THE CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF LINGUISTIC AND NON-LINGUISTIC CHALLENGES IN NEWS TEXT TRANSLATION: A LINGUISTIC APPROACH FROM SINHALA TO TAMIL

M. Hosshanthika

Department of Translation Studies, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Correspondence: mhosshanthika@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research paper is entitled "The critical analysis of Linguistic and Non-linguistic challenges of news text translation: A linguistic approach from Sinhala to Tamil". This research aims to find out the challenges faced when translating the Sinhala newspaper to the Tamil language. The researcher applied the descriptive qualitative method to conduct this study. A translation test was used as an instrument to collect data for the research. The sample of 20 translated texts of the first-year undergraduates was the primary data of this research. Resource materials and books are considered secondary data. The results of this study demonstrate that the most common challenges encountered by the undergraduate students in terminology are due to the fewer experiences and subject knowledge in the Sinhala language, which was the source language in the study. In analysing the data, the researcher identified and classified the challenges based on their types. The analysis of the data portrayed the challenges faced by the undergraduate students in translating the news articles from Sinhala to Tamil. Based on the data analysis, the researcher found that the students encountered challenges in 38.34% terminology, 34.34% language structure, 15.65% compound words and 11.30% idioms and expressions in linguistic problems. Accuracy 35.26%, Clarity 34.37% and Style 30.35% found out as non-linguistic problems.

KEYWORDS: Linguistic problems, Non- linguistic problems, News articles, Sinhala, Tamil

1. INTRODUCTION

The translation is a multi-dimensional term that means translating the meanings of the text from one language to another. The translation is the communication of meaning from one language (the source) to another language (the target). The translation is a process used to convey the information, and transfer the knowledge to different languages. Translation changes the meaning of the word or sentence in the target language and it needs to consider linguistic, cultural context aspects of the source and target language. According to Nida and Taber (1982, p.12) Translation involves two types of activities; one is the understanding of the message of the source language or decoding. The second is expressing this message in the target language or recoding. There are many various types of translation such as Legal, Scientific and Medical, Economic translation, Media translation etc. Savoury (1957) hopes that the translation always should be read as the original work and should reflect the source text. Savoury has suggested six sets of different options for translation:

1) a) A translation must give the words of the original

    b) A translation must give the ideas of the original.

2) a) A translation should read like an original work.

    b) A translation should read like a translation.

3) a) A translation should reflect the style of the original.

    b) A translation should reflect the style of the translator.

4) a) A translation should read as a contemporary of the original.

    b) A translator should read as a contemporary of the translator.

5) a) A translation may add to or omit from the original.

    b) A translator may never add to or omit from the original.

6) a) A translation of verse should be in prose.

    b) A translation of verse should be in verse.

The aforementioned principle, translation always should be read like original work and it should reflect the style and the tone of the original author. The translation is not easy work. The translator needs to consider many things such as accuracy, naturalness, terminologies, cultural context, language structures, equivalents, idiomatic way of the source and target language. The person who involves in the process of translation is called a translator. The effectiveness and quality of the translation is depending on the translator. In the process of translation, the translator should have some competent qualities. Such as:

- Subject knowledge
- Rich vocabulary skill
- Clarity
- Accuracy
- Knowledge of the source and target language culture
- Flow the appropriate tone and style
- Good command in linguistic and non-linguistic aspects of the source and target language.

Nida, (2003) described the translation process. They are Analysis, transfer and restructure. The analysing process starts with the source text. Knowledge of the subject matter and source text will help in this process. Sometimes untranslatability challenges would occur in this stage. After analysing the source text, transferring process will happen. Transferring is the process which means transferring the source text to the target text. Here we can able to use translation tools such as a dictionary, thesaurus, CAT tools, and glossaries. The third stage is restructuring. Every language has its uniqueness and its system. In the restructuring, stage translators decide which equivalents should be used or which strategy should be adopted.

1.1 Translating News Article

Newspapers are a staple aspect of each country. Now a day newspapers are printed on paper and distributed neither published online to disseminate the data to everyone. Newspapers are relying on news agencies. News agencies are gathering various news events from all over the world and translating this news into different languages. Due to the need to broadcast the news in various languages, translation has played an important role in news agencies. Therefore, newspapers hire translators to translate the news that is borrowed by the news agencies. News text is a factual text that to help people to share and get information. Translating newspapers has some unique challenges itself. Newspapers are made up of various articles such as Editorial and feature stories. Each article has its style and language. Bell (1991; 1998) discusses the main three key components of news stories.

