

ANALYZING 'HARRY POTTER & THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN' ENGLISH AND URDU TRANSLATIONS THROUGH TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

This study examines the English to Urdu translation of Chapter 1 of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" using the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir. Through a detailed analysis, examples of each technique are identified and explained in the form of complete sentences. The techniques include Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Discursive Creation, Established Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction, Substitution, Transposition, and Variation. Each technique is illustrated with multiple examples, showcasing how translators can effectively adapt cultural nuances, amplify details, borrow directly from the source text, employ literal translations, and utilize various other strategies to ensure cultural and linguistic appropriateness in the target language. The descriptive qualitative technique was applied to explain the data. This analysis provides valuable insights into the complexities of translation and highlights the importance of considering cultural and linguistic differences to produce high-quality translations.

Keywords: Translation Techniques, Molina and Albir, English to Urdu Translation, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Cultural Adaptation

Introduction

Translation is an important aspect in the divert messages, especially from one country to another with language and cultural differences. In order to, the information can be accepted by non-native speakers where the information came from. So, the translator is a communicator between source language reader and target language reader. As proposed by Nida and Taber (1982) that "Translating consist of reproducing in the receptor language natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of message and secondly in terms of style".

Translation technique is defined as the realization of the translation process such as method and strategy of translation. According to Molina and Albir (2002), it refers to translation product and works for the micro unit of the text. However, the translation technique constantly misunderstood with the term of a method and strategy, translation due to the confusion between the translation process and translation product. Furthermore, Molina states that over-lapping terms make it difficult to be understood as well.

Molina & Albir (2002) divided technique of translation into: 1) Adaptation, 2) Amplification, 3) Borrowing, 4) Calque, 5) Compensation, 6) Description, 7) Discursive Creation, 8) Established Equivalence, 9) Generalization, 10) Linguistic Amplification, 11) Linguistic Compression, 12) Literal Translation, 13) Modulation, 14) Particularization, 15) Reduction, 16) Substitution, 17) Transposition and 18) Variation.

Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban is third instalment in J.K. Rowling's renowned series. Published on 8 July 1999 by Bloomsbury in the United Kingdom and on 8 September 1999 by Scholastic in the United States. This novel has been translated into over 80 languages. Thus, this research aims to dissect translation techniques utilized by translator.

JK. Rowling's Harry Potter series, a bestseller that went on until the last book was published. It tells the story of young wizard Harry Potter along with his family and friends who take

center stage in their struggle against the evil sorcerer Voldemort. Since this is an extensive series, this study will focus on translation strategies employed in English to Urdu translation of 'Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban', more precisely Chapter One.

Research Question

How do translators employ various translation techniques, in translating Chapter 1 of 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' from English to Urdu?

Research Objective

To examine the English to Urdu translation of Chapter 1 of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" using the translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002).

Literature Review

This research by S. Bassnett-McGuire stated that translation is a complex process of changing text from one language to another, which must be done with extreme care in order to ensure that all direct meanings are kept intact in both texts while following the source language rules. Also, it implies the need to keep as much as possible the essence and ideas of an original text alive. But within cultural translation, especially cultural translations, historical context becomes necessary for understanding them deeply because such works belong to specific times in history. (T.Sugimoto, 2008, p. 192)

Literary translation demands the most effort. The reason is that a translator tries hard not only to render mood and style but also the author's unique way of writing; he or she has to enliven a story while at the same time keeping its originality untouched. It means that everything should be translated so that the reader can feel what the writer wants him or her to feel, even if they use different languages. (Bahodir,F ,2023)

For the last few years, equivalence has been one of the main themes that researchers of translation studies have been focusing on. The concept is considered to be central in translation theory although it is often regarded as slippery and hard to define or achieve. This has led to various approaches toward translation which is seen as a complex field. They all involve two languages; source language and target language, with the aim of making sure that the original meaning remains intact in another language through equivalence. This study examines what equivalence means in translation using theoretical insights and practical examples drawn from different works done by other scholars who were also puzzled by this same issue. (Oneț, A. E., & Ciocoi-Pop, A. B. 2023)

Harry Potter is a fantasy series that has received worldwide recognition and love from readers across different countries. Magic spells are vital components within these books because they possess mysterious features beyond nature's understanding. Nevertheless, there arises tremendous linguistic, artistic and cultural difficulties while translating these phrases. It requires translators' ability to navigate smoothly through various cultural contexts. Therefore this research takes cross-cultural point of view. It concentrates on comparing strategies used when translating Harry Potter spells as well as their outcomes achieved during such process. The researcher explores how cultural elements are dealt with through looking at them against chosen translation strategies which he/she believes best represents particular cultures involved thereby fostering mutual understanding between societies. (Mo, X., & Zhao, M. 2024)

