

A Study of Cultural Word translation procedures used in Part (40) to (60) of Mg Than Swe(Dawei) translated version of "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent

BA Thesis

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1.INTRODUCTION

 Since communication is important between people around the world, translation becomes crucial in our everyday lives. As we have translation, it is easier to learn new knowledge and new skills from foreign lands outside of our own country. Translation teaches us a new recipe or entertain us a good story or a movie. For example, While watching a movie without subtitles, we might not understand the whole story and it might leave us confused without getting any message or lessons that is given by the story. Therefore, translation is a bridge to every type of knowledge.

 Translation is also a part of the road to a country's development. It supports professionals in every aspects so that they can learn new knowledge and become more skillful. Besides, translation is not only a source to understanding of one language to another, but also it connects cultures of places to places. The advantages of having translation is countless. Therefore, after realizing the uses of translation, we were more interested in translation and tended to study more about translation procedures. Thus, we are delighted to do research on Peter Newmark(1988) translation procedures in the translated version of "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent.

1.1 Rationale

First of all, this study is focused mainly on translation because this field of study is necessary for all language students. Secondly, translation procedures by Peter Newmark(1988) will be applied in analysing the translation procedures through the novel because the procedures by Newmark(1988) are conveyed in detail and easy to understand. Finally, the reason for choosing the novel "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent is that this

novel is based on a true story of **life in Burma** and it offers some insights into Myanmar history, especially relating to the Shan State and the Hsipaw.

1.2. Background of the study

 In Translation Subject, it is important to learn translation procedures, methods used in translating a SL word to **TL** word. Translators have to use Translation procedures in each of their work because it is essential. Our study is about a story named "မဟာဒေဝီတစ်ပါး၏ရှာပုံတော်" which is a translated version of "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent, an Austrian author who was also "မဟာဒေဝီ" of "သီပေါ", Shan State, the wife of Sao Kya Seng. This research is worth reading since you are about to learn translation procedures used in this research which are quite interesting.

In the novel "မဟာဒေဝီ တစ်ပါး၏ ရှာပုံတော်", a foreign girl fell in love with the Shan boy before she knew that he was a Shan "Hsipaw Prince". After they got married, she became a Shan Princess and started her new life chapters in Hsipaw. She encountered many new experience and new cultures in Myanmar. Also, she visited other Asia countries with her husband, Sao. They had two daughters, and her life was peaceful at first. Unfortunately, since Sao was arrested and later killed in prison, their cheerful family life was destroyed at the end  as a result, she wrote a book "Twilight over Burma: My Life as a Shan Princess" in 1944 about her love story in Burma.

In this research, we have used qualitative and quantitative research methods. How did the Burmese author translate the story by using Peter Newmark (1988) Translation procedures? To figure it out, we will study step by step to make the reader clearly understand the essence of translation procedures that were used in the story.

1.3. Organizaton of the study

In this research paper, we will mainly conduct seven chapters. Chapter (1) presents the introduction of the study which is comprised of the rationale, background , organization, aims and objectives and scope of the study. Chapter (2) includes the literature review which is made up of definition of translation, translation procedures, the conception of **culture** cultural categories, translation of literary text, translation of novels, background of the novel and synopsis of the novel. Chapter (3) provides the biographies of the author and the translator and previous studies. In chapter (4), research method, research procedures and research questions are stated in research methodology. Chapter (5) focuses on the analysis of data and chapter (6) contains findings and discussions. At last, the brief conclusion of the study is represented in chapter (7).

1.4.Aim and Objectives of the study

Our research paper is conducted to reach the following aim and objectives.

Aim

- to examine how the translator use translating procedures for culture words in Mg Than Swe(Dawei) translated version of "Twilight Over Burma" by Inge Sargent.

Objectives

To achieve this aim, the three objectives are applied in our study.

- to analyze how translators manage suitable procedures from SL word to TL word choice

and

 find out what translation procedures are mostly used and which ones are **leastly** used in what cultural categories

 -to offer help in further studies and other relevant fields.

1.5. Scope of the study

To complete our study, we have chosen a translated Myanmar novel, "မဟာဒေဝီတစ်ပါး၏ရှာပုံတော်" translated by Maung Than Swe (Dawei) which is the translated version of "Twilight Over Burma" by Inge Sargent. As our study is concerned with translation procedures, there are various procedures such as transference, synonymy, modulation, compensation, etc. It's not possible to finish all these translation procedures of the whole novel. That's why, this study is focused on culture words translation procedures of Peter Newmark which are between parts 40 to 60 of the novel including transference, naturalization, couplet or triplet and quadruplet, expansion, cultural equivalent, notes, additions and glosses, compensation, synonymy and through-translation. These parts of the novel are going to be analyzed line by line to find out whether the translator used the mentioned translation procedures and whether it is a successful translation work or not.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this second chapter, we will present what is translation, translation procedures, the conception of culture, cultural categories, translation of literary text, translation of novels, background of the novel and synopsis of the novel.

