Review Article

Analysis of Universal Features of Translation in three Persian translations of George Orwell's Animal Farm

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Abstract

This research aims to have an overview of universal features of translation and how these significance features _ explicitation, leveling out, simplification, normalization( Baker 1993)_ are manipulated and employed in three different Persian translation of Animal Farm by "Hamid Baluoch", "Saleh Hosseini", "Amir Amirshahi". The main purpose of this research is to analyse the universal features of translation (Baker 1993) employed in these three translations. In first step some selected parts of the novel would be compared with the three versions in order to find out the differences and the features each translator employed in translating this novel. At last some conclusion would be drawn.

Keywords: Features of Translation, Persian translations, George Orwell's Animal Farm

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1. Introduction

Studying the translated text or, more specifically, what distinctive features typically translated texts exhibit and how they differ from original, non-translated texts written by native speakers has been a topic of long-standing interest in translation studies. Initial research goes back to Toury (1995) who put forward the laws of growing standardization and the law of interference, but it was Baker (1993, 1996) who formulated many of the so-called universals and proposed the use of corpora to study these [9]. The main sample of this study is the novel named Animal Farm by George Orwell. 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 keen intelligence and wit, a profound awareness of social injustice, an intense opposition to totalitarianism, a passion for clarity in language and a 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-Forth (1949) and the allegorical novella Animal Farm (1945). 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 era before the Second World War. Understanding the style (in employing universal features of translation (Baker 1993)) of Saleh Hosseini, Hamid Balouch and Amir Amirshahi, in the translation of the novel Animal Farm by George Orwell, is the aim of this study. According to Baker (1993) there are four features in classification of Universal Features of Translation: explicitation, leveling out, simplification and normalization [1].

2. Methods

Universals have a long tradition on the philosophy of language [5]. The research applies universal features of translation and the data (thirty selected sentences from each translated version and fifteen of them are mentioned in the discussion) will be analyzed and interpreted using Baker's four universal features of translation. Every translator in literary text, according to his/her style of translating, apply one of universal features of translation more than the others, but using special features of universal is not always applied according to the style of the translator, sometimes it happens in conformity with different genres [3] [8]. Baker's classification of universal features of translation was taken as the framework of this study. Simplification: to make the language of TL simpler by using superordinate terms, approximation, paraphrase, etc. The simplification of universals is manifested in the fact that translated texts are likely to be simpler, easier-to-understand than non-translated texts. (Viktor Pekar). Explicitation: to translate the text and make the ambiguous terms as clear as possible. Leveling out: by doing so we adjust the level of SL and TL, For example the length of the sentences, etc. Normalization: to transfer the normal and natural language of SL to TL in translation [1]. According to Klaudy (2003)
female translators tend to be more explicit in translation. (Based on his/her framework, samples of explicitation were extracted from two male translations and two female translations. The result indicated that there exists some differences between male and female translations and that female translations tend to be more explicit in translation.[12]). Actually this is not the point in this study because all the chosen translators are male. The development of descriptive translation studies in the 1980s has enabled the observation that certain linguistic phenomena typically occur in translation texts, irrespective of the language from which the text was translated. Referred to as collectively as 'translation universals', such phenomena as simplification, avoidance of repetitions present in the source text, explicitation, normalisation and the distinctive distribution of lexical items became the object of further study, first through the use of parallel corpora (consisting of source language texts and and their target language translations) and later through comparable corpora (consisting of translated texts and original texts written in the same language for analogical pragmatic situations) [7]. There is a general idea that says translations tend to be more explicit than non-translations (the broad 'explicitation hypothesis'), this is one of the few apparent discoveries that have been made by translation studies [10]. It is a well-known fact that translated language differs from natural authentic language in a number of respects. These specific target text features have sometimes been referred to as 'translationese', which Johanson/Hofland( 1994;26) define as 'deviance' in translated texts induced by the source language'. This implies that they attribute the characteristics of translated language to source text inference [11]. In communication perspective, translation has its own set of communication strategies which are chosen in order to achieve communicative goals [4].

3. Results

"Mr Jones, of the Manor Farm, had locked the hen houses for the night, but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop-holes."

Hosseini, S. literal translation for the first part and explicitation for the second part.

Balooch, H. in the first part he changed past perfect to the past simple in his translation, so: explicitation.

Amirshahi, A. he hasn’t considered the tense in the source language, so explicitation.

"With the ring of light from his lantern dancing from side to side, he lurched across the yard, kicked off his boot at the back door, drew himself a last glass of beer from the barrel in the scullery, and made his way up to bed, where Mr. Jones was already snoring.

Hosseini, S. explicitation.

Balloch, H. no universal feature.
Amirshahi, A. no universal feature.

"Word had gone round during the day that old Major …"

Hosseini, S. and Amirshahi, A. have used normalization, but Balooch has used no universal feature.

"…, Major was already ensconced on his bed of straw,…"

Hosseini, S. he has used no universal feature.

Balooch and Amirshahi have used normalization.

"… When Major saw that they had all made themselves comfortable and were waiting attentively, he cleared his throat and began…”

Hosseini, S. no universal feature in the first part ,he has used explicitation for the second part.

Balooch, H. no universal feature.

Amirshahi, A. for both parts he has used universal, first line: naturalization. Second line: explicitation.

"Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours?"

Hosseini, S. , Balooch, H. and Amirshahi, A. all of them have used simplification.

"Let us face it…"

Hosseini, S. naturalization: changing to target language culture.

Balooch, H. no universal feature in translation.

Amirshahi, A. simplification: he has mixed two sentences into one.

"…we are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies…”

Hosseini, and Balooch, have used explicitation in the first part( changing passive to active). And they also have used naturalization in the second part ( changing the culture into L2). But Amirshahi, has used naturalization in the second part.

"Beasts of England, beasts of Ireland,

Beasts of every land and clime,

Hearken to my joyful tidings

Of the golden future time
Hosseini, and Amirshahi, have used naturalization in the translation of this poetry, but Balooch has translated it literally without using any universal feature.

"Three nights later old Major died peacefully in his sleep. His body was buried at the food of the orchard."

All of the translators have changed passive to active in their translations: explicitation.

"How they toiled to get the hay in!"

Hosseini, and Amirshahi, have translated this sentence according to L2 culture, but Balooch, has used literal translation without using universal features.

4. Conclusion

After making a comprehensive review of the studies on the translations of animal farm, this article found that using universal features of translation, which are one of skills of a translator and through which the translator make sense of the source language in the target language, was seen in the translation of Hosseini, S. and Amirshahi, A. more than Balooch, H. using explicitation more than other universals was one of Hosseini, S. styles of translation, but Amirshahi, A. tried to make the target language near to the culture of the target language, so he used naturalization more than other universal features.

Reference


[2] Bazjanac V, and kiviniemi A, Reduction, Simplification, Translation and Interpretation in the exchange of mode data, Lawrence Berkery National Laboratory, University of California, USA.


