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Exploring the Challenges of Translating Toubou
proverbs into English

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Dissertation submitted to the University of Sebh in partial
requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Translation

Dedication

Praise be to Allah, and peace be upon his Messenger Mohammed. Thanks due to Allah who enabled me to take this step in my academic career. This work is dedicated to the soul of my father, may Allah rest his sole. This work is also dedicated to all of my family who supported me, my brothers, sisters and to the companions, may Allah bless them all, who supported me in this long academic journey.. Big thank goes to all of the teaching staff at the English Department, , and all my friends and colleagues. Special thank and appreciation due to the great nation, Toubou, that formulated these proverbs which reflex its greatness and the arrogant thought.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First of all, praise be to Allah the almighty who enabled me to conduct this study. I am grateful to my parents who gave me all the support. Also, great thanks due to my supervisor, Dr. Al Tiyyb Al Khaiyali for his guidance, encouragement, and the advices. All respect and acknowledgements go to him without his support this research may not be easily conducted.

Abstract

This study aims to explore the general challenges that face students in translation Toubou proverbs from Toubou dialects to English. It also investigating strategies used by translators to facilitate the translation of such proverbs. for the oppose of the current study, a questionnaire an a test were used to collect data. The number of samples that targeted for this study was 15 Toubou students who study in Anlibyan university. The results shows that some students faced troubles translating the proverbs from Toubou dialects to English. the study concluded that three students encountered difficulties in some words because they are not clear and some other students could not understand the meaning of the proverbs, accordingly, they mistranslated the exact meaning into the target language.

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INTRODUCTION

Translation is an important process that has a key role in exchanging information, news, culture, literature, and sciences among people all over the world. It is a process of changing the source text with all of its aspects, semantically, syntactically, culturally, and pragmatically into a different language.

(Mohammed basam 2015, p.1).

1.2 Definition of Proverbs

Proverbs: Theoretically, it is "a saying, usually short, that expresses a general truth about life. Proverbs give advice, make an observation, or present a teaching in succinct and memorable way "(Manser 2007,p.4).

Proverbs are important for grasping the social construction of their meaning because they are not made of one word and they have specific forms that distinguish them from any segment of the language.

1.3 Research problem

Some Toubou people who are interested in translation are facing difficulties in translation Toubou proverbs from their language to foreign language, specifically English. So, proverbs have a figurative language which means that literal translation can destroy the meaning or make it not understandable, according to Emery (1997) what makes a challenge to the translation when translating proverbs is their culturally bound nature. They clarify that the translator is a mediator between cultures and he should render the literal and figurative meaning of the proverbs as well as their communicative effect.

We faced many difficulties when preparing for this research, the difficulty of choosing proverbs, the lack of references related to the research, and the difficulty of obtaining them

the Toubou proverbs due to the linguistic and cultural differences in the translation process. One of the reasons for choosing the topic is the linguistic differences between the Toubou language and the languages into which the Toubou proverbs were translated, especially the large number of synonymous linguistic vocabulary and the peculiarity of the Toubou culture and the large number of their beliefs in their proverbs.

1.4 Aims of the study

This study aims to;

- 1-Exploring the challenges of translating Toubou proverbs from.....????
- 2- find in out the strategies used by the samples in translating proverbs from Toubou Dialects into English.

1.5 Questions of the Research

The project is seeking to answer the following research questions;

- 1-What are the challenges that face Toubou novice Students when they translate Toubou proverbs from Toubou Dialects to English?
- 2-What are the strategies Toubou students may use to overcome translating challenges?

1.6 Significance of the study

This study attempts to find out the obstacles and challenges face novice students who are Toubou dialects speakers when translating Toubou proverbs to English and suggest some strategies to help them in translating proverbs from toubou into English. Therefore, the study might contribute to the field of literary translation by looking at this problem from the Toubou dialects prospective.

1.7. Organization of study

This research has been divided into five chapters. The first chapter focuses on the introductory part of this project. The second chapter discusses the literature review and focuses on general background of translation and literary translation. The third chapter covered the methodology that used in this study. The fourth chapter deals with findings of the current study, analysis, and discussion. The fifth chapter presents the conclusion of the research.

