

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF “REKHTEYA REKHTEYA DI” AND “FACTS ARE FACTS” IN THE LIGHT OF TRANSLATION QUALITY ASSESSMENT MODEL, REVISED (2015)

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### Abstract

*Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) is a rapidly developing branch of translation studies. The present study focuses on the connection between the original text (Rekhteya Rekhteya Di) and translated text (Facts are Facts). In the current study, Juliane House newly revised model “Translation Quality Assessment: Past and present” (House, 2015) was applied on the book “Facts are Facts” written by Khan Abdul Wali Khan translated by Dr. Syeda Saidain Hameed. Qualitative research method was used by the researcher. In the current study, it was examined either the covert translation or overt type of translation has been used as a strategy by translator. The assessment of covert and overt strategies was done in order to examine the quality of a text. The analysis was done with the help of lexical, systematic and textual bases. The finding of the study shows that the comparison of the target text and source text through her revised model may give insight to the process of teaching and learning in translation, because via these particular properties of the source text and target text, languages are highlighted. The analysis resulted that translator is not bound to the culture, society and language of the source text, but the researcher gave priority to get equivalence of the target text. It was tried to make the source text more original in the target culture, so that the target audience and reader can easily get access to the original text without cultural difficulties and differences. In conclusion, the translator chose covert type of translation as compared to overt.*

**Key Words:** Translation Studies, Covert Translation, Overt translation, Source Text (ST) and Target Text (TT) and “Translation Quality Assessment: Past and Present” (House, 2015)

### Introduction

Translational studies is a broad and vast area for study. Translating source text into target text occurs under the umbrella of translation studies. Process of translation requires re-expressing the content of the source text in the target text, while maintaining equivalent linguistic style and meaning. The language the text is translated from is called the source language, whereas the target language refers to the language into which the text is rendered. Translation is a complex process that involves linguistic, cultural, communicative aspects, requiring the interpretation of written text. According to Nida (1964), Translation creates natural equivalence between indigenous and target languages in terms of, meaning, style and words. As a mediator between two languages and cultures, a translator must be conscious of the cultural nuances and conventions of both languages to produce an authentic and effective translation.

Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) is a vital topic widely discussed in various translation theories, focusing on evaluating the overall quality of translated text. However, quantifying and describing this quality efficiently poses complications due to the inclusion of multiple factors and differing viewpoints. Numerous authors attempted to describe the concept of quality, but its explanation remains elusive due its subjective nature.

Amongst the various translation theories and models, Juliane House’s model of “Translation Quality Assessment” (TQA) stands out as a renowned method within translation studies.

House brought in her model in 1977, but later on she brought new changes and edited the model in 1997 and 2015 respectively. In her newly revised model she points up the importance of a comparative analysis between the original text and translated text profiles. As stated by House, translation should involve replacing a text in the source language with a semantically and pragmatically equivalent text in the target language (House, 2015, p. 23).

This study focuses on conducting a Translation Quality Assessment of the book “*Rekhteya Rekhteya Di*” which has been written in two different languages, focusing to determine any irregularities and errors that may exist. The book basically published in Pashto in 1987 by Khan Abdul Wali Khan, was later on translated by Dr. Syeda Saidain Hameed into English in 1990. The book revolves around the history of Pakistan in which politics before the independence and after independence have been analyzed.

The concern of this research is to seek and investigate the quality of translated text written by Khan Abdul Wali Khan and translated by Dr. Syeda Saidain Hamed. Moreover, to investigate either the translation is covert or overt?

### **Research Objectives**

The main research objectives of the current study are given as:

1. To evaluate the quality of the translation of ‘*Facts are Facts*’ using House’s TQA model.
2. To identify whether the translation strategy used is covert or overt.

### **Research Question**

Following are the research questions for the current study.

1. How can the quality of the translation of ‘*Facts are Facts*’ be assessed using House’s (TQA) Model?
2. Is the translation strategy employed covert or overt?

### **Significance of the Study**

The field of translation has taken broader place and it has its level in educational institutions across the globe. It is important to transmit knowledge, cultural norms and values and information around the world through translation. This study contributes to the understanding of translation strategies in literary texts, particularly in the context of Pashto-English translation. It also demonstrates the practical application of House’s TQA model, providing insights for translators and scholars in Translational Studies.

