

Translation of the Book titled “Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the Criteria” from English into Swahili: An Analysis of Translation Procedures

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ABSTRACT

This article aimed at identifying dominant translation procedures applied in the translation of the book titled “Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the criteria” from English into Swahili. Using descriptive qualitative method and content analysis, the data of the study was analyzed to achieve the stated aim. The research primarily attempted to seek answer to research question, what was the dominant translation procedure applied in the translation of “Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the criteria” from English into Swahili? The data included 158 phrases. Vinay and Darbelnet’s translation procedure was used for identifying the procedure applied. The results of the study showed that the translator used six translation procedures, 48 included borrowing translation procedure, 5 calque, 7 literal translation, 36 equivalence, 1 adaptation and 61 transposition. Though the study focused on the Islamic text but the findings of this research will be helpful to Swahili translators and can be applied to other texts.

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, translation plays an important role especially for Swahili people. This is owing to the fact that little information is available in Swahili language. In many places in Tanzania, one can find many text books, journals and articles addressed in English, French and Arabic while few in Swahili language.

The proposed study focused on the analysis of translation procedures used in the process of translation of “Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the Criteria” from English into Swahili language. Since the original book addresses the sensitive topic in Islam, it is believed that the translated version will influence millions of Muslim Swahili speakers.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Translation procedures

Translation scholars have widely discussed translation procedures. However, the term translation procedures and translation techniques have always been considered equal as Newmark (1998, p.88) stated that translation procedures or translation techniques are used for sentences and smaller units of language while translation method is related to the whole text. In this research paper, the term ‘translation procedures’ will be used instead of translation techniques. Jean Delisle (1999) defined the term translation procedures as methods applied by

translators when they formulate equivalence for the purpose of transferring elements of meaning from the Source Text (ST) to the Target Text (TT). In other words, it describes how we proceed at translating something in practice.

Jean Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet in the 1950s came up with seven procedures of translation and as many ways to attain equivalence. These are borrowing, transposition, modulation, equivalence, calque, literal translation and adaptation. Each of which can be used at the linguistics level of lexis, grammar and text.

2.1.1 Borrowing

It is usually used in terms of new technical or unknown concepts to overcome a metalinguistic one. In other words, borrowing is a procedure of translation where the source language form is taken into the target language usually because of the gap in the lexical target language. Borrowing is the simplest of all translation procedures. Borrowing is mostly applied to introduce the flavor of the source language but at the same time perhaps it may be used to convey a sound effect and to ensure that a cultural element is not translated entirely out of existence. For example, the verb ‘mailer’ which is used in Canadian-French utterance. The French suffix “er” is added to the English verb ‘mail’ to conform to the French rules of verb-formation (Harding & Riley,

1986). Also, Swahili language absorbs loan words from the globalized languages, for instance the terms *droni*, *kombora la kibalisti*, *mzinga wa roketi*, etc. from English terms drone, ballistic missile, rocket launcher etc. and the terms *zaka*, *rahimu*, *shukran*, *hadith*, etc from Arabic terms العشر (tithe), رحيم (God the merciful), شكرا (thank you), الحديث (traditions) etc.

In brief, borrowing refers to the case where a word or an expression is taken from the source language and used in the target language but in a naturalized form.

2.1.2 Transposition

It is a procedure which involves replacing one word class with another class without changing the message. It deals with grammatical changes in translation (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2000, as cited in Fawcett, 1997). There are two types of transposition, namely obligatory and optional transposition. Obligatory transposition is when the target language has no other choices because of the language system required the translator to do some grammatical changes in order to be readable and grammatical accepted by the target readers. But optional transposition is the translator's choice and they can use it when it is necessary for the better style of translation (Vinay & Darbelnet, 2000, as cited in Munday 2001).

In short, transposition is the process where parts of speech change their sequence when they are translated. This procedure is very common among translators, for it offers them a variety of possibilities that help avoiding problems of untranslatability as stated by Marouane Zakhir, (2008).