2.1 What is translation?

The word "translation" is defined in many ways by different international scholars. According to Roman Jakobson, a leading linguist & expert in the translation subject, translation is the interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language." Oxford University defines translation as 'The process of translating words or text from one language to another.'

Translation is a kind of mental activity in which a meaning of given linguistic discourse is translated from one language to another. Foster (1958) defined that translation is an act through which the components of a text is conveyed from the source language to the

target language. The source language(SL) is the language to be translated and the target language(TL) is the language to be translated into.

Translation can be considered as a process and a product. According to Catford (1995), translation is the replacement of textual material in source language(SL) by equivalent textual material in target language (TL). This definition verifies that translation is a process since it is an activity. On the other hand, translation is a product since it provides us with other different cultures, to ancient societies & civilization life when the translated text reaches us (Yewell and Mutfah,1999).

2.2. Translation Procedures

To define translation procedures, they are proper techniques applied by translators for the purpose of clear understanding to readers while delivering message from the source language (SL) to target language (TL).In this study, we will specialize translation procedures related to cultural words. There are lots of translation strategies proposed by many scholars in translating culture words. In 1988, Peter Newmark, one of the scholars, proposed eighteen translation procedures. In this research, we use the translation procedures of Peter Newmark to analyze a novel, "Twilight over Burma" written by the author Inge Sargent, which is translated into Myanmar version “မဟာဒေဝီတစ်ပါးရဲ့ ရှာပုံတော်” by the translator Maung Than Swe (Dawei).The translation procedures that we apply in this study are transference, naturalization, cultural equivalent, synonymy, through-translation, couplets, triplets and quadruplets, notes, additions and glosses and expansion.



1. Transference

Transference is the process of transferring directly a source language word into a target language text with its normal pronunciation.

eg. computer (SL) - ကွန်ပျူတာ (TL)



2. Naturalization

A procedure which is used when a SL word is transferred into a TL word in its original pronunciation at first and then it changes into the morphology of TL word can be defined as naturalization. This procedure is also a more expert format of transference.

eg. Europe(SL) - ဥရောပ (TL)



3. Cultural Equivalent

In this procedure, a source language cultural word is closely translated by a target language cultural word.

eg. Tea (SL) - လက်ဖက်ရည်ကြမ်း (TL)



4. Synonymy

A SL word or expression is nearly translated by a TL text in this procedure. It is also used where literal translation cannot be applied and lack of clear one-to-one equivalent.

eg. comrade- မိတ်ဆွေ



5. Through-Translation

This procedure is termed as calque or loan translation and a SL word is translated literally into a TL word such as names of organizations, common collocations and the components of compounds in through-translation procedure.

eg. International Committee of the Red Cross(ICRC) (SL) - အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ

ကြက်ခြေနီအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (TL)



6. Couplets , triplets and quadruplets

This procedure is applied at the time of transferring, naturalizing or calquing to avoid misunderstanding for handling a single problem and it is especially for cultural words.

eg. nanny (SL) - ကလေးထိန်းနာနီ(TL)



7. Notes, Additions and Glosses

The translator uses this technique to apply the reader additional information and he would explain it in a footnote within the text, at the bottom of page or at the end of chapter or at the end of book.

eg.

SL: Tequila

TL: တက်ကီလာအရက် (မှတ်ချက်။ ။ တက်ကီလာဆိုသည်မှာ အပြာရောင်

ရှာစောင်းလက်ပတ်ပင်နှင့် သကြားတို့ကို အချဉ်ဖောက် ပေါင်းခံခြင်းဖြင့် ရရှိလာသော

စပိန်ရိုးရာယမကာဖြစ်သည်။)



8. Compensation

This procedure is applied at the time of confronting a loss of meaning, sound-effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of a sentence.

The word or sentence is compensated in another part or in a contiguous sentence.

eg.

SL: The pagoda you bow down to and share the blessings and the light of truth, virtue and wisdom may continue to radiate eternally.

TL: သင်ဦးချ၍ အမျှဝေရာစေတီသာနှင့် သစ္စာအရောင် ဉာဏ်တန်ဆောင်လည်း

ပြောင်လျက်ဝင်းလျက် ကျန်စေသတည်း။



9. Expansion

In this procedure, the translator exceeds the number of elements in TL text in translating from source language to target language. This procedure is used in a situation where the SL word could not make sense in direct translation of TL word and so more words of explanation are added to describe vividly and get concept in TL text.

eg. Stream (SL)- ပြာရည်လွဲကာကြည်လင်တောက်ပသော ရေကြည်ရေအေးများ

တသွင်သွင်စီးဆင်းနေသည့်စမ်းချောင်းငယ် (TL)

2.3. The conception of culture

The word “culture” derives from the Latcultus and from the French “colere” which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture. In Merriam Webster dictionary, culture is defined as the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group. Newmark (1988) defined culture as the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses certain language as the way of expression.

Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in Landon, said “Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe it right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things.” . One of the difficulties for a translator in translating may deal with cultural word since each language has its own cultural words. These words express certain culture and cannot be translated literally. Larson (1984) said that cultural word is the most difficult problem in translating. Moreover, Newmark (1988) explained that cultural word is defined as words referring to objects, processes, institutions, custom, ideas peculiar to one group of people. Thus, it can be said that each community may have different culture, different belief, value, social organization, art or geography.

2.4. Cultural Categories

Peter Newmark (1988) divides cultural specific words into five categories.

They are as follows:

- 1.Ecology
- 2.Material Culture
- 3.Social Culture
- 4.Organizations,customs,activities, procedures, concepts

5. Gestures and Habits



1. Ecology

Ecology which is different from other cultural terms deals with flora, fauna, plains, winds, hills and oceans and it also refers to geological and geographical features of a part of a country. For instance, "Mekong", the longest river in Myanmar and the famous "Mount Zwegabin" are cultural specific items related with Myanmar geographical features.



2. Material Culture

This category is comprised of artifacts, food, beverages, clothes, transportations, houses and towns. For examples, "Taipon" and "Longyi" are the traditional Burmese attire for men and the artifact "Yoon Htae" is the classical Burmese lacquerware. These examples represent significantly the material culture of Myanmar.



3. Social Culture

According to Peter Newmark (1988), social culture points out work and leisure such as human labor, national games, entertainments and hobbies. As an example, the entertainment "Yoke The", string puppetry, is a popular Burmese performing art indicating the social culture of Myanmar.



4. Organizations, customs, activities, procedures, concepts

This category relates with historical, political, institutional, legal, administrative and artistic terms. For example, "Yway Kuak Pwel" means an official election by votes of citizens in order to choose someone for a specific political position. This Myanmar cultural word is concerned with political term.



5. Gestures and Habits

This category is about non-cultural language and so it includes non-linguistic features such as regular movement and behavior. For instance, Burmese people bow slightly when they walk or pass in front of the elders as a custom and they also place their hands together in a prayer position to pay homage to Buddha, monks and elders. These are traditional religious gestures of Myanmar.



We would use those mentioned five categories to analyze the culture words in research paper.

2.5. Translation of literary text

Literary translation is a kind of literary creativity in which a work written in one language is recreated in another. As opposite to music, dance or painting, the literary work is reachable only to those who understand the written language. Translation of literary text includes literary translation of poetry, books, articles, stories, novels, prose, and so on. Literary translation is different from other categories. This is because it has aesthetic functions in rendering information to the reader. This aesthetic functions will certainly have an effect on the reader. That's why the literary translator should consider the specific features of the text. In literary translation, the translator must ensure that the chosen word is faithfully delivered in the target language.

2.6. Translation of novels



Translating novels can be regarded as a kind of literary translation as a novel is written in literary prose style. It is also the approach to the atmosphere of original novel in translating from source language to target language. In fact, it is more difficult in translating novels than translation of academic texts. Some challenging factors in novels translation that most of the translators encounter are figurative languages such as metaphor, simile, personification, oxymoron, idiom, symbolism, onomatopoeia, alliteration, puns and hyperbole. Moreover, social and cultural factors may cause obstacles in translating novels. According to many scholars, a novel with the highest quality occurs when the readers get better understanding and concepts what original writer wishes to provide. Therefore, the

translators require to reproduce the target language (TL) from source language (SL) closely, correctly, effectively and proficiently by learning and practicing guidances of translation methods and procedures to produce an excellent translated novel.



2.7. Background of the Novel

The novel, "မဟာဒေဝီတစ်ပါး၏ရှာပုံတော်", the translated version of "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent was translated by Maung Than Swe(Dawei).Maung Than Swe translated this novel around 2012 to 2013 when his works started including in journal.He translated this novel because he was the friend of Sao Oo Kya, the nephew of Inge Sargent .And then, he became friendly with Inge Sargent and she asked him to translate her novel. When Maung Than Swe translated this novel , he compared with Hsipaw 's History as the exact background of Hsipaw .Because Inge Sargent might not know the history as a foreigner.Therefore,this novel can give different feelings to the readers because it is about the political situation of that time and the love story and life of a foreigner, Inge Sargent.

2.8. Synopsis of the Novel

“Twilight over Burma” is a novel about a sad and tragic love story between an Austrian girl and a Shan prince from Burma. In this novel, the author depicted not only the customs, culture and history of Shan people but also the political situation in Burma at that time.

