An Analysis of the Deforming Tendencies in the English Translation of *Zama Jwand Aw Jidojehad* by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada

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Abstract: *This thesis analyses the English translation "My Life and Struggle" by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, of the Pashto text "Zama Jwand Ao Jidojehad" by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. In the current study "Zama Jwand Ao Jidojehad" is the source text, while "My life and struggle" is the target text for analysis. Selected excerpts of the said books are extracted for translation purposes. It adopts a qualitative method and close reading technique for the analysis of this study. Antoine Berman's twelve Deforming Tendencies is used as a theoretical modal for this study. It highlights that there are deforming tendencies in the source text's English translation.*

Key Words: Zama Jwand Ao Jidojehad, Deforming Tendencies, Translation

Introduction

The word "translation" has multiple meanings and expressions. It denotes the general subject field, product, and process that involves the production of translation of the source text. The process covers the act of the translator changing the original written expression in another language, i.e., the target language (Jakobson, 1959). Translation is a means of communication but also plays a significant role in overcoming linguistic barriers. It is a technique for communicating with people inside the same organization who speak different languages. By highlighting the differences in lexical structure and syntactic construction between two languages, translation helps us to learn an unacquainted language. Many problems are inherent in translation, such as punctuation, culture, or environment. This requirement makes it difficult to understand a huge variety of languages because culture is developed gradually (Rosman & Rubel, 2020).

Translation plays a pivotal role within the fabric of our societal framework, even though its significance may not always be readily apparent in our day-to-day endeavours. Its primary function is to make a document or piece of information available to as many people as possible, especially those who cannot understand the language of an original text or work of art. Translation is naturally present in our day-to-day lives. Even though we do not consider it, translation constantly works with

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us. For instance, this is what happens when we go to get a household item. It is crucial to have a user-friendly booklet of instructions available in this case. This enables us to quickly and precisely gather it while utilizing all of the maker's information and guidance. It could be perplexing to buy a household item and then be unable to assemble it because we cannot figure out the assembly instructions (Kieffer, 2020).

No translation is absolute because there are a few elements involved in the process and practice of translation such as domestication, foreignization, equivalence, and deforming tendencies, to mention just a few. At the same time, it is pertinent to mention that an 'absolute translation is also not desirable as all translations are approximations. However, the purpose of any research in translation studies in general, and this research, in particular, is aimed at laying bare the (Meta) textual challenges of rendering the source text into a target text. A greater understanding of these challenges can bring a promise of sensitization which can result in translations that are linguistically and culturally more in tandem with the source text.

Berman (2000) in his essay *Translation and Trials of the Foreign*, describes the use of 'deforming tendencies used by translators in the act of translation. The twelve deforming tendencies pointed out by Berman are as follows:

- Rationalization
- Clarification
- Expansion
- Ennoblement or popularization
- Qualitative impoverishment
- Quantitative impoverishment
- The destruction of rhythms
- The destruction of underlying networks of signification
- The destruction of linguistic patterning
- The destruction of vernacular networks or their exoticization
- The destruction of expressions and idioms
- The effacement of the superimposition of languages

In this research, Antoine Bermans Twelve Deforming Tendencies has been taken as the central theoretical framework. The entire trajectory of this research has been conceptualized in light of Bermans theories. It means that the researcher examines the system of textual deformation in the selected book *My Life and Struggle*. According to Berman (2000), there is always a 'system of textual deformation in TT or the translated text that does not allow 'foreign coming thorough.

Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad is a book written by Abdul Ghaffar Khan. This book was compiled by Asadullah Safi and printed in Afghanistan in (1942). The sourcebook taken for this research study was again published in (2018) in Peshawar. This is the autobiography of Abdul Ghaffar Khan. The book sheds light on the life and situation of the late Khan. In this autobiography, Khan highlights how he spent his life. This text shows us how Khan struggles for Pashtun unity and brotherhood. Khan highlighted the very condition of that time and also the manners of foreigners with Pashtoon people. In this book, Khan points out every corner of his life. *Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad* explains the harsh and challenging situations faced by Khan. This book consists of nineteen chapters. It was originally written in the Pashto language. In (2008), an international seminar was planned by the Afghan Cultural Development Association in Germany on Bacha Khan and his non–violence theory. Different scholars from around the world gathered, and they decided to reprint the auto-biography of Bacha Khan.

Research Questions

- What kind of deforming tendencies are found in Sahibzada's translation of *Zama Jawand Ao Jidojehad* by Ghaffar Khan?
- How do these linguistic forms become distinct semantically and syntactically in the process of English translation?

