

TRANSLATION FEATURES OF VEDAT KOKONA ON SEVERAL DRAMAS OF SHAKESPEARE

Arburim Iseni (MSc) ¹

¹Faculty of Philology, Department of English Language and Literature, State University of Tetova

Rr. Ilindenit pn. 1200 Tetova, Macedonia

Tel.-356 500 ext +38944, Cell Phone.-072608000

arburim.iseni@unite.edu.mk

Received: 2011-11-30 Accepted: 2011-12-10 Published: 2011-12-20

Abstract

Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life. Moreover, translation is seen as a connecting bridge between the identities of two different languages and cultures, while in itself it is an essential means in the process of communication. Our aim for this study will be concentrated on interlingual translation, as well as translation features of Vedat Kokona on several dramas of Shakespeare, such as: Timon of Athens, Antony and Cleopatra, Twelfth Night, Midsummer Night's Dream, Two Gentlemen of Verona. Exchange of messages in translation from English into Albanian will be the central focus of this study, bearing in mind the importance and the indispensable role of this process. In this exchange of messages, we will focus more on the language features that the author, in this case translator Vedat Kokona has tried to preserve in order to maintain the meaning of the translated phrases and sentences partially or completely in the above mentioned dramas of Shakespeare.

The theories of meaning, cultural transference, as well as some other communication theories are the theoretical foundation of this paper. We will also judge by giving the arguments whether the translator of these dramas is faced with the absence of linguistic and cultural identity material; whether he has managed to convey the right meaningful message through linguistic and cultural transformations faithfulness in his translations. This at once constitutes the very argument of this study. The meaning of the given translation doesn't always need to be simply a sum of words, but most importantly needs to be an organic meaningful unity that one should express it in non-identical ways in different identities. We are also aware that during translation words and sentences may undergo transformations in form and structure but they need to preserve an unaltered message. Simply speaking, we will try to study how Kokona has tried to undress the message of the linguistic and cultural parameters of Shakespearean language and how he dressed it with the linguistic and cultural material code of the Albanian language.

Keywords: interlingual translation, linguistic and cultural transformations, English language, Albanian language, Shakespearean dramas, language features, exchange of messages in translation from English into Albanian, etc.

1. Introduction

Translation has always been understood to refer to a written transfer of a message or meaning from one language to another. For a formal definition, Dubois says "translation is the expression in another language (or target language) of what has been expressed in another, source language, preserving semantic and stylistic equivalences" (in Bell, 1991:5). According to Lilova, A. (1985) "Translation is a specific oral or written activity aimed at the recreation of an oral or written text (utterance) existing in one language into a text in another language, accompanied by keeping the invariance of content, qualities of the original and

author's authenticity" (p. 33). Whereas, Minyar-Beloruhev, R. K. (1980) adds that "Translation is a type of speech activity, aimed at transmitting a message, doubling the components of communication in those cases, when there is a discrepancy between codes used by the sender and the receiver of the message» [13: 226]. Another author, Popovic, A., says that "Translation is recoding of a linguistic text, accompanied by the creation of its new linguistic appearance and stylistic shape" (p.186). According to Catford, J. (2004) "Translation may be defined as follows: the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)" (p.43).

Komissarov, V. N. (1980), moreover, adds that "...linguistic translation can be defined as a specific type of languages correlative functioning" (p.37). Additionally, Fedorov, R. K. (2002) regarding the meaning of translation claims that "To translate means to precisely and completely express by means of one language the things that had been expressed earlier by the means of another language" (p.15).

Regarding translation as a process Alekseeva, I. S. (2004), says that "Translation is an activity, which consists of variable re-expression, converting of the text in one language into the text in a different language, which is carried out by a translator, who creatively chooses variants depending on language variability resources, text type, translation tasks, and under the influence of his (her) own personal individuality; translation is also a result of this activity" (p.7).

While Vinogradov, V.S. (2006), completes the definition by saying that "Translation is a process (and its result) caused by social necessity of information (content) transmitting, expressed in a written or oral text in one language by the means of an equivalent (adequate) text in another language" (p.11).

