Chapter IX

Conclusion
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9. Conclusion

The present study has been undertaken to find out the existing pattern of subtitling, as the researcher came across with quite a number of notable differences between Tamil films and their televised English subtitles by NFDC in the national telecast of Doordarshan. The collected data have been analysed from translation, linguistic and media view points, by adopting the parameters of linguistics and media in general, and strategies of translation in specific. This research has focused elaborately on the structural and semantic aspects of translation employed in the subtitles. Even though common linguistic and media scales were effectively used in this research, the classification of media and film is maintained for explaining the translation strategies of subtitling process.

In this research on translation, the English subtitles given for Tamil films by NFDC have been studied elaborately concentrating on the structural and semantic aspects. The employment of translation
strategies in subtitling process has been studied extensively in this report. Comparative method of analysis made on the dialogues, lyrics and extralinguistic factors revealed the techniques of translation and linguistics followed in the subtitling process.

In this research, the structural and semantic strategies that are followed in the subtitling have been presented under the broadly grouped titles addition, deletion and modification. And they were discussed in the analysis sections in a detailed fashion.

From them, as the result of the analysis, the identified translational, social, economical and linguistic factors that affect the course of subtitling have been presented in the seventh chapter.

So, the appointment of skilled professional translators who are settled in the specified language region with wider knowledge on the society, culture and communication is needed at this juncture for the purpose of English subtitling of Tamil films in specific. And as the Doordarshan’s national telecast is now available in almost all the countries in the world, the display time for the subtitled Indian regional films can be increased. That will certainly be useful for the foreign language people to have access with India.
As far the subtitling of the dialogue is concerned, it is seen that several items in the dialogues have been deleted during the process of subtitling. While deleting the items, care has been taken to retain the idea that was originally conveyed in the dialogues. In any conversation, it is natural that it will contain a number of features which are redundant and unnecessary from communication point of view. These redundant and unnecessary elements have been dropped in the process of subtitling. The choice of deleting items in the dialogue has been made by the person engaged in subtitling according to his own judgement. Sometimes, dialogues running to a few sentences have also been dropped. This type of deletion has been necessitated due to the following reasons.

1. The redundant and unnecessary forms need not be taken up for subtitling.

2. Context and visuals help the onlookers to get an idea of what is going on and hence some of the items in the dialogue are dropped.

3. The space available at the disposal of the subtitling agent for casting the subtitle at the bottom of the frame may be less and forces the subtitling agent to scrap some elements as unnecessary.
4. Some of the words involved in the dialogue may be culturally or otherwise fully loaded words thereby pressuring the subtitling agent to delete them.

Though the cases of deletion are more in number, it has to be highlighted here that addition of some items has also been done in order to convey the meaning properly to the viewers. Instances where addition of linguistic elements have been effected in the process of subtitling have been discussed. Though addition is a strategy in subtitling, it has been sparingly exploited. It has to be pointed out here that addition of elements has also been done in some cases in order to make the subtitling process a complete one.

Restructuring as a strategy in subtitling has also been employed effectively in subtitling of films. As far the subtitling of Tamil films is concerned, several instances of structural modifications have been noted in this study. It has to be emphasised here that structural modification has been exploited to the maximum in the process of subtitling.

Though lyrics occupy a prominent place in the shooting of Tamil films, the agencies involved in subtitling are not ready to accept this fact. In most cases they have failed to subtitle the lyrics. Only a few
lyrics have been chosen for subtitling. The reasons for dropping some
lyrics and taking up some other lyrics for subtitling are obscure and
no analysis could be carried on them. However, it can be said that
lyrics are highly loaded linguistic features and subtitling them will be
a herculean task for the persons involved in subtitling. Therefore, the
lyrics might have been considered to be unimportant from the point
of view of the theme or plot of the film. In the analysis, an attempt
has been made to study the correlation of the times of the lyrics with
that of the subtitled items from the point of view of play time and
number of lyrics. Empirical evidences show that most of the lyrics are
not subtitled. And even among those lyrics which have been subtitled,
it is seen that so many portions in the lyrics have been dropped in the
process of subtitling. It can be said that almost fifty percent of the
items in the lyrics are dropped in subtitling. This may be because of
the fact that the lyrics might have been considered to be unnecessary
and irrelevant from the point of view of the plot of the film.

Evaluation of the subtitling of Tamil films is one of the major areas
of study in this field. Though no attempt has been made to evaluate
the subtitling of Tamil films, it offers enormous scope for future
researches and this area can be taken up for analysis. Non native
speakers of Tamil may be chosen as informants for this study and the
quantum of information received by them by seeing the subtitled films
has to be studied in detail. In this context, it has to be borne in mind that the video effect available on the screen of the television contributes quite considerably for the understanding of the film. Therefore, the non native viewers may be first shown a Tamil film without any subtitles and then with subtitles and the difference in the quantum of information gained by them in both these processes can be taken up for analysis. Such a study would help us to evaluate the usefulness of the process of subtitling.

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