Chapter Two

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses a literature review of some studies that dealt ; Proverb is one of the most widespread and common popular forms of expression, and no culture is devoid of it, as we find it reflecting the feelings of peoples of different classes and affiliations, and embodying their ideas, perceptions, customs, traditions, beliefs and most aspects of their lives, in a vivid image and with a comprehensive human connotation. . Proverbs are characterized by their rapid spread and circulation from generation to generation, and their transmission from one language to another through times and places, in addition to the brevity of their text, the beauty of their pronunciation and the intensity of their meanings.

2.2 Definition of proverbs

The Arabs have taken care of proverbs since ancient times, and every kind of life had an example to cite, and the care of Arab linguists reached a distinct point from others, as the proverb for them embodies pure language to a large extent, so they took evidence from it and built on its foundation their linguistic construction towers. Hence, the first thing that the researcher should do about the meaning of the word “like” is to investigate it in the dictionaries of the language, and then look at the definitions of the proverb in heritage books and books of proverbs.

(Ibn al-Atheer, Zia al-Din (1959).

According to Barajas (2010), proverbs are expressions that are surrounded by paradoxes they are wise expressions that refer to something tangible to express things that are not concrete. Moreover, the ambiguous origin of proverbs does not weaken them but allows them to become popular social wisdom. Furthermore, despite proverbs are considered as a popular expression, few people can use them correctly in conversations with social and linguistic Skills. In addition, although proverbs have fixed forms, their meaning could be changed according to the interpretation of particular social factors and setting

2.3 Toubou Proverbs and Culture

Toubou proverbs are the expression that is related to Toubou culture and expresses the way of life, tradition, customs, food, and habits. Guo (2012) describes culture as a pattern of customs, traditions, social habits that values the entire ways of people's lifestyle

And understand the significance of the proverbs in the context of the culture in which we grew up, and in its shadow. The link between the association with nations, the parameters and the stages that produced them, which is a poetic heritage, and an Arab country, and then, there is a structure, brief to say, abundant in meaning.

It is related to proverbs more than it is related to intellectuals. Ready templates help the speaker to communicate his intention with a metaphor, from a statement. Abu Ubaid said: Proverbs are the wisdom of the Arabs in the pre-Islamic era and Islam... Three times are combined for them, namely: the brevity of the pronunciation, the correctness of the meaning, and the good analogy. The Prophet - may God's prayers and peace be upon him - struck them and imitated them and the righteous predecessors after him." Al-Asriyya Library, Beirut, I: 1408, 1987

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According to Carter (2002) proverbs " have formal and semantic characteristics in common. They convey some kind of aphoristic truth" (p.68) usually in the simple present tense, and are normally neither syntactically devisable nor substitutable.

According to Hassan (2000) proverbs in the table language are many words that you may not find accurate correspondences to in other languages, and there are many synonymous words. When translating proverbs that contain such. Words that lose their meaning .

2.4 Types of translation

The translation is the translation from the translation the translation from the translation, the original translation, the original translation, and therefore, his translation to the original homeland, with what made him rise and excel and appear in his homeland, has a wide reputation, and from this point of view, then, the translator ? The translation is divided into:-

1- Intralingua translation: It is the reformulation of vocabulary and meanings within the framework of one language, the purpose of which is to convey the meaning in another way, such as the interpretation of the Qur'an.

2- Translation from one language to another. Interlingua: It is the transfer of meanings and vocabulary from one language to another, taking into account the unity of style and the equivalence of the translated meanings with the original.

3- Intersemiotic translation: It is the transfer of a message from one type of symbolic system to another type without accompanying verbal signs, so that everyone can understand it. In wars, for example, verbal messages can be transmitted from one party to another by means of signs. Certain such as raising appropriate flags or signs.

And here the division is subject to the way the translator will work to convert the text from one language to another, and this is also divided into several types:

- translation

It is the most famous and which everyone thinks is the only type of translation, where you get a text in one language and convert it to another language in an accurate way that preserves the meaning completely without making changes in the text itself.

- Interpretation

Here, the translation is straightforward, without paper or pens, and depends largely on the intuition of the translator, and it has 3 types:

visible knuckle

In which the translator reads the text and translates it while reading directly without writing it or noting it.

sequential translation

In it the translator translates two language pairs together, i.e. for example; From "Arabic - English" and "English - Arabic", it transmits the words of Arabic speakers to English speakers, then transmits the response of English speakers to Arabic speakers, and so on until the dialogue ends.