- Attribution (news agency, journalist's by-line
- Abstract (headline and lead)
- Story (episodes and events)

News translation is a complex role and news translator plays a vital role in news translation because of the nature of the medium of the text. Here translator is limited by the idea and thought, the translator has

recreated and by the journalistic genre. So translator needs a special skill to raise the quality of news translation from simple text reproduction to creative production and transform the translator into a target language author. One style or language may not work for all the articles. This article focuses on the problems faced by the undergraduates when translating Sinhala news articles into the Tamil language. Students faced many challenges when translating a news article. Students selected news articles from the following newspapers: Lankadeepa, Divaina, Dinamina, Silumina, Lakbima, and Mawbima. This study focuses on answering the question – What are the challenges and problems faced by the undergraduates of the Department of the Translation Studies University of Jaffna when translating news articles from Sinhala to the Tamil language. This paper will focus on identifying the challenges of translating a news article from Sinhala to the Tamil language.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter reveals a review of the research methods used by the researcher to carry out this study. A qualitative method was used in the research. The researcher used a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to analyse the study. Bogdan and Taylor (1992: 21-22) stated that the qualitative method is one of the research methods used to produce the descriptive data. The qualitative approach is used to produce the description of utterance, and behaviour of a group or society in a context. The target population of this research was first academic year undergraduates of the Department of Translation Studies, University of Jaffna. The number of students is about 20 students. For data collection, the researcher uses a test as the instrument for collecting data. The researcher asked students to translate news articles from Sinhala. The students were requested to translate the news articles into Tamil. The students did the test, and samples were collected by the researcher. The challenges were analysed from the students' translation samples. After the data were collected, the data were analysed to achieve the intended goals. This test aims to identify the challenges and difficulties when translating news articles from Sinhala to Tamil. The objective is to find out what are the challenges made by the students. With the descriptive method, the researcher analysed the data with the use of the following procedure:

- Identify the challenges.
- Classifying the challenges based on their major types.
- The researcher used the descriptive analysis technique to analyse the data.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A researcher found that students faced some challenges in the news article translation, especially in Sinhala to the Tamil language. The researcher categorizes the according to the analysed data. Analysed data were carefully read, compared with the source text and marked the difficulties faced by the undergraduates of Translation Studies. These identified challenges were discussed with suitable instances.
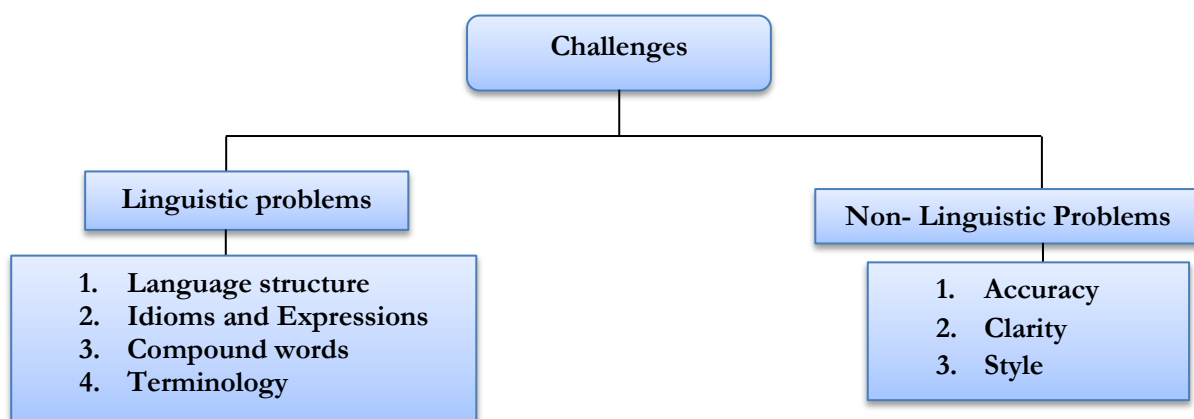

Figure -01

Linguistic problems are one of the major challenges in translation. Every language has its unique root, origins and structure. Sinhala is a language which is included in the Indo – Aryan family and Tamil is one of the major languages in the Dravidian family. Both languages have some different language structures. For example - Sinhala and Tamil languages have to s hare different word orders in Numeral and Noun word order. The Tamil language has Numeral follows noun (NumN) and the Sinhala language has the order of Numeral follows noun (NNum).

E.g- **<u>වසර තිහකට</u>** අධික කාලයක්   -   <u>*முப்பது வருடங்களுக்கு*</u> *அதிக காலம்*

Some participants were failing to render the sentence properly. Following is a sentence exact from the data. Here Sinhala sentence is translated into Tamil in various ways.