2.1.3 Calque

The term 'calque' or Through-Translation as Newmark (1988) called it, refers to the case where the translator imitates in his translation the structure or manner of expression of the ST. Calque may introduce a structure that is stranger from the TL. According to Josephine (2012:47), Swahili people are accustomed to use the expressions '*hatua ya mtoano*', '*kombe la dunia*', '*kupanga matokeo*', '*kutetea ubingwa*' and '*mabingwa wa ulaya*' which is an imitation of English expressions 'knockout stage', 'world cup', 'to fix a match', 'to defend championship' and 'European champions'.

In a nutshell, calque is a particular type of borrowing in which the translator borrows an expression from the source text by translating literally every part of the original elements. It can be in lexical or in structural the system of the target text. Sometimes calques work, sometimes they do not.

2.1.4 Literal translation

Literal translation is a direct transfer of the source text into grammatical and idiomatically appropriate target text which Vinay and Darbelnet (as cited in Munday, 2001) describe as being the most common translation procedure used between two languages from the same family and culture. Using this procedure, the translator focuses predominantly on adhering to the linguistic rules of the target language.

2.1.5 Modulation

According to Vinay & Darbelnet (1958/1995: 249-255) as well as Newmark (1988:88), modulation can be regarded as "a change in the point of view or a change of perspective when rendering the message from the ST into the TT". According to Vinay & Darbelnet (ibid: 37), modulation can be obligatory or fixed or optional or free. They consider that fixed modulations are employed taking into account 'the frequency of use, the overall acceptance and the confirmation provided by a dictionary or grammar of the preferred expression'. Free modulations are 'single instances, not yet fixed and sanctioned by usage', offering a unique solution which is necessary rather than optional. They specify that a free modulation can become fixed when it is used often enough, when it offers the only solution, when it is mentioned in dictionaries and grammars and when it is regularly taught.

In sum, modulation is the varying of the language obtained by the change in the point of view, this change can be justified, although literal even transposed. It is mostly used to stress the meaning, to affect coherence or to find out natural form in the TL.

2.1.6 Equivalence

Vinay and Darbelnet (1995:342) view translation as a procedure which replicates the same situation as in the original, whilst using completely different wording. They also suggest that if this procedure is applied during the translation process, it can maintain the stylistic impact of the SL text in the TL text. According to them, equivalence is therefore the ideal method when the translator has to deal with proverbs, idioms, clichés, nominal or adjectival phrases and the onomatopoeia of animal sounds.

In short, equivalence is often desirable for the translator to use an entirely different structure with different meaning from that of the source language text so long as it is considered appropriate in the communicative situation equivalent to that of the source language text.

2.1.7 Adaptation

Adaptation refers to the changing of the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture. Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/2000: 91) discuss an example of Englishman who without taking much notice, kisses his daughter on the mouth as a greeting of a loving father after a long journey. However, translating "He kissed his daughter on the mouth" literary would probably sound awkward to French audience, since in that culture it may have a different connotation. Consequently, a translation into French requires a special kind of over-rendering.

Considering the above procedures, Mashhady, Pourgalavi & Fatollahi (2015:59) stated that the first four procedures mostly deal with linguistic aspects of translation and the structural differences between two languages while the last three procedures mainly focus on transferring the cultural aspects of language.

2.2 Previous Studies

There are several researches exploring translation procedures. One of them is Satriadi (2014) whose work entitled Analysis of Translating Procedures on Sony Ericsson Live with Walkman Series Startup Guide. He aimed at analyzing the translation procedures as well as determining the translation quality of Sony Ericsson Live with Walkman Series Startup Guide. The result revealed that there were six translation procedures used in the text: Borrowing or Transference (54 items or 27%), Calque or Through Translation (12 items or 6%), Literal or Word for word translation (31 items or 15.5%), Transposition (42 items or 21%), Adaptation or Naturalization (43 items or 21.5%) and Reduction (18 items or 9%). Also the result showed that the quality of translation was good based on the percentage of acceptable translation (94%) and unacceptable translation (6%).

