Analysis of Lexical Adjustment in three Persian translations of George Orwell's “Animal Farm”

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to have a general overview of Changes of Form (Lexical Adjustment) and how all of these prominent and significant changes, analytical process, synthetic process, change in part of speech, change in form, are manipulated in two different Persian translations of animal farm by "Saleh Hosseini", "Hamid Balooch" and "Amir Amirshahi". The important purpose of this research is to analyse the lexical adjustments manipulated in these three translations. In this research at first some selected parts of the novel would be compared with the three versions in order to find out the differences and the changes each translator employed in translating this novel. Finally some conclusion would be drawn.

Keywords: Lexical Adjustment, Analytical process, Synthetic process, Change in part of speech, Change in form

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1. Introduction

Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life. This can range from translation of a key international treaty to a multilingual poster that welcomes customers to a small restaurant [3]. In the definition of the word “translation” there are two views: 1) the act of an instance of translating 2) a written or spoken expression of the meaning of a word, speech, book, etc. in another language. The first of these two senses to translation as a process, the second to the product. This immediately means that the term translation encompasses very distinct perspectives. the first sense focuses on the role of the translator in taking the original or source text (ST) and turning it into a text in another language (the target text TT). The second sense centers on the concrete translation product produced by the translator [3]. In translating a text we are dealing with the units of translation. This term refers to "the linguistic level at which ST is recodified in TL"[8]. In other words, the elements used by the translator when working on the ST may be the individual word, group, clause, sentence or even the whole text [3]. When a translator is translating a text, because of the differences between the structures of two languages, some lexical adjustments should be considered and manipulated in translation and clearly the translation versions in which have TT structure, are more adjusted lexically [2]. Sometimes translators have problem with translating a text and the items and rules in the learner’s interlanguage are directly traceable to the native language [10]. My purpose in this article is to analyse the lexical changes in which the two translators have used to translate the novel animal farm and write them in detail. Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903 – 21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist and journalist. His work is marked by clarity, intelligence and wit, awareness of social injustice, opposition to totalitarianism, and belief in democratic socialism. Considered perhaps the 20th century's best chronicler of English culture, Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and polemical journalism. He is best known for the dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty Four(1949) and the allegorical novella Animal Farm (1945), which together have sold more copies than any two books by any other 20th-century author. His book Homage to Catalonia (1938), an account of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War, is widely acclaimed, as are his numerous essays on politics, literature, language and culture. In 2008, The Times ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".Orwell's work continues to influence popular and political culture, and the term Orwellian—descriptive of totalitarian or authoritarian social practices—has entered the vernacular with several of his neologism, such as doublethink, thought crime, and thought police. Animal Farm is an allegorical novella by George Orwell published in England on 17 August 1945. According to Orwell, the book reflects events leading up to and during the Stalin area before the World War 2. Orwell, a democratic socialist, was a critic of Joseph Stalin and hostile to Moscow-directed Stalinism, especially after his experiences with the NKVD and the Spanish Civil War In a letter to Yvonne Davet, Orwell described Animal Farm as his novel "contre Stalin".[9]
2. Discussion

There are two process involved in translation: 1) analysis of the SL form in order to find out the meaning 2) production, or choice of proper TL form for this meaning [7]. Translation is basically a change of form [8]. In translation, the form of the SL is replaced by the form of the TL [10]. It is meaning which is being transferred and must be held constant, and only the form changes. Since each language has its own distinctive form and pattern, the same meaning may be expressed in another language in quite a different grammatical or lexical form (Larson, 1984, p.3). Regarding content words, two important aspects of change of form are introduced: 1) redistribution of semantic components: a content word (or phrase) is a container of meaning components [10]. The process of grouping concepts and information in one term is called lexicalization. This quality of words is language-specific; that is, the information contained in a single SLW is not necessarily lexicalized in a single TLW. The same information may be distributed over a phrase or a clause. There are two processes in the distribution of semantic features: 1) Analytical Process, and 2) Synthetic Process. In first one the components expand over a number of different words; that is, an SLW is rendered into a phrase of a clause as its TL equivalent. In second one several components are grouped and compressed into a word; that is an SL phrase/clause is rendered into a single TLW, and 2) change in parts of speech: Languages have the same types of containers or grammatical forms, i.e., words like "verb", "noun", "adjectives", "adverb", etc., but they may put the same content, or meaning, in different containers. In one language a "verb" may carry some meaning, but in another language, the same meaning may be carried by a "noun". Thus it is natural that parts of speech_noun, verb, adjective, adverb, etc. may change in translation from the SL into the TL [7].

3. Results

"Mr. Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen-house for the night, but was too drunk to remember... ." As we know the word "drunk" is an adjective:
Saleh Hosseini: has changed the word to noun.
Hamid Balooch: has not changed the word in his translation.
Amir Amirshahi: has not changed the word.
"... made his way up to bed, where Mrs. Lones was already snoring." The word "snoring" is a verb.
Hosseini: has changed the word to noun.
Balooch: no change.
Amirshahi: no change.
"... the sheep and cows lay down behind the pigs and began to chew the cud." "began" is a verb,
past simple.
Hosseini: no change.
Balooch: no change, but adding adverb.
Amirshahi: no change.
"Clover was a stout motherly mare approaching middle life. "motherly" is an adverb, "approaching" is a verb, and "middle life" is a noun clause.
Hosseini: changing the 1st one to an adjective and changing the 2nd and 3rd one to an adjective.
Balooch: changing the words to adjectives.
Amirshahi: he has not changed the adverb, but has changed the other two into adjective.
"... he was not the first-rate intelligence." This word is noun
Hosseini: no changing.
Balooch: change to adjective.
Amirshahi: no changing.
"he was universally respected for his steadiness of character..." This word is an adverb
Hosseini: changing to adjective.
Balooch: changing to noun.
Amirshahi: changing to noun.
"neverthless, without openly admitting it, he was devoted to Boxer..." The word is adverb
Hosseini: no changing.
Balooch: changing to noun phrase.
Amirshahi: changing to verb.
"...grazing side by side and never speaking." verb
Hosseini: noun.
Balooch: noun phrase.
Amirshahi: noun phrase.
"The two horses had just lain down..." adverb
Hosseini: adjective.
Balooch: adverb.
Amirshahi: adjective.
"...which had lost their mother, filed into the barn, cheeping feebly and ..." verb
Hosseini: adverb.
Balooch: adverb.
Amirshahi: adverb.
"...pretty white mare who drew Mr Jone's tra, ame mincing daintily in." 1st one is verb and 2nd one is adverb
Hosseini: no changing.
Balooch: no changing.
Amirshahi: no changing.
"she purred contentedly throughout Major's speech without listening to a word of what he was saying." verb
4. Conclusion

Lexical changes and especially changes in part of speech is one of the ways to express the same meaning in another language in quite a different grammatical or lexical form. After making a comprehensive review of the studies on the translations of animal farm, this article found that changing the parts of speech in the process of translation, which is one of the skills of a translator and through which the translator makes sense of the SL in the TL, was seen in the translation of Hosseini, S. and that of the other translators was so similar to each other. By doing so Hosseini, S. has tried to make the form of the translation near to the TL in order to make sense more to the readers.

References


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