E.g-   ඩෙංගු යනු අප්රිකා මහාද්වීපයේ කොන්ගෝ ප්රදේශයේ භාවිත වන වචනයකි.

கொங்கோ பிரதேசத்தில் டெங்கு சொல் ஆபிரிக்க கண்டத்தில் பயன்படுத்தப்படும். (Participant 02)

டெங்கு என்னும் சொல் பயன்படுத்தப்படுவது ஆபிரிக்க கண்டத்தில் கொங்கோ பிரதேசத்தில். (Participant 19)

Here participants 02 and 19 translated the sentence into the Tamil language, but the language structure of the Tamil language was not considered. But the most suitable language structure –

ஆபிரிக்க கண்டத்தில் கொங்கோ என்னும் பிரதேசத்திலேயே டெங்கு சொல் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டது.

In General, translating idiomatic expressions is not an easy task. It makes the translators' job more difficult. Idiomatic expressions are used to explain something in an idiomatic way. When a translator faces the idiom, then he must be sure of its meaning of the idiom. Therefore, the translator needs to find the natural and actual equivalent way to translate the idiom into the target language. The translator should not translate the idiom in literal meaning with transparent way. The researcher found that students are struggling when translating idioms. Following are some examples are extracted from the analysed data

1. වතුරේ ගියා   - *தண்ணீரில் சென்றது* (literal translation) - *ஆற்றில் கரைத்த புளி*
   (relevant Tamil idiom)   - *வீண் விரயம்* (meaning)
2. ලේ උරා බොනවා   - *குருதியை குடித்தல்* (literal translation) - *அட்டையைப்போல்*
   (relevant Tamil idiom)   - *ஒருவரிடம் இருந்து உச்ச பயன்பெருதல்* (meaning)
3. අං ඇවිල්ලා   - *கொம்பு முளைத்தல்* (literal translation- relevant Tamil idiom)
4. සායම් ගියා   - *சாயம் சென்றது* (literal translation)- *சாயம் வெளுத்தல்*
   (relevant Tamil idiom)   - *ஒருவரின் உண்மையான நிலை தெரியவருதல்* (meaning)

For translating idioms, mostly students used literal translation, word – for word translation and modulation. Sometimes these methods are correct sometimes they mislead the meaning.

1. අහසේ මාළිගා තනනවා   - *ஆகாயத்தில் கோட்டை கட்டுதல்*
                                 (word for word translation)
2. පොත්ගුල්ලා   - *புத்தகப்பூச்சி* (Word for word translation)
3. අඹ යාළුවා   - *மாம்பழ நண்பன்*
                                 (Word for word translation) - *வாலிப நண்பன்*
                                 (Literal translation)

Here 1st and 2nd idioms are translated as word for word translation (direct translation method). This translation method is suitable for target language usage. But in the 3rd sentence, this method is not appropriate. It misleads the meaning of the idea. So when translating idioms, translators need to be cautious. Two or more words are used to create compound words. The Compound words also cause a problem for the translator. Participants used literal translation, word for word translation and idiomatic

translation to translate the Sinhala compound words into Tamil. Following are some compound words extracted from the analysed data.

1. ප්‍රතිශක්ති   - எதிர்ப்புசக்தி
2. මහාචාර්ය   - பேராசிரியர்
3. පිටකොටුව   - புறக்கோட்டை
4. ආපනශාලාව   - சிற்றுண்டிச்சாலை
5. ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය   - புணர்நிர்மாணம்
6. අත්අඩංගුව   - கைது

Terminology is another crucial challenge for the translator. A news article means a text which is enriched with many terminologies. News articles include legal terminologies, media terminologies, scientific, medical, and economic terminologies, etc. Finding the appropriate meaning for the source text terminology is one of the struggles for the translator. Every country has its various jargon and slang, which were used only in specific certain contexts. Therefore, the translator should have a piece of good knowledge of the terminologies. Following are some terminologies which cause challenges for the test participants. Following are some legal terminologies which execrated from the source text.