Heshmatifar and Biria (2015) conducted a comparative study on the translation strategies utilized for the rendition of economic terms from English into Persian on the basis of Vinay and Darbelnet (1995) model. Their study sought to explore the strategies underlying the appropriate translation of economic terms from English into Persian. They used a corpus of 299 English economic terms that were randomly extracted from Macmillan Dictionary of Modern Economics and was compared with their Persian equivalences suggested by three Iranian translators and used in three English to Persian dictionaries. The results of their study revealed that those translators had the same preferences in choosing the strategies required for the

rendition of terms. Equally they found that most frequently used translation strategy was literal translation.

Chishiba and Mvula (2017) conducted a study entitled An Analysis of the Translation Strategies Used to Translate, from English into Nyanja, Zambia's "A Simple Guide to the Anti Gender Based Violence (GBV) Act". In their research, they explored the translation strategies used to translate the mentioned document. They applied skopos theory by the German translator Vermeer (1978) and Darbelnet's (1973) taxonomy. Their study revealed that literal translation was the most frequently used strategy. Other translation strategies found were Schjoldager's (2008) direct transfer and baker's (1992) use of less expressive words and omission.

Sultarno, Sinar, Lubis and Ibrahim-Bell (2017) did a research on translation procedures used in translating Maitreya Buddhist text "紫根与深耕" from Mandarin to Indonesian. This research aimed at identifying the dominant translation procedures applied in the translation of Maitreya Buddhist text "紫根与深耕" from Mandarin to Indonesian. The result showed that 23 included translation procedures, 6 borrowing, 20 calque, 31 equivalence, 9 modulation and 52 transposition.

From these four previous researches, it can be summarized that various procedures of translation were employed by the translators and the dominant translation procedure can be different from one another.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research was designed using descriptive-qualitative method and content analysis on the other hand was employed to analyze the data.

3.1 Data Source and the Data

The data for analysis in this study was taken from the book entitled "Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the Criteria" written in English by Dr. Israr Ahmad Khan. The book was published in 2008 by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT). It was translated in Swahili language in January 2019 with the title "*Usahihi wa Hadith: Mtazamo Mpya wa Vigezo*". The texts as data were selected by using the translation procedures proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (2000: 84-93) which are borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation. Total data included 158 phrases.

3.2 Data Collection Method

The method of collecting data in this study was document review. This method was applied by reviewing thoroughly the SL religious terms and their translation in TL. The document review method was implemented by note-taking technique to collect the relevant data. After collecting the relevant data, the analysis was conducted by using qualitative method. Qualitative method was applied in this study since the data and the analysis were explained descriptively. By applying qualitative method, this study described systematically the analysis of translation procedures in translating religious terms.

3.3 Data Analysis

According to Sudaryanto (1988: 145), there are two methods of presenting the analyzed data, namely formal and informal methods. The former refers to the method of presenting the analyzed data by means of symbols, diagrams, figures and tables while the latter refers to the way of presenting data by using words or describing findings. The formal method was applied to present the analyzed data in this study by using tables. The data were categorized based on the seven translation procedures.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results

The direct or literal translation (borrowing, calque and literal translation) and oblique translation procedure (equivalence, transposition, modulation and adaptation) were chosen and put into table to be investigated to determine the extent to which of these seven procedures were applied by the translator.

1. Borrowing

In table 1, the data were borrowed directly from English to Swahili language without any changes or with slight changes. Total phrases found in the data using this procedure were 48.

2. Calque

The data in table 2 were translated by using calque procedure. They were translated by using structural calque whereby the translator introduced a new construction into the target language. They were 5 instances in the data review using this procedure.

3. Literal translation

The data in table 3 were translated directly from English into Swahili without any changes other than the requirement in Swahili grammar. They were translated by using literal translation or word for word procedure. There were 7 instances in the data using this procedure.

4. Equivalence

The data in table 4 were translated by using equivalence procedure. The translator used totally different styles and structure in rendering these data. In the data “in the name of the Prophet” cannot be rendered part by part in the data but needed a totally different style and structure. There were 36 instances in the data using this translation procedure.