Objectives of the Study

- To explore the deforming tendencies in the English translation of the book,

"*Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad*" by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada.

- To discover the linguistic forms that become distinct semantically and syntactically in the process of English Translation.

Literature Review

The study focuses on translational studies, specifically the examination of distortions within the English translation of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Pushto work, "Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad" (2018), titled "My Life and Struggle," translated by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada in 2021. The researcher reviews relevant articles and research papers, thereby enhancing readers' understanding of the study's context and justification.

Crystal (2003) defines translation as an act or process in which meanings of the original or the source text are conveyed and transferred with target language equivalents. According to Hatim and Mason (2014) in translating a text social context is perhaps a more central variable than its field. Hence, the act of translation takes place in the socio-cultural context. The following ideas about the practice of translation explain the act quite clearly:

McGuire (2003) is of the view that translation involves the rendering of a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) to ensure that (1) The surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and (2) the structure of the SL will be preserved as closely as possible, but not so closely that the TL structure seriously distorted.

Mustafa and El- Masry (2008) in their article investigated the ideas of cultural translation. They draw attention to the issue of cultural inequivalence and loss in the translation of Arabic literary texts when it is translated into English. They further investigate that the translation of stylistic devices or figurative languages such as proverbs, metaphors, and idiomatic expressions of the source text is translated into another language, and then loss in terms of cultural depictions is unavoidable. He says that the role of a translator becomes very important

because he tries to maintain the cultural instances of the source text in the target text.

It is expected a translator to take into account the role of cultural aspects for both texts in order to provide a culturally more realistic translation. As a result, the analysis and examination of the translated text demand the socio-cultural context, in which the translations are produced. All these points support the present research because the subject of investigation is to look at the quality translation of *Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad*.

According to Munday (2004) Bassnett and Lefevere, translation activity is indeed an interaction between translation and culture rather than a mere interpretation of language. In translation, culture is interpreted with its impacts, history, traditions, and conventions. They have penetrated the constructions of the literature in terms of film adaptations, commentaries, and translations that are integral to the creation of literature. This was a turn from studying translation as text to translation as culture.

Munday (2004) quotes that Bassnett and Lefevere have considered translation and culture as a 'cultural move and have conducted many case studies to prove their argument. They have also pointed out the changing standards and trends in translation over time, particularly the representation of particular ideologies, the depiction of power residing within the industries responsible for publishing, display of feminist writers and their writings in contemporary times. In addition, the act of translation is taken not only as appropriation, but also translation as a process of rewriting, depiction of colonization, rewriting, and discussion of writers of films as well.

Translation and culture go hand in hand as stated by Hariyanto (1996) in his work The Implication of Culture on Translation Theory and Practice that culture is depicted in two different ways. For instance, the lexical and references are culturally specific but they are explained in a unique way in the source language. Hence, the duty or responsibility of the translator is to pay attention to the words

and expressions that are cultural words and expressions.

Culler ([1976](#)) says that languages do not categorize differences and opinions among languages because they have distinct views of the world from each other. They bear different systems of articulation. Therefore, they are distinctly identified and view the world accordingly. Thus, cultural differences create problems in translation from one language into another. According to Bracaj ([2015](#)), while translating the text the translators not only find problems in maintaining the meanings, style, idioms, and proverbs of the source text or the original text but also face difficulties in translating the cultural concepts. Therefore, their task becomes more challenging. Therefore, it is expected the translators to carefully adopt the procedures and strategies while translating the culture-specific words, expressions, and concepts of the ST.

Hornby ([2006](#)) has pointed out a few points that need to be kept in consideration while translating from one language into another. According to Hornby, some culturally specific terms need full attention in the act of translation. These are defined as, nomenclature, internationally known and used items, objects, cultural norms, and culturally specific elements. Similarly, another philosopher Newmark has also identified a few classes as cultural categories that demand careful translation, e.g. ecology, social culture, customs, material culture, gestures, and habits.

All these concepts again conform to the present study because they also focus on the quality of translation by applying Antoine Bermans point of view. Time and again different translation scholars have paid attention to the problem of culture and its intricate relationship with language. Particularly, the translation of culture-specific items is among the thorniest issues that a translator or interpreter may face. The very issue is also worthy of discussion for teachers to teach and/or evaluate to translate different texts or pieces of speech from one language into another (Bracaj, [2015](#)). Vemanani and Sadeghi (2018) conducted a research study titled "An Examination of Bermans Negative

Deformation Tendencies on Persian Translation of Tess of the dUrbervilles Novel". The novel is translated into the Persian language by Mina Sarabi. The primary purpose of the study was to find the deforming tendencies in the translated work of the novel Tess of the dUrbervilles. The researcher used Bermans ([2000](#)) model of twelve deforming tendencies as a theoretical model for the study. The basic aim of the study was to investigate how words have been changed from the source language to fit the target language by adopting deforming tendencies. To achieve the aim of the study the researcher used qualitative methods for the study. Furthermore, content analysis is used as a strategy for data analysis. To achieve the basic aim of the study, the researcher chooses 300 sentences for the analysis of the data from the translated work by Mina Sarabi. In this research article, the researchers investigate all the deforming tendencies present in the Persian-translated work of the novel.