### **Literature Review**

As asserted by Crystal (2003), translation is the process in which meaning is conveyed and transmitted from one language to another. In research studies, translation conveying different aspects of society and culture from one language to another, while maintaining meaning, context, and the intension of translator. In this regard, translator uses proper strategies of translation as covert and overt strategies are employed in ongoing study. According to Susan Bassnett (2013), Translation highlights its importance in all fields and is a valuable read for both scholars and students, it involves translator command and have control over final product into which the source texts are translated. In the context of research studies, precise translation is critical to assure the trustworthiness of data, the dependability of findings, and the accessibility of information across linguistic hindrances. For making sure this, translator need to have proper strategies and direction for translating a text, for instance source and target material should be available. Jordan (2021) emphasizes the linguistic aspects of cross-language differences in speech, or “translations” or it is observed that how translation activities exist and take place. Translation facilitates the interaction and the association of literature from various cultures, because it plays a role of bridge for connectivity. Through translation, readers can access and appreciate literary works from different languages, enhancing their aesthetic awareness and broadening their cultural understanding. As asserted

Tolibova and Pulatova (2021), translation promotes friendship, brotherhood, and cooperation among people, improving economic, political, scientific, cultural, and literary ties between them. In today's multilingual society, translation plays an exceptional role in facilitating communication between different languages.

Newmark (1984), highlights the distinction between semantic and communicative translation by defining clear boundaries. Semantic translation focuses thoughts and intention of the translator. It remains rooted in the culture source language, making suitable for solemn literature, autobiographies, and political declaration. It sustains that target text (TT) is constantly inferior to source text (ST): exact meaning is lost while translating a text, because sometimes intended meaning of source text is hidden behind target text or culture. Communicative translation focuses on the translator's intent and the target culture, rather than the cognitive processes, making it more subjective. It replaces external elements with the intended language, which remains at the root of the modern world, rather than evolving from new perspectives. Communicative translation focuses on making the message fair and powerful, even a little of the primary meaning is lost. It prioritizes the quality and lucidity of the target text over strict compliance to the source language. When it comes to the comparison of semantic translation and communicative translation, as asserted by Zu and Dong (2015), both methods share some overlapping characteristics, meaning that they can work similarly if the text is delivering a general message and one tied up with a culture. The combination of both methods determines the successful translation.

According to Juliane House in her book, in translation, a text in one language is substituted with a functionally equivalent text in another language. Achieving this equivalence depends on two types of translation: overt and covert. Overt translation is clearly identified as a translation and is not treated as a new original. It often retains elements from the original language. Overt translations are situated within a new cultural context and can resemble quotations. Examples include historical documents and sacred texts. Functional equivalence meaning or the practical use of words and meaning is achieved at a "second level," allowing the audience to access the original's meaning, but from a distance, which leads to a blend of both cultures. This type of translation often results in noticeable deviations from the norms of the target culture, making it a hybrid entity. On the other hand, covert translation is viewed as an original text within the new culture. It does not indicate that it is a translation and is designed for immediate use, such as in instructions or advertisements.

Chao Han (2020) believes that it is one of the most critical areas of research in translation studies since various scholars have proposed different models of TQA. In addition to these theoretical models, various evaluation techniques have been developed in order to assess translation quality in very different contexts, such as flaw analysis (process of identifying and addressing weaknesses in a system), empirical analysis (involvement of collected and analyzed data via direct experimentation and observation), standardized assessment (assessments which are designed to measure particular knowledge and abilities in a proper way), refinement of dichotomous measures (an improving tool which categorize the results into two distinct groups), and comparative analysis. TQA assessments often overlook methodological issues. In this respect, this methodological review aims at tracing the developments of the TQA patterns focusing on the clarification of the diversity of methodologies as well as factors influencing the evolution process, strengthening and limitations of each research design. It also talks about TQA appraisals using three core concerns: credibility (trustworthiness of source), rationality (quality based on logical reasoning), and practicality (using something effectively).