On the other side, Semenov, A. L. (2005), claims that "First of all, translation is the translator's activity of transforming a message in one language into a message with the same meaning in another language; secondly, translation is a result of the translator's activity", i.e. "An oral or written language utterance" (p. 25). As regards translation seen as communication Sobnikov, V.V. and Petrova, O.V. (2006), they claim that "Translation can be defined as a way to provide interlingual communication by the means of creation of a text in TL (target language), intended to fully replace the original text" (p.87). Garbovsky, N.K. (2004) appears with another definition saying that "Translation is a social function of communicative mediation between people, who use different language systems. This function is carried out as a psychophysical activity of a bilingual person aimed at the reflection of reality on the basis of his (her) individual abilities as an interpreter, accomplishing transition from one semiotic system to another with the purpose of equivalent, i.e. maximally complete, but always partial transmission of a system of meanings, contained in a source message, from one communicant to another"(p. 214). Typically, Latishev, L.K. (1988), claims that "Translation as a type of language mediation, socially serving to approximate a mediated bilingual communication by fullness, effectiveness and naturalness to a common monolingual communication. (p.9).

Notwithstanding the above translation categories, translation can also be a skill. Related to this, Newmark, P. (2001) adds that “Translation is a craft consisting of the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language” [p.7].

Besides, Nida and Taber (1982) say that translating consists in the reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Both definitions above imply that translation involves two languages: the source language (SL) and the target or receptor language (TL or RL), and that an act of translating is an act of reproducing the meaning of the SL text into that of the TL text. (p.12)

Catford (1965) states that “Translation may be defined as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL).”

Similar definition is also mentioned by Larson (1984) for which he says that “Translation consists of translating the meaning of the source language into the receptor language.” (p.3) This is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of a second language by way of semantic structure. (p.20) From the notions above it can be concluded that translating includes the act of transferring message from the source text to the target text. The aim of translation is to find the equivalent meaning of the source language expression in the target language. Thus, meaning is important in translation and it must be held constant.

2. Objectives

This study is a descriptive-qualitative research with a content analysis method. As objectives for this research will be the comparison of the translation methods the author Vedat Kokona used to translate the above mentioned dramas of Shakespeare from English into Albanian. The identification of the most commonly used translation methods for all these five dramas in the target language. Last but not the least, the determination whether or not these translated and selected dramas had any influence on the selection of the translation method.

3. Methodology

For the identification of the translation method used in the translation of the English drama titles into Albanian from Vedat Kokona, we chose the model of translation procedures suggested by Vinay and J. Dalbarnet, basically due to the fact that the model had been developed on the basis of comparative stylistic analysis of the texts taken from two languages. The model offers a very clear classification of translation procedures and was therefore considered most relevant to this study. Qualitative and comparative along with the contrastive method were used for this research. Besides comparing translations, observations on analyzing linguistic units were also compared to analyze their translation from the longest linguistic unit which is the sentence to the smaller ones, such as clauses, phrases, and even words.

3.1. The Study Population and Sample

This study is a content analysis. The above mentioned dramas of Shakespeare translated by Vedat Kkokona were analyzed in this study. As a result, it is interesting to see how Vedat Kokona's translated versions are different from one drama to another. Therefore, not accidentally these drama translated versions were selected to be analyzed in this study.

3.2. Data Collection

The samples of the data for this study were the five chosen dramas of Shakespeare translated into Albanian by the prominent Albanian linguist Vedat kokona.

3.3. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed according to the following two research questions: 1. What are the differences at word level of these dramas of Shakespeare and the versions translated by Vedat Kokona? 2. What translation strategies are employed by Vedat Kokona?

4. Results and Discussion

This study aims to investigate language differences among five Albanian versions of the dramas and translation strategies used by the same translator in translating these dramas of Shakespeare. Therefore, this chapter presents the findings derived from the data analysis. Detailed explanation, and examples of the language differences found and the translation strategies used by the famous translator Vedat Kokona will be provided. These translated dramas will enable us to identify the most widely applicable translation methods, both by the two target languages and by the five chosen dramas of Shakespeare, and to disclose differences in the translation procedures employed.

5. Conclusion

This study aims to discover the differences starting at the sentence level and up to the word level between two versions English and Albanian of the chosen dramas of Shakespeare. In addition, the differences in the use of translation strategies among these dramas will also be examined. The results were crucial in showing that Vedat Kokona could translate the above mentioned dramas more closely and clearly when compared to the source text, and more naturally in the target language. In addition, in each of the five translated dramas were used seven translation strategies, but the strategy used the most in each of these dramas was the strategy of addition in which the translator differentiated the quality of the translation. That is, his translation was found to be longer, clearer, and more understandable for the target readers. Also, translation by omission was used by the translator, which sometimes affected the target readers' understanding of some contents of the dramas.