The cultural terms and their translation were the main topic in Rowling's book "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince". The data obtained were words or phrases with cultural references from this novel as gathered through document analysis. According to the findings, there are different types of cultural items found in the text, such as material culture, customs, organizations, environment, and social practices, among others. Translation strategies employed include direct equivalence, borrowing, adaptation, generalization. The most commonly used techniques were direct equivalence and borrowing. (Prajoko, 2023)

The meaning of translation technique implies the methods and strategies used in text analysis and focusing on micro level of elements while translating. The main purpose of this study was to detect translation techniques that were employed in the movie scripts for Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows part one and two. It had two objectives: first, recognizing these techniques in each part; second, evaluating their usage. Molina & Albir (2002) framework guided this study, while descriptive qualitative analysis was used as a methodology for collecting data. The English and Indonesian movie scripts were the primary focus, specifically the dialogues of the main characters. The findings revealed 11 translation techniques in part 1, while in part 2, 8 techniques were identified. The dominant techniques in both parts was establish equivalence. (Pratama H.K., 2022)

Theoretical Framework

According to Molina and Albir (2002), translation is a process that involves many methods and categories used to evaluate efficiency in practice. They suggest that there are five main features or attributes of translation techniques: These five may influence the translation. Comparing them against original texts can be done for classification purposes. Impacts are on micro-level elements within texts; discourse is contextually embodied in every one of them; Functionalities are served by each one too (Molina and Albir, p: 502).

To analyze the two translated (English & Urdu) versions of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) are used.

Here are eighteen techniques suggested by Molina and Albir (2002).

1. Adaptation: Altering parts in the source language to conform with cultural or linguistic norms in the target language without changing what is being communicated.
2. Amplification: Giving more information about some aspects of a sentence or phrase in such a way that it becomes stronger and clearer than before.
3. Borrowing: Taking over words directly from one language into another without translating them.
4. Calque: This is where idiomatic expressions are translated literally keeping their word order and structure intact.
5. Compensation: Correcting loss or distortion of meaning at some point by making corresponding changes elsewhere within a given text.
6. Description: Offering many details through speech or writing so that someone else may have an idea about something which has been written down already
7. Discursive Creation: Generating new discourse in the target language to convey the intended meaning of the source text.
8. Established Equivalence: Each word or phrase has a counterpart in every language.
9. Generalization: Making the source text more understandable to readers of the target language by omitting specific information from the original
10. Linguistic Amplification: When translating into another language, pay attention to words and phrases that were not explained enough in the original text and give them special prominence.
11. Linguistic Compression: If any structural features or elements are lengthy in English but brief in Spanish, they can be shortened while translating so as long as they do not become vague.

12. Literal translation: Aims at rendering a given text into another language without considering idiomatic expressions or cultural differences between the two languages
13. Modulation: involves changing some aspects like perspective, tone, style etc but keeping everything as it was meant originally thereby ensuring that message does not change across different cultures represented by target audience who may read after being transformed from its source form into their own native tongues
14. Particularization: involves adding specific examples or details which were not there in an initial statement only for better understanding what was already said without altering anything else about a given passage itself since this would affect its overall meaning entirely.
15. Reduction: is where much of certain sentences are left out so as to pass across similar information using fewer words
16. Substitution: entails finding another section of the text that means almost the same though expressed differently through use of other vocabularies etc., always ensuring that content remains intact at all costs
17. Transposition: Rearranging grammatical structures within sentences while leaving message unchanged here we only swap positions occupied by various elements such as subject object verb etc. this enables us come up with different translations among ourselves without tampering with involved semantics
18. Variation: Different versions may arise even if they have one common source text so that stylistic choices or subtle meanings present in an original can be accurately communicated across languages

Methodology

The source of the data for this study is a unique book 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban', which has been translated into Urdu by Maozzam Javeed Bukhari. This research employs descriptive-qualitative method. The researcher used the purposive sampling technique, where the data were words, phrases, clauses, and sentences from the novel in the original English language and selections of translation that contained translation techniques. Then, after collecting the data, analysis comes in as the next step. The original English version of the novel is compared with its Urdu translation to analyze the translation techniques. Therefore, which techniques are used in translating a source text and how translators can effectively adapt cultural nuances, amplify details, borrow directly from the source text, use literal translations, or use any other strategies that ensure cultural and linguistic fitness for purpose in the target language become the main focus of this study.