Iona Irina Durdureanu (2011) attempts to tackle the best known theories, indeed about the culture-bound terms (specific words, phrase and concepts of particular culture, which may

not have an equivalence in other languages and cultures) and their equivalents, which derive from the fundamental question of whether it is possible or not to translate culture. The relationship between translation and culture has become more prominent in recent years, translators can no longer ignore the cultural aspects of a text.. Bracaj (2014) asserts examining language, culture and translation and the interconnectivity of these three is an important point of examining them all as human communication is so vital to the globe. According to Edward Said (1994), every translation is a negotiation between two different cultures. It entailed choice, and through that choice, the translation re-writes the cultural context of the source, often reflecting the translator's own cultural and political perspectives. Translations are what make people read about other cultures and other worlds which they do not belong to. Without a translation, it would be very hard to convey between countries, as it doesn't only translate the words and phrases into another language but can also convey the hidden meaning of a text.

### **Research Methodology**

In this study, qualitative method is used. It includes a comparative analysis of the source texts and target texts while allowing an evaluation of the quality of the translation. According (Jamshed, 2014), Researchers employ research methodologies to investigate problems and bring out solutions. These qualitative methodologies are based on particular theoretical dimensions. In qualitative research there is close connection between researcher's aims and researcher theoretical frames. This study is done by employing this method to find the solutions of research questions. Using this method, the researcher employed Julaine House's "Translation Quality Assessment Model past and present": on Khan Abdul Wali Khan's *Rekhteya Rekhteya Di (Facts are Facts)*. This study employs textual analysis as a research methodology. According to Mckee (2014), In this procedure information is gathered and analyzed. In textual analysis cognitive assumptions are formed to involve a text that how it should be interpreted. Texts are interpreted differently, depending on the context rather than being globally understood. The technique of close reading is used for collecting information about research topic. Firstly, words, expressions and nuances are tried to understand. In this set up, words are not rigidly managed; rather they are arranged so that they have a specific meaning. Qualitative and quantitative questions are taken into consideration and addressed. According to David greenham, (2018), Close reading is probably the most important skill that literature students gradually sharpen up in the course of their studies. In ongoing study, researcher has employed close reading as a technique to point out word expressions and nuances both in the source text and target text. Purposive sampling method is employed to choose the book with its three chapters for analysis. Kumar (2011) asserts that, purposive sampling involves selecting extracts based on researcher's judgment. The researcher selects predetermined subject because it is in his mind that the selected sample represent rest of the book. Therefore, in the ongoing study, researcher has employed sampling method and chose three chapters out of 22 chapter of the book.

### **Discussion and Analysis**

In this chapter the researcher examines the translated work of Dr. Syeda Sadain Hameed of the *Facts are Facts*, which showcase the entire purpose of the study. The researcher examined the previously selected three chapters for this aim. The selected three chapters and taken extracts from them are evaluated in the light of Juliane House's TQA past and present model, that either the translation is covert or overt. TQA model is employed for data analysis in order to address the researcher's questions.

### Source Text

صوبه سرحد او خدایي خدمتگار د پېرنګي د سترګو ازغي وو ځکه چې د هندوستان په ټولو مسلمانانو کېني من حیث القوم صرف خدایي خدمتگار هغه بله وه چې د پېرنګي په سیاست او سازشونو پوهه وه او هم دا خدایي خدمتگار وو چې د پېرنګي د غلامۍ نه د ځان خلاصولو په خاطر ئي کانګرس سره په شریکه ملا تړلي وه

### Target Text

*“Another fact that becomes clear is: why the Frontier Province became a thorn in the British flesh? This was because among the Muslims the only group which was aware of the British duplicity was the Khudai Khidmatgars. They aligned themselves with the Congress to throw out the British rule”.*

### Discussion

The translation of the text is not a literal translation because text is not translated word by word, but the translator has tried to transfer the meaning of the source language into the target language. Source text is not bound to the target language, but except for this, the translator has undermined the approach and attention of the target audience and employed a covert type of translation as compared to an overt type of translation. The translation of the word “*Da Perangi da Ghulamai*” is “British slavery,” but the author covertly used the word “British rule” to convey clear meaning to target language readers.

**BT:** "The province of Sarhad (North-West Frontier Province) and the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) were thorns in the eyes of the British because, amongst all the Muslims of India, it was only the Khudai Khidmatgar as a community who were aware of the British politics and conspiracies. It was also the Khudai Khidmatgar who, to free themselves from British slavery had aligned with the Congress."