Tasdan ([2017](#)) has conducted research work, on critical analysis of the Turkish translation of létranger from a Bermans perspective. The novel (The Stranger in English) was written in 1942 by Albert Camus. The book was translated into Turkish by Vedat Günyol in 1981 and widely accepted as a successful interpretation by Turkish readers. The basic purpose of the study was to investigate the deforming tendencies used by the translator while translating the novel into the Turkish language. For this reason, the researcher chooses the qualitative method. For data analysis, the researcher used the content analysis method. Furthermore, the researcher finds the text through the lens of Berman's ([2000](#)) model, how the meaning in the target language is changed.

Uktolseya ([2017](#)) had done his research work whose aim was to securitize the various deforming tendencies. The title of the research study is 'Destruction of Bekisar Merah: Antoine Bermans Deforming Tendencies in The Red Bekisar. Bekisar Merah is a novel written by Ahmad Tohari in 2011. Originally it was written in the Indonesian language. This novel

was translated into English by Nurhayat Indriyatno Mohamed in 2014. The primary function of the study was to find out the deforming tendencies used by the translator. The researcher used the qualitative method and close reading technique for the analysis of data. At last, the researcher concluded that three deforming tendencies are frequently used in the translated work named Red Bekisar. The tendencies used are; the destruction of underlying networks of signification. According to the researcher as mentioned in the article is the first deforming tendency used. The second deforming tendency used in the study is the destruction of linguistic patterns. The third one is the destruction of vernacular networks or their exoticization. So, the researcher finds out that due to deforming tendencies, the translated work loses its taste and the readers when looking at the original one can feel the difference. Due to such tendencies, the translation loses its credibility and cannot convey the original taste to the readers.

Kashifa (2018) has done their research study investigating The Deforming Tendencies Used in the Urdu Translation of the Novel Old Man and the Sea. The primary aim of the study was to pinpoint the tendencies of deformation used in the translated work. Also, the research points out which deforming tendencies are being used and how they change the meaning in the work of translation. The researcher used Berman's deforming tendencies as a theoretical model for the study. For conducting the research work, the researcher applied qualitative methods and textual analysis for the analysis of the data. Furthermore, the researcher identified the deformed text and compared the source text with the target source. The researcher found that the work translated from English to Urdu by Ibni Saleem is considerably deformed.

Ahmad, Iqbal, and Ullah, (2020) have conducted a study that aims at investigating the various tendencies of deformation employed in the translation of Abdul Ghani Khan Poems for producing meaning in the target text. The data of the study was comprised of ten English-translated poems by Abdul Ghani Khan. These translations were done by famous Pakistani

English translator Imtiaz Ahmed Sahibzada. The results of the study revealed that Imtiaz Sahibzada used deformation tendencies in the structure of the translated poem. The poems deformed the structural and literary beauty of the poems for the sake of bringing clarity to the message of the translated poems.

Goui & Seddiki (2019) is a study that looks at The Use of Bergmans Twelve Deforming Tendencies Employed in the Translation of Ghassan Kanafanis "Rijal Fi Echams". The translated book is *"Men in the Sun"* which is an English version of Ghassan Kanafanis novel. The results of the study show that in terms of ethnocentrism, the translation lacks neutrality. The translator has remained unfaithful to the source text when comes to the notion of ethnocentric values. He has translated the source text by becoming faithful to his ideology and culture. Even the transfer of cultural and idiomatic expressions is biased. The translator has used domestication tendencies and has rejected the use of foreignization in the target text. The ideology of the translator has directly affected the source text as only those aspects of the source text are transferred into the target text and do not clash with the culture of the target readers and society. This clearly demonstrates that the translation cannot be neutral when it comes to the domain of ethnocentric works. The translators use various deforming tendencies in order to negate the impact of source text on the readers and thus take the text closer to the readers instead of readers to the source text.

Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative method. According to Jamshed (2014), research methodology is a strategy or architectural design by which the researcher maps out an approach to problem-finding or problem-solution. It is a comprehensive strategy that reflects ones choice, based on features and type of ons research problem. In this research study, two sources are used for the collection of data.

