the translator can not transfer the same function from ST and TT because of the purpose of
59 the STs. In overt translation, the work of the translator is important and visible. It is the translator's duty to give
60 target members access to the original text and its cultural impact on source culture members. The translator
61 puts target culture members in a position to observe this text from outside. The second type of translation
62 which proposes by house is covert translation. A covert translation is a translation which enjoys the status of
63 and original ST in the target culture. In fact, covert translation is not ST or TT. It is created in its own right.
64 A covert translation is a translation which is not tied to the source language community and culture. In this
65 translation, Both ST and TT addressees are equally addressed. ST and TT have equivalent purposes. The same
66 function of ST is transferred to TT. However, because these texts are not source -culture bound; in translation
67 they need more attention to the cultural translation and evaluation problems. To remove such difficulties in the
68 differences in the culture and evaluator's duty is to find out whether the application of such a filter is necessary
69 and appropriate. The inappropriate use of a cultural filter leads to the production of a covert version; however,
70 special audiences. This study tends to focus on the two specific House's translation typology, covert and overt
71 translation. Then it applies these two types of translations on a short story and its translated text. In Persian
72 and analyzes the data which are gathering through analyses to find out whether this translated works follows
73 covert translation or overt translation.

2 II.

74 Literature Review House (1981) describes it, "it seems unlikely that translation quality assessment can ever be
75 objectified in the manner of natural science". He declared House's pragmatic -textual approach as a translation
76 operates not with sentences but with utterances. 5. SARA VIOLA Rodrigues (1996), in her article Translation
77 Quality tested Juliane House's Analysis" model on ideational and interpersonal English source texts translated
78 into Portuguese from a wide range of provinces. She quoted, "The advantage of knowing House's model then is
79 that besides illuminating the translator's mental operation, it sheds more light on the problematic area of the
80 situational dimensions of a text, pointing to the need for careful choice of lexical items adequate to the text's
81 special topics or province.

III.

3 Objectives of the Study

84 The overall purpose of this study is to find out what type of translation which were proposed by House (1997)
85 would be followed in the Persian translated text of the short story by the translator. This study looks for the
86 effects of this approach (overt and covert translation) on the translations of the stories. According, the study
87 seeks answers to the following research questions:IV.
88

4 Research Questions

89 2. How are the functions in the TTs of the short stories? Are they compatible to the STs functions or not? 3.
90 What is the role of culture in choosing the appropriate approach for translating short stories?
91 V.
92

5 Hypotheses

93 My hypothesis is that covert translation is appropriate for translating short stories.
94

6 VI.

7 Methodology a) Design

95 The present study concern qualitative aspect. It is going to be done through comparative ST -TT analysis of
96 House's model which is leading to the assessment of the quality of translation. This analysis is through lexical,
97 syntactic and textual means. It also refers to what information is being conveyed and what the relationship is
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????????? ???? ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ???? ?????? ?????? ???
????????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?İ»?"????? ?????????? ?????????? ??? ?????İ»?"?????

153 and pragmatically transferred. However, it is not completely semantically transferred. "southwestern states" is
154 translated "???????" "?????????????" in which south is not translated. In the next sentence "the owners of the land
155 came onto the land" is just translated to "????????? ???? ?????????? ?????????? ?"???? Here land is rendered "????
156 ?"????????? A shift happened as the singular noun is translated plural. Because land here means an area of the
157 ground not a country. -"more often" is missed here and not rendered. "Someone came for them" is not translated
158 word by word as "????? ?????? ?????? ?,"????? rather it is rendered ??????" ?????????? ?"????? And in the last
159 sentence "You know the land's getting poorer" is "????? ???? ?İ»?"????????? ?????? ?????????? ?"????? getting is not
160 translated. So, based on the evidence, this translation is not tied to ST. the reader of the TT are paid attention.
161 It is not exactly a translation. The function of ST and TT is compatible. Therefore, it is considered to have a
162 covert translation.

16 Paragraph 1, Chapter 3:

163 Highway 66 was the main route for a people in flight from dust and empty land. All day the cars and trucks
164 filled with families and everything they owned streamed along the road.
165

166 17 ?????İ®?"?????

167 18 ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ??????????
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171 This translation is not literal. TT is not tied to ST. However, they have equal concern for source and target
172 language readers. In the first sentence "for a people" is rendered ?"?????"? It is not its equivalence; however, it
173 is created in its own right. ST and TT have equivalent purposes. The function of ST keeps equivalent in TT.
174 According to the evidences, this translation is covert rather overt.

19 Paragraph 1, Chapter 4:

175 Joads and Wilsons slowly moved west along 66 as a team. That night they are only pieces of bread, cold and
176 hard, left from breakfast.
177
178 ?????? ??? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? İ®?"????? ?????? ??? ?????????? ??? ?????? ?????? ??????????
179 66 ?????? ??? ?????????? ???? ?????????? ???? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?İ»?"?????????
180 .

181 . This translation is covertly rendered. The focus of the meaning in both ST and TT is kept equivalent;
182 however, TT is not tied to the ST. the translator pays attention to the TT reader as the author of the original
183 does to the ST readers. ST and TT have equivalent purpose. In English text, just by mentioning "west", it is
184 considered the road toward the west part of the area. So it doesn't need for the ST readers to be mentioned.
185 However, the translator through the skill and knowledge tries to view ST through the glasses of a target culture
186 member.

20 Paragraph 1, Chapter 5:

187 The cars of the migrant people came slowly out of the side roads onto the great cross-country highway. In the
188 daylight, they hurried to the west, and as the dark caught them, they grouped near to shelter and water.
189

190 21 ?????????????? ?????? ??????.? ?????? ?????İ®?"????? ?????????? ??????????
191 ?İ»?"????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????????? ??????
192 ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????????????? ??????????
193 ?????????? ?????? ?İ»?"????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ??? ?????İ»?"?????
194 ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????