The author and her husband governed impartially and tried to get improvements in Shan States for eight years. The author engrossed herself in Shan lifestyle, traditions and language. She enjoyed with the land of Shan States and hospitality of its people. That couple worked

together for the modernization of their state. She tried for the development of their state's education and health care and her husband worked for the improvement of the economic well-being of its people. In 1962, General Ne Win seized and **he** arrested the Shan Prince for rejecting to incorporate with ruthless military regime and asking for the right of secession of the Shan States from the Union. In doubt, the Shan prince never appeared after those cases. She not only waited hopefully and patiently for her husband's return but also tried to keep in touch with him. However, her attempts were come to nothing. Finally, when the political situations were unstable in Burma, she turned back to her hometown, Austria with her two daughters. She has not got any information about her husband till now.

3.BIOGRAPHIES OF THE AUTHOR AND THE TRANSLATOR

3.1. Biography of the author, Inge Sargent

Inge Sargent is an Austrian-American author who is also named Sao Nang Thu Sandi. She is a human rights activist and founder of social organizations. In 1953, Inge Sargent married Sao Kya Seng, the last ruler Saopha of Hsipaw and became the Mahadevi of the Shan State, 

Hsipaw. She married her second husband, Tad Sargent in 

1968 who encouraged her to write her biography. Inge Sargent published her book, *Twilight over Burma: 'My life as a Shan Princess'* in 1994. She has two daughters, Sao Mayari and Sao Kennari with Sao Kya Sent. This book was also filmed as "The Last Mahadevi" and released on 26 October, 2015. In 1995, Inge Sargent and her second husband established the Burma Lifeline Foundation. She was awarded the International Human rights Award in 2000 for her supports. And she was died at the age of 88.

3.2. Biography of the Translator, Mg Than Swe (Dawei)

Mg Than Swe was born on 28 November, 1942. His parents are U Suu and Saw Shwe Shwe. He got married with a girl who was engaged by his relatives not with his own girlfriend and his wife's name is Ma Khin Win. And then, they got three daughters and a son.

Mg Than Swe graduated with a B.A degree from University of Yangon and a M.A degree from University of Dufferin. After he graduated, his family wanted him to be a successful business man but he was not interested in it and tried to become a historian but in case he became a writer. As a writer who is interested in history, he translated “Twilight over Burma by Inge Sargent” into Myanmar version namely “ မဟာဒေဝီတစ်ပါး၏ ရှာပုံတော်” in 2012.

3.3. Previous studies

To accomplish our study, we have studied and analyzed on other related studies of translation procedures which have been done previously by different English specialization students.

In 2019, Ma Aye Yadana Aung conducted a study entitled "A study on Exploring the Prominent Translation Procedures at Word, Phrase and Clause Levels in 'The Bear-Hunt' by Leo Tolstoy translated by Mg Htun Thu". The research findings show that the translator chose translation procedures effectively to avoid translationese and to make the text more smoother that can give clear message to the readers and can balance the cultural difference.

Another study is titled as " A study of Translation Procedures in Myanmar Translated Version of the story 'The Battler' by Ernest Hemingway" and was conducted by Ma Htet Nandar Tun, Ma Nway Nway Aung, Ma Yu Nandar Soe and Ma Yin Htet Aye in 2019. The findings of the research show that the translation is a good and successful one according to the method of Kathy Burwell which said that a successful translation has to be accurate, clear and natural. To know this results, they calculated and matched each procedure with all the criteria and got the ratio of 19:24 which is 80% in percentage.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1. Research Method

In this research, qualitative and quantitative research method have been used. The research data which is extracted from the novel "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent and translated

by Maung Than Swe (Dawei) has been analyzed through Peter Newmark(1988) translation procedures, especially focused on 10 translation procedures.

4.2. Research Procedures

Four steps had to be carried out in conducting this paper. First of all, the translation procedures of Peter Newmark (1988) were studied thoroughly to have a deep understanding. Then, Part 40 to 60 from the translated version of the novel "Twilight over Burma" and its original version were read completely. After that, cultural words from English and Myanmar version of the novel were selected and analyzed based on **ten** most common and appropriate Peter Newmark(1988)'s translation procedures. Finally, the results obtained from the collected data analysis are presented in findings and discussion. ~~In this research, qualitative and quantitative research method have been used. The research data which is extracted from the novel "Twilight over Burma" by Inge Sargent and translated by Maung Than Swe (Dawei) has been analyzed through Peter Newmark(1988) translation procedures, especially focused on ten translation procedures related with cultural words.~~

4.3. Research questions

In conducting the study, the research questions of the study are as follows:

1. How did the translator translate culture words using translation procedures of Peter Newmark in the translated version of Twilight over Burma?
2. What are the difficulties of translator in managing suitable procedures for culture words from SL to TL?
3. Which translation procedures are mostly used and which ones are **leastly** used in what cultural categories?

