Abstract

Topic: Predicting Transferability from Semantic Space: A Linguistic Study of Polysemous Words in the English Translation of Urdu Fiction

‘Translation’ helps spreading knowledge. The idea is that in translation, the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent transferred in target-language text. Whereas interpreting undoubtedly antedates writing, translation began only after the appearance of written literature. Translation is the transmittal of written text from one language into another. Although the terms translation and interpretation are often used interchangeably, by strict definition, translation refers to the written language, and interpretation to the spoken word. Translation is the action of interpretation of the meaning of a text, and subsequent production of an equivalent text, that communicates the same message in another language.

Translation Studies examines the art and craft of translation, i.e., what is translated, how it is translated, how it is received in the receptor language, and especially what is said so often to be lost in translation.
Translation Studies approaches literature from a new and dynamic perspective that changes the way we view literature, cultures, and each other. Translation destroys language walls and illuminates the gestures, assertions, and utterances of other nations. Translation heightens our sensitivity to the sensibilities of foreign cultures and customs.

Translators always risk inappropriate spill-over of source-language idioms, homonymous words, polysemous words and usage into the target-language translation. On the other hand, spill-overs have imported useful source-language calques and loanwords that have enriched the target languages. Indeed, translators have helped substantially to shape the languages into which they have translated.

The present work is an attempt to investigate the nature of polysemous words in the Urdu Fiction. It also aims at evaluating how these polysemous words of Urdu Fiction were treated when they were translated into the English Fiction. Therefore for this, one novel of Urdu Fiction “Miratul Uroos” by Deputy Nazir Ahmad and its translation “The Bride’s Mirror” by G.E. Ward has been chosen which is also considered the first fiction of Urdu literature. With a view to explore the role of polysemous words in the Urdu fiction, the study has looked into the different aspects of polysemy arising due to the usage in different context and situation in fiction. The purpose of this study is to provide a
descriptive and analytical analysis of polysemous words and how they were treated when translated from Source Language L1 (Urdu) to target Language L2 (English) by the translator. The thesis consists of five chapters including introduction.

Chapter One: Introduction

This chapter dealt with the introduction where we have discussed that the present research is an attempt to investigate the **Polysemy and Polysemous words in Urdu Fiction**. Besides introduction it also discussed the purpose of the study, objective of the study and the significance of the study. The present study also critically reviews the current translation methodologies used in the Translation of Urdu Fiction into English. Conversely, insights from translation studies have rarely been brought to bear on stylistics. This research work aims to redress the balance a little, by concentrating specifically on issues of style (Polysemous Words) and translation.

- The style of the source text and how it can be conveyed by a translator.
- The notion of style as choice and how this affects translation.
- The voice of the translator in the translated text.
The need for a special stylistics of translated texts to account for their relationship to a source text.

The role of cognitive notions such as inferred translator, implied author and state of mind in the study of translation.

Chapter Two: Semantic Space

This chapter talks about semantic space in general and then semantic space is used in the craft of translation. The words in a semantic space share a common semantic property. Most often, fields are defined by subject matter, such as body parts, landforms, diseases, colors, foods, or kinship relations.

Cultural attitudes to particular areas of human activity can often be seen in the choices of metaphor used when that activity is discussed. A useful linguistic concept is that of semantic space, sometimes called just space, or space of meaning.

A meaning of a word is dependent partly on its relation to other words in the same conceptual area. This chapter tried to cover all type of homonymous, polysemous and ambiguous words / phrases / sentences and how they are important when one text is translated into another text i.e. inter lingual or intra lingual translation.
Chapter Three: Conceptual Transfer from Semantic Space

This chapter dealt with the ‘Conceptual Transfer from Semantic Space’ to provide justification for the principle, that translation should produce the same effect on the reader as the original text. It should ask what relation translation has to the texts that move between cultures; it should have ideas about why texts move and how translated texts can represent such movement; and it should be able to inquire into the ethics of intercultural relations and how translators should respond them.

It also provided a general description of the Transferability which is used for translation studies and considers the issue of transferability, a well-known concept in the translation of literature from source language L1 to the target language L2. In order to answer this question properly, we need a clear idea of the kind of transfer relevant to translation. Now what is text? Texts—including only oral texts—ever exist without the materiality of a support? Transfer in this case enables a process of interpretation which borders translation. Is there any strictly translated text? There is a difference between translating a text and just talking about it or producing a similar text and it has also taken into consideration many issues and solutions of translation studies.
Chapter Four: Transferability from Polysemous Semantic Space: A Case Study of English Translated Urdu Fiction

This chapter focuses on the statistical and attitudinal study regarding polysemous words. In chapter 4, we have compared the translated and source text and its results with an investigation of the comparison between English translation of text ‘The Bride’s Mirror’ by G. E. Ward and Urdu source text ‘Miratul Uroos’ by Nazir Ahmed. But the real focus is only on the treatment of polysemous words which are translated into English text. However, these analyses were conducted by computer as well as manually where it is found necessary, whereas all the other statistical analyses were performed by computer using data analyzer software and program.

Chapter Five: Summary and Conclusion

This is the final chapter of the thesis and presented the summary and conclusions drawn from the study. This chapter presents the chapter-wise summary, besides giving the conclusion. It also gives recommendations and suggestions for further study in Translation Studies.