5. Adaptation

The expression ‘leech’ was translated as ‘*tone la damu*’ as shown in table 5. If the expression is translated literally, it would be ‘*kuganda au ruba*’ which is not familiar in the target language, while ‘*tone la damu*’ is more familiar in the target language culture. Therefore, the translator used adaptation in translating some words and expressions as mentioned. From the text, only one example using this procedure was identified.

6. Transposition

The expressions breast-feeding and self-indictment in table 6 were used as nouns in the source text while in the target text were translated as *kumnyonyesha* and *kujishtaki* and used as verbs. The translation procedure applied in table 6 was the transposition where there was changing of word class from source language to target language. There were 61 examples in the data done using this translation procedure.

4.2 Discussion

The aim of this research was to identify the most dominant translation procedures applied in the translation of the book titled “Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the Criteria” from English into Swahili based on the Vinay and Darbelnet model. The result showed that out of the 158 data phrases, transposition procedure was the most applied one in the translation. It included 61 examples in the data. Transposition is a translation procedure which involves replacing one class with another class without changing the message. This shows that the translator tried very hard to produce a readable translation to Swahili speakers. The findings of the study are in line with the findings of Sutarno, Sinar, T., Lubis, S. & Ibrahim-Bell, Z. (2017) whose result showed that the most employed translation procedure was transposition. They found that the translator focused more to produce a readable and understandable translation text. The second most applied translation procedure was borrowing (48 examples), the third was equivalence (36 examples), the fourth was literal translation (7 examples), the fifth was calque (5 examples) and the least applied was adaptation (1 example). There was no modulation procedure found in the translation of the

text. The percentage-wise information of the procedures used is shown in table 7.

On the other hand, the findings of the study are in contrast with other researches. For instance, the findings by Nasution, D., Sinar, T., Lubis, S., Nurlela (2017). Their result showed that the dominant translation procedure applied was literal translation procedure. In their research, the translator tend to be loyal to the source text rather than to the target text readers.

Therefore, it can be said that different translation procedures were used with specific objectives in the translation of "Authentication of Hadith: Redefining the Criteria" from English into Swahili.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, conclusion can be drawn that the translator used six translation procedures, namely borrowing, calque, literal translation, equivalence, adaptation and transposition but the most used translation procedure was transposition. This indicates that the translator targeted to produce a readable and understandable text to Swahili speakers.

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<https://www.translationdirectory.com/articles/article1704.php>

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1

Source Text	Target Text
Allah	Allah
Hadith	Hadith
Shariah	Sharia
Qadar	Qadar
Zakah	Zaka
Ummah	Umma
Professor	Profesa
Theology	Teolojia
Salah	Sala

Table 2

Source Text	Target Text
International Institute of Islamic Thought	Taasisi ya Kimataifa ya Fikra za Kiislamu
International Islamic University of Malaysia	Chuo Kikuu cha Kimataifa cha Kiislamu cha Malaysia
London Office	Ofisi ya jijini London
People of previous divine scriptures	Watu wa maandiko ya Mungu ya awali

Table 3

Source Text	Target Text
Chain of narrators	Msururu wa wasimulizi
Chain of report	Msururu wa ripoti
Chain of reporters	Msururu wa wasimulizi
Authentication of Hadith	Usahihi wa Hadith

Table 4

Source Text	Target Text
Fabricating traditions in the name of the Prophet	Kuzusha hadith na kuzinasibisha kwa Mtume
An earnest appeal	Mtizamo wa dhati
Redefining the criteria	Mtazamo mpya wa vigezo
Justly balanced nation	Watu wa kati na kati

Table 5

Source Text	Target Text
And thereafter in the form of leech for the same period	baadaye tone la damu kwa muda kama huo

Table 6

Source Text	Target Text
Breast-feeding of an adult male	Kumnyonyesha mwanamume aliyebaleghe
The self-indictment of four prophets on the day of judgement.	Kujishtaki kwa Mitume wanne siku ya hukumu.

Table 7

Translation Procedures	Percentage
Transposition	38.6%
Borrowing	30.4%
Equivalence	22.8%
Literal translation	4.4%
Calque	3.2%
Adaptation	0.6%