1. අධිකරණය   - நீதிமன்றம்
2. මුදල් ප්‍රතිපත්තිය   - நாணயக்கொள்கை
3. අභියාචනාධිකරණය - மேன்முறையீட்டு நீதிமன்றம்
4. ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණ   - உயர்நீதிமன்றம்

'ඩෙංගු මාරයා' is a term which was translated as 'டெங்கு நோயாழிகள்'(participant 14). Here 'டெங்கு நோயாழிகள்' is not render the meaning of ' මාරයා'. So the actual translation is 'டெங்கு உயிர்க்கொல்லி'. Participant 18 translate the 'ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී ඇත නැත' as 'கிராம அலுவலர் இல்லை' but here the word 'ඇත' is omitted . So it is misled the meaning in the target language. So the actual translation is *கிராம அலுவலர் இருக்கின்றாரா / இல்லையா?*

Accuracy, clarity and style are called non-linguistic problems. Accuracy means the transmission of correct translation between source texts into target texts. According to Larson (1998), accuracy is referring all the correct details into the target text. Nababan et al. (2012) describe that accuracy means translating the source text without any addition, omission, redundancy, deletion or grammatical mistakes. Sometimes addition, omission, redundancy and deletion will mislead the source text. Accuracy is one of the important aspects of the translation process. Clarity means rendering the source or target text readable, clear and easy to understand way. Nababan et al., (2012) describe clarity as, Clarity means which should direct the author to express appropriate expression in fit language features, the culture of the target text and the norm of the target language. Participants 3, 4 and 15 clarity level in the translation is low at the same time participants 7 and 8 translation clarity level is good. Always translation should be not only accurate but also should be clear and readable. The text should always be in a reader-friendly manner.

Style is another important thing in the news article. Newspapers are always in informative language, clear, and simple. Newspapers contain many articles such as editorial, economic, political, recent events, sports, international, educational headlines and so on. Sometimes political news is an article written by the politician and medical articles written by maybe Doctors or medical profession writers. So when translating the news, the translator should maintain the flow of the source text. If the text is written in a descriptive style so the translator also needs to maintain the source text flow in the target text. In this research participants no 1, 9 and 18 maintained the style of the source text in a good manner. Maintaining the style in the target text is a challenging task for the translators.

3.1 Data

Table - 1: The Recapitulation of Students' Errors in linguistic problems

Participant	Linguistic Problems			
	Language structure	Idioms and expression	Compound words	Terminology
Participant 1	6	2	5	9
Participant 2	4	1	3	5
Participant 3	6	1	1	12
Participant 4	7	0	4	8
Participant 5	12	4	2	7
Participant 6	6	4	4	10
Participant 7	9	3	3	10
Participant 8	5	5	2	9
Participant 9	4	1	7	4
Participant 10	9	3	6	14
Participant 11	11	3	2	12
Participant 12	12	2	7	8
Participant 13	4	4	5	12
Participant 14	6	5	4	4
Participant 15	13	3	3	10
Participant 16	8	2	2	5
Participant 17	12	2	2	9
Participant 18	7	1	3	8
Participant 19	14	4	7	9
Participant 20	3	2	0	13
Total	**158**	**52**	**72**	**178**
460				

Percentage of Linguistic problems students' faced:

- Terminology   38.69 %
- Language Structure   34.34 %
- Compound words   15.65%
- Idioms and Expressions   11.30%
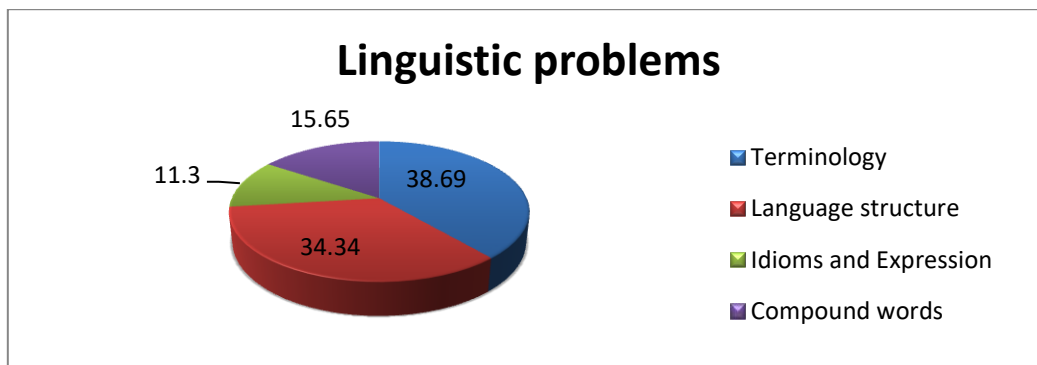
Figure 02