Analysis and Discussion

Analyzing Chapter 1 of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" in English to Urdu translation using the techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002) involves identifying examples where each technique is applied. There is one example of each technique in the form of complete sentence.

1. Adaptation

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Aunt Petunia's shrill voice rang out.	خالہ پیٹونیا کی تیز آواز گونجی	Adaptation	Adapting "Aunt Petunia" to "خالہ پیٹونیا" to fit cultural context.

The technique of adaptation implies changing the elements of the original text so that they fit better into another culture and language of recipients. For instance, ‘Aunt Petunia’ is converted into ‘خالہ پیٹونیا’ where خالہ represents the same concept as Aunt in Urdu speaking countries do. Similarly, ‘shrill voice’ can be translated to تیز آواز in order to give it a meaning which can easily resonate with an Urdu reader.

2. Amplification

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Muggles	غیر جادوگر لوگ	Amplification	Muggles" might be explained in the Urdu translation as "non-magic people who have no knowledge of the wizarding world."

Amplification refers to expanding on what has been said or written by adding more details or explanations of what was meant; this helps the target audience understand better. For example, in Harry Potter series Muggles can be amplified as غیر جادوگر لوگ in Urdu since Muggles is intended for non-magical people.

3. Borrowing

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Harry loved playing Quidditch	ہیری کو کوئیڈچ کھیلنا بہت پسند تھا	Borrowing	Borrowing "Quidditch" directly.

To ‘borrow’ means to take a word from the original language in its unchanged form, without translating it into the target language. In this case, “Quidditch” is directly “کوئیڈچ” borrowed from English text into Urdu script. Instead of employing an equivalent term for the notion of Quidditch in Urdu, translator borrowed this word from English.

4. Calque

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
He pulled a face at Dudley	اس نے ڈڈلی کی طرف چہرہ بنایا۔	Calque	Literal translation of "pulled a face"

Calque represents translation strategy where each part of expression in source language is translated separately in target language without considering idiomatic expressions or cultural nuances. In the example above, all components of English sentence are translated literally into Urdu: “He” becomes “اس نے”. “Pulled a face” is translated as “چہرہ بنایا”, where “بنایا” means “made” or “created” and “چہرہ” means “face”. The preposition at Dudley is translated as “ڈڈلی کی طرف”, where “کی طرف” means “towards” and “Dudley” gets transliterated as “ڈڈلی”. Generally speaking, calquing translations refer to translating every single element in its entirety from one language into another while ignoring idiomaticity and cultural contexts. Although such translations can give close approximations of expressions in their original languages, sometimes they fail to capture all idiomatic details.

5. Compensation

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
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Harry could hardly believe his eyes	ہیری کو اپنی آنکھوں پر یقین نہیں آ رہا تھا	Compensation	Compensating for the idiom "hardly believe his eyes."
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in this case, The method of compensation translation is utilized, which implies that the text should be developed and new information can be added while translating it into target language to keep the same sense as in the original text, conform to cultural and linguistic norms as well as remain clear and coherent..

6. Description

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Hedwig flew out of the window	ہیڈوگ، جو کہ ایک سفید الو تھی، کھڑکی سے باہر اڑ گئی۔	Description	Describing Hedwig as " جو کہ ایک سفید الو تھی."

Description refers to recount something by employing information or vivid metaphor so that readers can get a better grasp of that particular word. The following Urdu translation does this by saying "ہیڈوگ، جو کہ ایک سفید الو تھی" (Hedwig, who was a white owl), which makes the sentence more vibrant and understandable in the specific context. Such a depiction informs us about Hedwig's character better than any other description could have done while illuminating why she flew out of the window.

7. Established Equivalent

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Lightning bolt scar	کڑک کی بجلی کا نشان	Established Equivalent	could be translated as "نشان کا کڑک کی بجلی" a phrase that might already be familiar.

An established equivalent is what you find when looking for words or phrases having similar meanings in another language to express your idea. For example: "Lightning bolt" has been translated as "بجلی کی کڑک" in Urdu which gives us an image of flashes produced by fast movement between positive and negative charges leading to intense electrical discharges through the atmosphere- though there might not be exact word equivalence between these two languages- "بجلی کی کڑک", still works as an established equivalent since it captures what lightning bolts represent. Another translation from English into Urdu would be "نشان" for scar which means sign left on skin after healing following cut

8. Generalization

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Spellbooks	کتابیں	Generalization	Spellbooks which is more general than specifying Example they are magical books

Generalizing means translating a particular term into a more general one in the target language, especially when there is no exact equivalent. For example, "spellbooks" is a narrow term used to describe books that contain spells or magical incantations. The Urdu translation "کتابیں" is a generic term referring to any kind of book regardless of its content or subject matter. This allows flexibility in interpretation and recognition of different types of books that can have spells or magical knowledge.