### Source Text

نو شرم ورځي چې څنگه زمونږ عالمانو او خانانو خپل دين ايمان غيږت او پښتو په پېرنګي د کفر غرض سر کولو د پاره په سرو پيسو خرڅ کړي دي او څنگه دي مليانو د پېرنګي د مفادو د تحفظ د پاره د ملک د ازادۍ په غاږيانو او مجاهدينو د کفر فتوي لگولي دي

### Target Text

*“It is humiliating to read how these interpreters of religion sold their conscience to the political agents and bartered Islam for a few pieces of silver! it is further painful to see proof of their false judgments (Fatwas) upon true sons and patriots of India”.*

### Discussion

In this passage translator avoids some words in translated text to maintain the flow in target text, for example, word “*Khanano*”, “*Ghirat*” and “*Pukhtu*”. These words have been sidelined. Along with this, translator adds some extra words to extend and balance the meaning in target text, for example “true sons” and “patriots of India”. The translation of these words is not literal but based on the perception of audience reader. Moreover, rest of the passage does not contain word by word translation but words convey meaning accordingly in the target text. Therefore, it becomes obvious that translator has employed covert type of translation as compared to overt translation.

**BT:** And there is no shame how our scholars and tribal leaders sold their religion, faith, honor, and Pashtun identity for the British and their interests for money. And how these religious leaders issue decrees of ‘kufir’ against the freedom fighters and *Mujahideen* just to serve British interests.

### Source Text

د سر جارج ڪنگم دا د خپل لاس ليکلي دائري جي سرے لولي نو حيران شي جي ڄومره ڄومره درانه خوش شڪله فرشته صورت د ديني مدرسي فارغ التحصيل عالمان هم د پيرنگي د پاره لگيا وو او د خدا ے قران په لاس د رسول اكرم (ص) احاديث په غاره د كافر پيرنگي د حكومت پاره او د خپل ملك وطن او مسلمانانو د غلامولو د پاره ئي خپل ايمان ضمير او سر يتوب په سرو سپينو خرڅ كړي دي

### Target Text

*“George Cunningham's diaries are a shocking record of men, nurtured at the excellent Islamic school at Deoband, who were busy serving the British. With the Holy Book in their hands and the Tasbih strung around their neck, these pilgrims set out to spread the world of colonialism, British imperialism, and for a few pieces of silver, agreed to serve as the custodians of slavery for the Indian people”.*

### Discussion

In these lines, translator reduces words in the target text to make sure the flow for readers, for example the word “*Las Lekali Diary*” is translated just in one word “diary”, in source text a religious institution’s name is not mention but translator mentions the name of the institution like “*Deoband*” for the sake of easiness to target audience. Overall the text conveys meaning and idea to target audience but some words from source text mismatch their meaning in target text, for instance, in source text, words “*Ahaadees*”, “*Kafir*”, “*Saritob*”, “*Farishta Sorat*”, “*Khush Shakla*” and “*Watan*”. These words have been avoided in the target text but the overall context of the target text gives clear meaning to its readers. By observing these mismatches and contextual based translation, it is understood that the translator has followed covert translation as a strategy rather than overt.

**BT:** When one reads the handwritten diary of Sir George Cunningham, one is astonished to learn how many dignified, handsome, angelic-faced scholars, who graduated from religious schools, were working for the British. With the Quran in their hands and the Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) on their shoulders, they sold their faith, conscience, and humanity for the rule of the infidel British, to enslave their own country, homeland, and fellow Muslims.

### Source Text

د معمول ستري مشي نه پس هغه (جناح) خبري اتري د دي ٽيوس سره شروع ڪري جي مونڙ ڇه وڪرو ؟ مطلب ئي دا ؤ جي زمونڙ تري نه مسلم ليگ مراد دے

### Target Text

*“After the usual compliments he (Jinnah) opened the proceedings by asking me what are we supposed to do assuming that we meant Muslim League”.*

### Discussion

The writer took the line as a reference in the source text, therefore translator did not interpret, but translated as it is, mean that translator adopted overt way of translation. Therefore, it is literal-overt translation.

**BT:** After the normal greetings he started to start a conversation with the question as if to say "What shall we do?" What he actually meant by this was "What shall we, the Muslim League, do?"