Simultaneous translation

It is the translation that depends on one language pair and is done in meetings, seminars and conferences, in which the translator follows the speaker step by step to translate his words into another language at almost the same time as saying them.

Thaji and Dweik (2015) researched the translation of proverbs. Their main focus was the obstacles and strategies of the translation of proverbs. However, they also discussed the errors made by Jordanian novice translators when translating English proverbs into Arabic and vice versa. The theoretical part of the research discussed the common linguistic and textual features of proverbs, difficulties encountered in translation, problems resulting. From lack of equivalence between the source and target language, and strategies used In translating proverbs. They also reviewed some empirical studies such as studies related to obstacles of translating proverbs and studies related to strategies of translating proverbs. The analytical part was based on a test composed of 10 Arabic proverbs and 10 English proverbs. The test was given to a sample of 20 Jordanian novice translators (males and females). The

researcher claimed that novice Jordanian translators committed two main types of errors when translating proverbs. These errors include using literal translation and irrelevant meanings and committing linguistic and stylistic mistakes that distort the entire meaning the above two studies investigated the error committed by translators when translating proverbs.

CHAPTER THREE

Methodology

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This project deals with challenges facing Toubou students in translating Toubou proverbs from Toubou dialects to English. This chapter discusses the research design, methods used to collect and analyze the data, as well as the processes implemented to conducting the current study. Mainly, this study adopts rethink of the research approach> -based methodology, because this methodology highlights the in-depth understanding of the participants views regarding the challenges they face when translating Toubou proverbs to English.

3.2Participants

The participants of this study are (15) Toubou students (males and females) their ages were between 22-23 years .

3.3ResearchDesign

The objective of the current study is to find out the obstacles facing Toubou students in translating Toubou proverbs from Toubou Dialects to English. The study applied a qualitative approach because the research aims to find out the causes of the problem by lack of awareness of the culture of the target language, and it also

tries to find out some strategies to avoid such problems. a questionnaire was designed based on a translation test.

3.4 Instruments

For the purpose of the study, the researchers used tests and questionnaires to find out the strategies and problems that face students when translating Toubou proverbs to English.

3.6 Questionnaire

The questionnaire consist of three questions. All questions are open- ended because the researcher intends to find out what challenges the participants face when translating Toubou proverbs into English

CHAPTER FOUR

Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the data analysis as well as the finding of the study.

The results of both tests and the questionnaire.

4.2 Analysis and discussion of the data

The data that was collected through questionnaire and test are presented in this part the reason behind selecting this method was its suitability and easiness. The questionnaire and test were answered by 15 participants. Data of the questionnaire and test were analyzed.

4.3 Analysis findings of the test

The first proverb in the test (المراة و الضلع أعرجان)

"The woman and the rib are crooked". Some translations showed that 50% of participants used equivalent students' functional language to translate it in the following way; the woman and the rib are twisted. Even though 50% of the participants used the

literal way to translate this proverb. Someone s been translated into "a woman who's been tired.

"was test the in proverbs second The the translated have participants Those الجمل " ما يشوف عوج رقبتنه"

word "عوج" to "tell" however the word "عوج" mean carved. This means either they do not know the word in English or they do not know its appropriate spelling. Moreover, they used the definite article the gives extra meaning to the proverbs. However, 60% of the participants who used camels never see the end of its neck. This proverb was translated by literally translation method.

However, this translation contains some grammatical mistakes when the participants used the word "camels" which is used for plural instead of using "camel" and then they used "it's" which is used for single. The participants showed that they understand the meaning of the proverb; however, they translated latterly which means that they still did not give the right meaning.

The third proverb (ما اتي لجارك ليلا سوف يأتي اليك في النهار) was translated using literally translation by 66% of the participants into' .which is not understandable by participants . However, 33% of the students used the paraphrasing method to translate this proverb "who come to your neighbor at night will come to you in the morning" which was understandable for participants.

4.4 Analysis and finding of the questionnaire

Q1- What are the problems that face you translate Toubou proverbs into English?