Table - 2: The Recapitulation of Students' Errors in Non - linguistic problems

Participants	Non- linguistic problems		
	Accuracy	Clarity	Style
Participant1	5	4	1
Participant2	3	5	3
Participant3	5	6	2
Participant4	3	6	5
Participant5	8	3	3
Participant6	4	5	6
Participant7	3	1	4
Participant8	1	1	2
Participant9	3	4	1
Participant10	2	5	7
Participant11	6	3	4
Participant12	7	7	2
Participant13	3	3	7
Participant14	4	2	4
Participant15	5	6	4
Participant16	2	4	3
Participant17	2	2	3
Participant18	4	5	1
Participant 19	3	3	2
Participant 20	6	2	4
Total	**79**	**77**	**68**
	224		

Percentage of Non- Linguistic problems students' faced:

- Accuracy   35.26 %
- Clarity   34.37 %
- Style   30.35 %
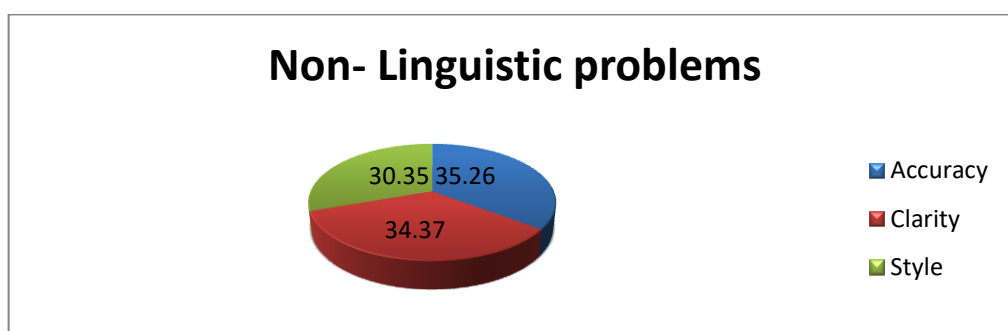
Figure 03

To sum up, the terminology is the major challenge that, students encountered in the linguistic problems. Terminology is a vast area. Terminology affects translation. Terminology and translation always have a close relationship. Certain text included a large number of terminologies. Finding the appropriate equivalent in the target language is a complex task in the translation process. When applying the terminology in the target text, the translator should be cautious and needs to consider the following matters.

- Terminology should be appropriate to the target text.
- Terminology should be in the current usage in the target language.

- Terminology should be clear and non-ambiguous.
- Knowing the usual phraseology in the field.
- Knowing if the term has specific or restrictive grammatical usages in the target language

In non – linguistic problems, accuracy is one of the main problems that, students tackle. Target text should be faithful to the source text and author. The addition means adding new information to the target text which was not rendered in the source text. Omission means avoiding something from the source text. Redundancy means to write or ellipse words, sentences or phrases to the translated text to achieve the comprehension of the target text.

4. CONCLUSIONS

After analysing the data translation of news articles by the first-year undergraduates of the Department of Translation Studies, University of Jaffna, the researcher found that students' faced many challenges. As the finding, the researcher found there are major two types of problems. The researcher categorised the problems as Linguistic and Non – linguistic problems. Language structure, Idioms and expressions, Compound words, and terminology are categorised under the linguistic problems and accuracy, clarity and style were categorised under the Non-linguistic problems. In linguistic problems, terminology problems are 38.34%, language structures is 34.34% compound words are 15.65% and idioms and expressions 11.30%. In Non- linguistic problems, accuracy is 35.26%, Clarity is 34.37% and style is 30.35%.

REFERENCES

Bassnett, S. (2002). *Translation Studies*. (3rd Ed., p. 39-43). London: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. [2].

Catford, J. (1965). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics* [Ebook] (p. 94). London: Oxford University Press. Retrieved from https://www.academia.edu/5249177/J_c.catford_a_linguistic_theo ry_of_translation_PDF

Czulo & Sascha Hofmann (eds.), Empirical modelling of translation and interpreting, 277–310. Berlin: Language Science Press.

Fauziah, E., haryanti, E., Muttaqin, M. and Aridhayandi, R. *The Analysis of Under Graduate Students' Translation Work of News Text from English to Indonesia.*

Jassim, T., Athraa. A., *Common Challenges of Media Translation in English Language*, University of Baghdad. Media College

Lennon, P. (1991). *Error: Some Problem of Definition, Identification, and Distinction*. Applied Linguistics, 180-196.

McLelland, A. (1995). *Robert E. Park's Theory of Newspapers and News.*

Munday, J . (2013). *Introducing translation studies: theories and applications*. Routledge, New Yor

Rovena, T., & Francis .M. News Translation: Text analysis, fieldwork, survey. In Silvia Hansen-Schirra, Oliver

Yonghong. W. (2017). *Features and Translation Strategies of English News Headlines*. Xi'an University, School of Foreign Studies, 710065.