### Source Text

دا ڊپر اوڀر د ملاقات دے او د واپسرائے او جناح صيب په منځ کبسي ڊپري مطلبی خبري شوي دي ولي جي واپسرائے جي جناح صيب په خپله په ما سوال وڪرو جي اوس به مونڙ (مسلم ليگ) ڇه ڪوو؟ نو مطلب ئي واپي بل ڇه ڪي دے شي جي مسلم ليگ صدر په خپله راغله دے او د واپسرائے نه ڄان پوهول غواړي جي اوس مونڙ له ڇه ڪول پڪار دي

### Target Text

*“During this lengthy meeting there were several important exchanges between the Viceroy and Jinnah. The Viceroy stated that Jinnah himself asked the question, what next? What annoyed him was that where else in the world would the leader of a freedom fighting party seek advice from its colonial rulers”?*

### Discussion

Some of the part of passage is translated word by word and at some of the part, translator omits some words in the target text. At first two lines, translator follows overt strategy of translation. Moreover, translator also follows covert translation, for example the noun “Muslim League” is named “Freedom fighting party” in the target text. It seems that here, translator employs covert strategy to make it understand. Along with this, in source text the word “Viceroy” is translated as a “Colonial Rulers” and “*Pohawal*” is translated to “Advice” in the target text. These words are translated on context based. That’s why; one can claim that the translator has employed both of strategies covert and overt, while translating the text.

**BT:** It was a long meeting and meaningful talks between the Viceroy and Mr Jinnah took place. Quoted from the above writings, that Viceroy said to Jinnah, "He himself asked me, what we should do?" Now, what could this mean except that the President of the Muslim League himself went there and asked the Viceroy about what they both should do next?

### Conclusion

This study aimed at studying the translation quality as well as further looks into whether it is covert or overt translation made in the "*Facts are Facts*" originally written by Khan Abdul Wali Khan, translated by Dr. Syeda Sadain Hameed. The book explores politics before the partition of the subcontinent and gives form and color to Abdul Wali Khan's politics after the independence of Pakistan. The researcher picked 3 chapters out of 22 chapters of the book "*Facts are Facts*", using purposive sampling technique, and analyzed the selected chapters through Juliane House's “Translation Quality Assessment Past and Present” 2015. The lexical and textual evaluation is done through the lens of Julaine House's model of “Translation Quality Assessment”. After the analysis done above we can claim that translator is not bound to cultural aspects and language of the original text but despite this he preferred to keep more balance in the target text. Translator ensures that the source text is familiar in the target culture, and hence, the target audience can easily access the original text with no hindrances or cultural differences. As House's model is applied in order to evaluate the quality of the source and target text, so therefore it is claimed through the comparison of source text and target text that the equivalence of both texts is maintained and the outcome of both texts is equivalent; therefore, it is excluded from the above analysis that the translator uses covert type of translation as compared to overt type of translation, although at some parts of the text, overt translation is also used. In the above study, two kinds of translation overt and covert were analyzed by the researcher, and comparative analysis took place in order to judge the validity: "covert translation is more applicable and better as compared to overt translation. The present study will be useful and provide a clue and roadmap for future researchers in the area of translation studies.

### Limitations of the Study

The book *Rekhteya Rekhteya Di* has 22 chapters. 3 chapters have selected from a total of 22 chapters picked by the researcher based on purposive sampling. The book primarily explores the historical events leading up to the demand of All India Muslim League and for purpose of new country by the name of Pakistan. Further, the book illuminates the resistance and

narrative of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan also known as “Bacha Khan”. The three selected chapters symbolize the entire book. The selected three chapters are as outlined: (1) The Pakistan Scheme (2) Sir George Cuninghame’s Dairies and (3) Wavell’s New Scheme (The British Need for Pakistan). The results of the study could be applied to remaining part of the book.

### Recommendations

The researcher has proposed the following recommendations:

1. The book “Facts are Facts” can be analyzed through in the light of Juliane House’s Translation Quality Assessment (TQA).
2. This study only covers three chapters selected from the book, but all of the other chapters can also be considered.
3. Translation Quality Assessment Model can be employed on any other work in Pashto language in the light of this study.

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