According to the questionnaire that was given to the student, they faced problems when it comes to translating proverbs. 3 participants said it is not clear, it was very difficult, and sometimes do not know the correct meaning. In contrast, 7 participants did not face any difficulties because they try to understand the meaning of the proverbs, then they found out the meaning of words in the standard Toubou to get the exact equivalence in the target language.

Q2- What are author messages that you think are unclear for you in the text?

The messages was unclear for 3 participants , while for the other 7 participants the messages was clear for them .

Q3- what are the strategies have you using in translating Toubou proverbs into English?

The students used 4 different strategies:

word for word translation, this strategy used by 2 participants.

literal translation, this strategy was used by 6 participants.

Semantic translation, this strategy was used by 4 participants.

Goggle translation, a strategy used by 3 participants.

In the first question, I noticed that the participants have problems translating the proverbs .50% encountered cultural problems because of the cultural differences between the source and target languages. And the proverbs were an attempt to impose the source culture on the translation of the target language.

The second question, there are 30% of participants the messages were unclear for them, while the other 70 % of participants the messages were clear for them.

In the third question, there are 20% of participants translated the proverbs by using the word by word translation, 60% of participants used literal translation, and 40% of participants used semantic translation, and 30% of participants used by Goggle translation.

4.5 Discussion

The findings of the study indicated that proverbs translation needs high influenced translators for translating from one language into another language. Especially when the proverbs are so old. So Toubou proverbs are not easy. Furthermore, this matter plays a major role in making translate proverbs a hard task for students and translators. In addition, the results regarding the reasons behind these difficulties of translation the proverbs in flawed first things it relating to the lack of culture.

Awareness of Tbou proverbs.

The second study indicated that a lack of knowledge about Toubou culture proverbs. In conclusion, the way the proverbs are to be translated it focus on the context in which used. In Toubou proverbs there are a lot of difficult and different, and strategies that must be uncounted by strategies which can help the translated language readers or listeners to better comprehend the meaning of proverbs when translating Toubou proverbs, it requires to be flexibility to translate into the target language, the translator or students should not delete that proverbs should translate from one language into another language and she or he should. Try to interpreter those proverbsto make them so clear and easy.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

This research attempts to explain the most obstacles that translators facing when they translating Toubou proverbs to the English language. The student's researches used Guestinnar instruments and interviews for collecting the data. From the data analysis and findings assisted with native speakers, it has been discovered that the translators should get a large background. Knowledge about Toubou culture, proverbs, and dialect of Toubou, in addition to English culture proverbs, to make a balance in both languages. Besides that its vocabulary in can text to get a deep understanding of that proverb for giving correcting meaning it could be said that idea that proverbs depend on particular meaning that needs deep wisdom and intelligence to translate the meaning which relating to the cultural, social, and

religious contents-this what put the translators in front of various difficulties such as finding the cultural equivalent in TL.

5.2main findings

The study shows that most of obstructs that translators face when they try to translate proverbs from language to the author. So this is relating may reason the most important one is the incident words that old people used in their culture, the second reason is lack of cultural awareness were am the ajar reason behind these problems, in addition; large numbers of participants translate the proverbs by different way in which he always gives wrong meaning. When wrong meaning and confusion to understanding the meaning of translation, so the translators should cover all the meaning find the equivalent meaning of proverbs. The study found the all proverbs that being translated by adopting the meaning strategy were very success full in given the right objectives .

5.3Recommendations

1- Teachers and students should give intensive courses in translating Toubou proverbs.

2- The translator should convey message not merely words.

3- Teaching how to deal with the context to understand the concept to translate accurately.

4- Translators should avoid the literal translation that makes meaningless translation.

5- Teaching the use of all kinds of translation strategies.

6- translator should translate proverbs as one unit not to translate the words separately.

7- The translators should be familiar with both cultures and have more knowledge about both cultures.

5.4 Limitations

The study suggests estimating the structure and style of English proverbs in comparison the Toubou proverbs. It also proposes making a comparison between Toubou and English proverbs from research s study. One other important limitation to this study is the small of our sample size. Finally, lack of updated resources on this area.

APPENDIX

A Test

Translate this TOUBOU PROVERBS from TOUBOU to ENGLISH

Gender: a- male b- female

Age.....

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