195 These two texts are equivalent in function and meaning. Each text is compatible for its own readers. In English,
196 it is mentioned "people" as in Persian, it is not rendered because through the Persian readers, they will identify
197 that the meaning of people is hidden in the word "migrant" so it doesn't need to be mentioned again. Or the
198 word "caught them" in their culture and language is known for the ST readers.

199 However, in the translated text, it is rendered "İ»?"????? ?????? ?"????? that these two clauses are not equivalent
200 in meaning but they have the same function in ST and TT and for each reader is familiar. So it is translated
201 covertly as TT is not tied to ST.

22 Paragraph 1, Chapter 6:

In Kansas and Arkansas, in Oklahoma and Texas and New Mexico, the tractors moved in and pushed the tenants out. Three hundred thousand in California and more come.

ST and TT have pragmatically equal concern for source and target language renders. The focus of the translator is toward TT renders. As he rendered "tenants" He clarified this concept for the TT readers. In this way, it is considered that this rendering is covert.

23 Paragraph 1, Chapter 7:

The migrants would work for low wages. They would work for food. And this was good because wages went down and prices stayed up.

ST and TT syntactically and semantically are the same except in two points; first the word "wages" which are rendered has intra -system shift. Wages are plural, however in its rendering, it is singular. And the word "stayed up" is rendered they are not semantically equivalent; however, they have the same function and purpose. So it is considered that is rendered covertly.

24 Paragraph 1, Chapter 8:

The companies and banks that owned the large farms also owned the factories that canned the fruit. They paid the pickers low wages and made the price of fresh fruit go down.

The TT is not tied syntactically to the ST. there is a rank shift would happen; several verbs are translated as nouns. The translator goes through the entire paragraph in translating the paragraph not sentence by sentence. He tries to look at ST through the glasses of target readers. This translation is created in its own right. ST and TT functions are kept equivalent. The translator attempts to make the translation readable for the TT readers and dismisses the ambiguity for them. Therefore, this text is rendered covertly.

25 Paragraph 1, Chapter 9:

Cotton Pickers Wanted said the signs along the road. People appeared, ready to work. They picked the cotton and put it into large bags.

At it is obvious, TT doesn't follow ST in rendering. It is not tied to ST. it is rendered in its own ways to be understandable for the TT readers. On the other side, the same concern is for the source addressees in the viewpoint of ST. Translator looks over the text through the view of TT readers. In the first sentence, the focus of the structure is changed. The place of theme and rheme is changed in English text and its translated text. An intra -system shift is happened. A plural noun is rendered singular in Persian. "Signs" is translated "People appeared" is missed in translation. So through the above explanation, it is considered that this translation is covert.

26 VIII.

27 Discussion

Through the selected paragraphs which it was worked on, the results show that the translator is preferred not to tie to the source language, community and culture. Rather he enjoys the original ST in the target culture. He concentrates on the TT addresses to have readable, adequate and understandable translated text with fewer cultural difficulties and differences. However, through comparing ST and TT, it is recognize that ST and TT functions are kept equivalent. They have the same purposes. Therefore, this translated text tends to have covert translation than overt translation.

28 IX.

29 Conclusion

The comparative ST and TT analysis in House's model is leading to the translation quality assessment. This analysis focuses on lexical, syntactic and textual means. It also focuses on the function of a text which she categorized into ideational and interpersonal function. The fundamental criterion of translation quality is equivalent. She posits that a translation text have a function equivalent to that of its source text. The function is

29 CONCLUSION

256 recognized through linguistic materials in the set of situational constraints. Any divergence of these constraints
257 lead the text to have covertly erroneous errors and any mismatches of the denotative meanings of ST and TT
258 elements cause overtly erroneous errors. She proposes a typology for the translation, covert translation and
259 overt translation. Covert translation is a translation which enjoys the status of an original source text in the
260 target culture. Both ST and TT address their receivers directly. It is not tied to source language, culture and
261 community. It is created in its own right. The function of ST is equivalent in TT; however, overt translation is
262 overtly a translation not a second original. It is tied to the source language, culture and community. Original
263 function of the ST doesn't match TT function, so in overt translation, a second level function is created. Choosing
264 overt or covert translation is somehow subjective but on the other side it depends on the text also. If the text is
265 for special purpose, overt translation is proposed. If not, it is based on the status of the text producer to choose
266 whether it is covert or overt translation. In this study, it is shown that short stories are preferred to be cover
267 translation to have the same function of ST for the TT receivers and ST is viewed through the glasses of a target
268 culture member. This translation is more straightforward for the TT receivers and especially preferable for the
short stories' translations.

1. Rui Rothe -Neves (2002), in his article "Translation Quality Assessment for Research Purposes an Empirical Approach" stated the model of quality assessment by Houses (1987; 2000) as the most famous example in this field. In her book, a landmark in translation research, House introduces the concern towards a scientific treatment of quality in translation. She also revises empirical studies directed to the reception of the translated text by the target -culture reader and brings to the field the very used and still very useful concept of communicative competence. The pragmatic background of her model opened a way to further

[Note: studies that incorporated cultural aspects to the understanding of translation. But her model was directed towards translation as an L2 classroom exercise, and this puts a serious limit to it as a tool to investigate translations as an end.2. Herdrun Gerzymischa reflection of a social, political, ethical, moral or personal stance." 4. Jamal Al -Qlnai (2000), in his article "Translation Quality Assessment. Strategies, Parameters and Procedures" introduced objectivity instead of subjective impressionism in judging translation quality through study of House's model (1976). He mentioned as]

Figure 1:

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- 270 [House ()] *A Model for Assessing Translation Quality*, J House . 1976.
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