As the research work is based on literary work, two types of data are used, primary data and secondary data. Such types of data helped

the researcher to find out the deforming tendencies in the translated work of Sahibzada (2021). *Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad: An Autobiography,* a book by Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan, is selected as the object of the study. It is a prose work originally written in Pashtu and translated into several languages, including English. Pashtu and English. The English versions of the book are investigated in the light of translation-deforming tendencies attributed to Berman. The closed reading technique is used for data collection. Burke (2011) states that close reading is a technique used by researchers to critically analyze a text and focus on its important patterns or to grasp the details from the very bottom and also to understand the form and context of the text. The judgmental sampling technique is adopted in the selection of the book and its three chapters. According to Kumar (2011), purposive sampling is a type of non-probability sampling in which one is supposed to choose a subject of study based on his judgment.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Expansion

Source Text

" دا د اکبر دماغ نه وو، دشیر شاه دماغ وو" (Khan 2018)

Target Text: "It was not Akbar's brain but that of Sher Shah which was behind these programmes". (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

Another deforming tendency used in this piece of translation is the same as mentioned above. The translator expanded the TT as compared to ST. The translator extended the target text by adding some extra words not present in the source text. This is done to make the target text clear for the readers. The phrase (which was behind these programs) should be present in the source text. Such a deforming tendency is known as clarification. The target text is also expanded due to clarification, which becomes another force known as expansion. So the deforming tendencies pointed out in the above-given translation are expansion and clarification. Due to such forces, linguistic

patterning of destruction occurs, distorting the source text's syntactic and semantic structure.

Ennoblement

Source Text

"په دغه ورځو کښې زمونږ د قام د جهالت په وجه ډیر بد حال وُ" (Khan 2018)

Target Text: "In those days, because of ignorance and lack of education, our people were in very bad shape". (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

Ennoblement is another deforming force present in this translation, as the translator translates the source text into the target text in a more elegant language. As in the source text, the word (قام) is translated as people. This is not an accurate equal translation. The accurate translation for the said word is (nation). However, to make the target text more sophisticated and elegant, the translator translates it as (people). This is done to target readers' fluency but ignores the original text. This also deformed the source text's syntactic and semantic structure. In addition, commas (,) are included in the target text, which is absent in the source text. This type of deforming force is known as rationalization.

Qualitative Impoverishment

Source Text

"هغه وخت به خان و که غریب د خور لور په سر به ئ پیسي اخستي ". (Khan 2018)

Target text: "At that time, whether a khan or a commoner, walwar was always taken for a daughter or sister". (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

This translation also bears some issues, and the researcher pointed out the deforming tendency by looking deep into the text. In this piece of translation deformation of qualitative impoverishment is used. According to Berman (2000), it means the replacement of words and expressions from the source text with target text which is less sonorous. So, the translation mentioned above of the source text, which is

from Pashto to English, is the deformed target text. The translator translated the word (غریب) as a commoner, which is not the original meaning of the word. The accurate meaning of the word (غریب)is poor. The translator must translate it as," At that time, whether a khan or a poor, walwar was always taken for a daughter or sister". This is because it would confuse the target readers and destroy the original meaning of the source text. Moreover, the original text's syntactic and semantic structure is deformed. It is due to the differences in language and culture of both languages which destroy the beauty of the source text in the target text.

Rationalization

Source Text

"هغه وخت به خان و که غریب د خور لور په سر به يُ پيسي اخستي "۔ (Khan 2018)

Target text: "At that time, whether a khan or a commoner, walwar was always taken for a daughter or sister". (Sahibzada 2021)

Another deformation is also present in the selected piece of translation which is rationalization. According to Berman (2000), Rationalization is one of the deforming tendencies in which a translator alters basic syntactic structures and patterns of the original text, restructuring those patterns as per a particular sequence of thoughts. In the ST, there is no punctuation except full stop, but the translator used two commas in the target text, which further affected the original text. So, this tendency alters the basic syntactic structure of the original text, reconstructing those patterns as per the translator's sequence of thought. Furthermore, the translator used articles not present in the ST, so it expanded the target text, which is an instance expansion. This is done for clarity so that the readers may easily understand the translated text without considering that it could destroy the original meaning of the source text.

Clarification

Source Text

"انګریزانو چی د پښتنو قبايلو سره دا وسلي وليدي نو حيران شو چی دوي دا وسلي له کومه راوری؟" (Khan 2018)

Target text: "When the British saw these weapons with the tribesmen, they were surprised as to where they had got them from." (Sahibzada 2021)

Along with rationalization, the source text is also expanded in the target text, which means that the target text is longer than the original one, and this is done for clarification which is also a deforming tendency. The translator did it to target readers to clearly understand the meaning of the text. The meanings and syntactic structure had been deformed in the above example, which is taken from both the source and target text.