9. Linguistic Amplification

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
He waved his wand	اس نے اپنی جادوئی چھڑی کو ہوا میں لہرایا۔	Linguistic Amplification	Adding " ہوا میں".

Linguistic expansion is the art of making the text longer by adding descriptive details which were omitted in the original but are necessary for the clarity, vividness and emotional effect of the translation.

In our case, Urdu amplifies waving by giving us additional description: 'جادوئی چھڑی کو' (his magic wand) tells us what kind of wand was waved while 'ہوا میں لہرایا' (waved in air) shows how it was waved, specifically saying that it was done in air.

10: Literal Translation

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Harry Potter was a highly unusual boy	غیر ہی بہت ایک پوٹر ہیری لڑکا تھا معمولی	Literal Translation	Direct word for word translation

In Literal Translation, while translating a phrase from one language to another, it is important to take into account the idiomatic and cultural differences between them. In this technique, we can see how the Urdu translation has preserved both sentence structure and words used in English original text which resulted in making it a literal translation. In English sentences, for every word of there is a corresponding equivalent word in Urdu language.

11. Modulation

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Harry couldn't believe his luck	ہیری کو اپنی قسمت پر یقین نہیں آیا۔	Modulation	Changing the focus from disbelief to luck.

Text 'modulation' involves altering the shape or form of a message while keeping its gist constant. For instance, here disbelief had been changed from 'couldn't believe' into 'یقین نہیں آیا' (could not come to believe) which literally translates as such in Urdu language. This modulation was necessary so that disbelief is expressed according to linguistic and cultural background hence maintaining its meaning.

12. Particularization

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
He used a spell	اس نے ایک جادوئی منتر استعمال کیا	Particularization	Specifying "spell" as "جادوئی منتر".

Particularization means adding specific details or specifying certain things in order to make the translation clear or accurate. For instance, in this case instead of using a more general word like "magic", the Urdu translation specifies what kind of magical action was taken by saying "جادوئی منتر" (magical incantation). This particularizes the action being described and shows that a particular spell or incantation was used.

13. Reduction

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Flame Freezing Charm	جادو	Reduction	Removing the detailed explanation of "Flame Freezing Charm" and just referring to it as "جادو"

Reduction is about simplifying or shortening text so that it carries the same meaning but with fewer words or components. In this instance instead of translating each part separately as in English – ‘Flame Freezing Charm’ – into shorter term ‘جادو’ (magic) which indicates its magical nature.

14. Transposition

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
burning had no effect whatsoever	اثر کوئی کا جلانے تھا ہوتا نہیں	Transposition	changing the noun "burning" to a verb "جلانے"

By "transposition" I mean changing the place of words in a sentence (from noun to verb) so that it still makes sense. In this Urdu example, we moved “burning had no effect whatsoever” from its position at the end of an English sentence into the middle; thus, “جلانے کا کوئی اثر نہیں” “ہوتا تھا”. We changed the whole structure of the sentence according to Urdu syntax while keeping meaning constant either by altering only one feature like word order within or between sentences.

15. Variation

Example

Source text	Target text	Technique	Explanation
Ron's letter	رون کا خط	Variation	Adapting the informal and humorous style of Ron's letter to a tone that suits the Urdu-speaking audience.

The word order is where the ‘variation’ between the Urdu translation and the original English phrase is most obvious. In English, a noun becomes possessive by adding an apostrophe and “s” (‘s) to it (“Ron”) before placing this possessed noun (“letter”) ahead of another noun that it possesses. However, in Urdu (رون) comes after possessed noun (خط).

Different word orders frequently arise from diverse sentence structures or syntactical rules used in English as well as Urdu languages. These can still be comprehensible within certain linguistic and cultural norms valid for Urdu according to the variation illustrated by this translated text among other methods of translating.

These illustrations exemplify how various translation methods can be employed on different sentences taken from Chapter One of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban for them to become more suitable for Pakistani readers who speak or read only in their native language – which is not English.

Conclusion

The process of translation is an activity. Translation process refers to what a translator usually does when they are translating a text from SL into TL. This may involve adopting various methods depending on the analysis of techniques used for translations: established

equivalent, variation, modulation, pure borrowing, implication, addition, reduction, compensation, literal translation, generalization. Established equivalent is the dominant application of translation technique.

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