References

1. A textbook of translation. Hertfordshire: Prentice Hall International (UK).
2. Baker, M. (1992). In other words: A coursebook on translation. New York: Routledge.
3. Landers, C. E. (2001). Literary translation: A practical guide. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters. Lanham: University Press of America.
4. Larson, M. L. (1984). Meaning-based translation: A guide to cross-language equivalence.
5. Mason, I. (1998). Communicative/functional approach. In M. Baker (Ed.), Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies. London and New York: Routledge.
6. Newmark, P. (1984). Approaches to translation. Oxford: Pergamon Press. Newmark, P. (1988).
7. Nida, E. A. (1964). Toward a science of translation. Leiden, The Netherlands: I. J. Brill. 95 Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (8th ed.). 2010. Oxford New York: Oxford University Press.
8. Salas, C. G. (2000). Teaching translation: Problems and solution. Translation Journal, 4(3). Retrieved from <http://www.accurapid.com/journal/html>
9. Samovar, L. A. (1998). Communication between cultures (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
10. SE-ED Book Center. (2006). SE-ED Book Center Database.
11. A. Lilova, Introduction into General Theory of Translation, (Moscow: Visshaya Shkola, 1985).
12. Popovic, Problems of Literary Translation, (Moscow: Visshaya Shkola, 1980).
13. A.L. Semenov, Basic Guidelines of General Theory of Translation, (Moscow: Peoples Friendship University of Russia, 2005).
14. A.V. Fedorov, Introduction into General Theory of Translation (linguistic problems), (St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg State University; Moscow: Filologia Tri, 2002).
15. Ch. Nord, Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis (Second Edition), (Beijing: New Press, 2006).
16. E. Nida, Towards a Science of Translating, (Shanghai, 2004).
17. G.D. Voskoboynik, "On One Type of Cognitive Dissonance in Translation Discourse", Vestnik of Irkutsk State Linguistic University (Herald of ISLU), 7 (2006), 18-29.
18. Levy, Art of Translation, (Moscow: Progress, 1974).
19. I.S. Alekseeva, Introduction into Theory of Translation, (St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg State University; Moscow: Academy Publishing Center, 2004).
20. J. Catford, A Linguistic Theory of Translation: an Essay on Applied Linguistics, (Moscow: Editorial URSS, 2004), in Russian.
21. L.K. Latishev, Translation: problems of theory, practice and teaching, (Moscow: Education Press, 1988).
22. N. Ph. German, "Criteria of Mutual Understanding in Cross-Cultural Communication", Journal of Siberian Federal University. Humanities and Social Sciences, 2 (2009), 222-226.
23. N.K. Garbovsky, Theory of Translation, (Moscow: MSU, 2004).
24. P. Newmark, Approaches to Translation, (Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2001).

- 25.R. Jakobson, "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation", (London & New York: Routledge, 2000), 113-118.
- 26.R.K. Minyar-Beloruhev, *General Theory of Translation and Oral Translation*, (Moscow: Voennizdat, 1980).
- 27.Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies, (London and New-York: Routledge, 2001).
- 28.The Great Soviet Encyclopedia, <http://slovari.yandex.ru/dict/bse> (electronic resource, 7th January, 2009).
- 29.U. Eco, *Experiences in Translation*, (Toronto, Buffalo, London: New World Press, 2001).
- 30.V.A. Razumovskaya, "Isomorphism of Poetic Text within Poetic and Translation Aspects", *Vestnik of Krasnoyarsk State University (Herald of KraSU)*, 6/2 (2006), 55-58.
- 31.V.A. Zvegintsev, *Thoughts on Linguistics*, (Moscow: LKI, 2008).
- 32.V.N. Komissarov, *Linguistics of Translation*, (Moscow: Foreign Affairs Press, 1980).
- 33.V.S. Vinogradov, *Translation: General and Lexical Problems*, (Moscow: KDU, 2006).
- 34.V.V. Bibikhin, "On the Problem of Defining of the Essence of Translation", *Translator's Notebooks (Tetrad Perevodchika)*, 10 (1973), 3-14.
- 35.V.V. Sobnikov, O.V. Petrova, *Theory of Translation*, (Moscow: AST: Vostok – Zapad, 2006).
- 36.Y.P. Solodub, F.B. Albreht, A.Y. Kuznetsov, *Theory and Practice of Literary Translation*, (Moscow: Academia Press, 2005).
- 37.Ya.V. Sokolovsky, "Isomorphism of Frame Structure of Concepts in the Original and the Translation Discourse", *Vestnik of Irkutsk State Linguistic University (Herald of ISLU)*, 1 (2009), 129-135.