Destruction of Underlying Networks of Signification

Source Text

"واده بنادی" (Khan 2018) ۔

Target Text: "Weddings and happy occasions." (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

The above extract is taken from both the source and target text, showing a clear deformation. The deforming tendencies used in the translation here are the destruction of underlying networks of signification and the destruction of linguistic patterns. For example, the noun in the source text is used as singular, while it is translated as plural in the translated or target text. The noun (واده) is singular, whose accurate translation is a wedding but the translator translated it as 'weddings' which is not correct. Secondly, (happy occasions) another noun (بنادی) which is also a singular, and the translator used it as plural in the target text. Therefore, the translator ruined the source text's original meaning and the source text's syntactic structure. Furthermore, the grammatical category is also changed. Due to such deformation, the readers become confused while reading the text, which was translated into English by Sahibzada in 2021. Such changes occurred due to differences in languages and cultures.

Destruction of Underlying Networks of Signification

Source Text

"هغه د ملیا نو د پروپیگندی هیڅ پرواه ونه کړه او مونږ دواړه ورونه يُ په سکول کښی داخل کړو" (Khan 2018)

Target Text: "He was not taken in by the propaganda of maulanas and admitted my brother and me into school." (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

In the above-given piece of translation, deforming tendencies are clearly visible. The deforming tendencies used in the translation or target text are the destruction of underlying networks of signification, and the destruction of linguistic patterns are present. In the source text, the last part of the sentence is like this

او مونږ دواړه ورونه يُ په سکول کښی داخل کړو) and we both the brothers were admitted into the school, which is the correct translation. However, the translator used the phrase like that (and admitted my brother and me into school), which is not an accurate translation of the phrase in the source text. This causes much confusion for the readers while reading the target text. It completely changes the source text's semantic structure, further destroying the essence of the ST. In the given example, the syntactic and linguistic structure of the source text is completely changed. In the source text, there is no use of I; in the target text, I modify the source text understanding by using the personal pronoun. There is another force present in the translation, which is expansion. This is done by the use of words like I which expand the target text.

Destruction of expression and idioms

Source Text

" د هغه څایه مود وه خیلی او دوه مو پردی کړی، تباره ډوډی مو پریښوده او د کور خاوند ته مو خبر هم ونه کړو، په مندو مندو زمونږ یو بل کلي مروندی تو ماسخوتن ورسیدو". (Khan 2018)

Target text: "We beat a hasty retreat and left a cooked meal uneaten and did not so much inform the owner of the house and our host. In great haste, we reached another of our hamlets, Marwandai, in the late evening." (Sahibzada 2021)

Commentary

According to Berman (2000), the destruction of expressions and idioms is a deforming tendency in which proverbs, idioms, and conventional expressions are destroyed. In this instance of translation, clear deformation is present. Here another strategy has been adopted as a proverb is translated from the source text to the target text. The translator translated it through the target language equivalent. It is clear that a proverb or idiom did not give a similar meaning in the target language. The translator translated the Pushto proverb (**د وه خیلی او دوه مو پردی کړی**) like that "We beat a hasty retreat". This meant that we left that place in a hurry. Such a deforming tendency is known as the destruction of expression and idioms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this thesis aims to analyze the deforming tendencies in the English translation of *Zama Jawand Aw Jidojehad* by Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada. The study used the qualitative method and close reading technique for data analysis. The analysis showed several deforming tendencies in the English translation, rationalization, expansion, ennoblement, qualitative impoverishment, quantitative impoverishment, the destruction of underlying networks of signification, the destruction of linguistic patternings, and the destruction of expression and idioms. These tendencies occurred at different levels of the text, including lexical, grammatical, syntactic, and semantic levels. The study also found that the deforming tendencies in the translation were caused by various factors, such as the translator's lack of linguistic competence, cultural differences between the source and target languages, and the translator's subjective interpretation of the text. Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the English translation of Sahibzada suffers from significant deforming tendencies. These tendencies have resulted in a distorted version of the original text, which may lead to

misunderstandings and misinterpretations of the author's intended meaning. Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness of the importance of accurate translation and to encourage the use of competent and professional translators who possess the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge to produce faithful translations.

Recommendations

This study has contributed to the field of translation studies by shedding light on the issue of deformation in translation and highlighting the importance of accurate translation. It is hoped that this study inspired further research on this topic and led to the development of more effective strategies for achieving accurate and faithful translation.

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