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| RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Analysis of Adjustments and Choices in the Translation of Metaphors into Sorani Kurdish in English Prose Fiction

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| ABSTRACT
Within the realm of Cognitive Linguistics, Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) delves into the intricate nature of metaphor as a fundamentally cognitive and conceptual phenomenon. It posits that metaphors comprise two interconnected conceptual domains, perpetually interacting with one another; while also manifesting themselves through another linguistic layer distinct from the conceptual one. Using the many research and analytic tools developed by the champions of the theory, this research investigates what conceptual adjustments, or simply downright alterations, the translators introduce into the metaphors in the Kurdish translation of two important works of English fiction: Wuthering Heights and Animal Farm. The analysis will draw upon many researchers' argument within CMT that the conceptual traffic between the source and target domain of the linguistic metaphor has, by nature, cultural implications as well. In other words, any adjustments made in the conceptual metaphor from the English towards the Kurdish equivalent have conceptual, and, by extension, cultural implications feeding into it.

| KEYWORDS

Cognitive Linguistics; Conceptual Metaphor Theory; Fiction; Kurdish Translation; Cultural Implications

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

Owing to its pervasiveness across language, metaphor is regarded as a fertile resource for academic research. This figure of speech, previously thought of as merely "a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish" (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980), has now evolved into a cognitive instrument that enables us to conceptualize and interpret the world around us. This significant change in perspective can be attributed to the groundbreaking work of influential figures such as George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, who spearheaded the development of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT). As a matter of fact, this remarkable transformation in thinking was set in motion by the release of their book, "Metaphors We Live By" in 1980.

Conceptual metaphor is defined as a cognitive process that involves mapping one conceptual domain (source domain) onto another conceptual domain (target domain) so as to understand the latter more fully. This mapping involves using the structure and knowledge of the source domain to make sense of the target domain, which may otherwise be unfamiliar or abstract. However, conceptual metaphors are to be differentiated from metaphorical linguistic expressions. The latter are technically referred to as the linguistic realizations of conceptual metaphors. Such expressions derive from the source (concrete) domain of conceptual metaphors and are ubiquitously found everywhere. For instance:

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Conceptual Metaphors	Metaphorical Linguistic Expressions
Love is a *journey*.	It's been a *long*, *bumpy road*. This relationship is a *dead-end street*.
Argument is *war*.	Your claims are *indefensible*. His criticisms were *right on target*.

All the above examples are taken from Metaphors We Live By (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980).

Since the inception of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), there has been a notable scarcity of scholarly inquiries centered on the translation of metaphors into Kurdish. This study endeavours to elucidate the obstacles and complexities encountered by translators when rendering English metaphors into Kurdish. In fact, what we intend to do in this research is to investigate the inter-cultural adjustments made by English-to-Kurdish translators in the conceptual metaphors. More specifically, we are interested to ascertain whether the translators were inclined towards preserving the original metaphors as found in the English texts or if they aimed to construct contextually appropriate equivalents in the Kurdish language. Many researchers argue that any adjustments made in the conceptual metaphor from the English towards the Kurdish (or any other target language distinct from the source language in translation) equivalent have conceptual, and by extension, cultural implications feeding into it. Such studies as this are absolutely indispensable, inasmuch as they provide new insights into the area of comparative literature.

2. Literature Review

Metaphor and culture are closely intertwined with one another. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) posited that the underlying values of a specific culture are congruent with the metaphorical framework of the concepts within that culture. They contended that the values that are deeply embedded in our cultural fabric are not independent, but rather develop a cohesive and harmonious system with the metaphorical constructs that permeate our everyday language.

According to Kövecses (2005), it is possible for two languages or varieties of the same language to share a conceptual metaphor, but the way in which this metaphor is expressed linguistically may be affected or influenced by variations in the cultural and ideological beliefs and assumptions that are peculiar to each culture. This insinuates that both conceptual and linguistic metaphors may be not only cognitively but also culturally motivated. Through comparing the linguistic expression of a specific conceptual metaphor in two different languages (English and Hungarian), Kövecses realized that disparate patterns can emerge:

- Metaphors sharing similar mapping conditions and similar lexical realization;
- Metaphors sharing similar mapping conditions but different lexical realization;
- Metaphors sharing different mapping conditions but similar lexical realization;
- Metaphors sharing different mapping conditions and different lexical realization. (Kövecses, 2005, p. 131-162)

Maalej's (2008) view as regards mapping conditions is closely akin to that of Kövecses (2005). He asserts that translation involves a scope that extends beyond a mere alignment of parameters from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL). He further maintains that metaphor translation is inextricably interwoven with knowledge, entailing culture-specific restructuring or rearticulation.

Kövecses' article, "Conceptual Metaphor Theory and the Nature of Difficulties in Metaphor Translation" (2014), explores the complexities involved in systematically translating metaphors. He postulates that our cognitive realm is multifaceted, and it would be erroneous to presume that universal embodiment yields universal metaphors by subscribing to a constrained perspective of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT).

3. Methodology

3.1 Materials

The corpus for this qualitative research consisted of two works of English prose fiction and their Kurdish translations, namely Wuthering Heights and Animal Farm.

3.2 Instruments

To identify the metaphors within the novels, we utilized the Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP), which is a well-defined method developed by the Pragglejaz Group (2007). This method helps us distinguish metaphorical items from non-metaphorical ones easily.

3.3 Procedure

MIP (Metaphor Identification Procedure) is a reliable method that can be applied to a vast array of research contexts. It involves several steps, including reading the entire text-discourse to understand the meaning and identifying lexical units within it. For each lexical unit, the MIP determines its contextual meaning and compares it to its more basic contemporary meaning in other contexts. Basic meanings tend to be more concrete, related to bodily actions, more precise, and historically older. If the contextual meaning of a lexical unit contrasts with its basic meaning but can still be understood in comparison with it, the unit is considered metaphorical and marked as such.

3.4 Data Analysis

Through a meticulous adherence to the MIP procedure, we were able to discern the conceptual metaphors that pervade the novels. We then conducted a thorough comparison and examination of the English metaphors and their Kurdish translations, with the purpose of detecting any possible alterations that might have been introduced into the conceptual metaphors by the translators during the English-to-Kurdish translation process.

4. Results and Discussion

Due to constraints of size and volume, not all conceptual metaphors have been included in this section. Table 1 and Table 2 contain only some instances of conceptual metaphors found in the novels.

Table 1: Examples of Conceptual Metaphors Found in Wuthering Heights

		The Metaphorical Linguistic Expression	Meaning in Context	Source Domain	Target Domain	Conceptual Metaphor
1	Original Text	He has extinguished my love.	I do not love him anymore.	Light	Love	LOVE IS LIGHT
	Kurdish Translation	**چرای خۆشەویستی منی کوژاندەوە.** Literal Meaning: He extinguished the light of my love.	I do not love him anymore.	Light	Love	LOVE IS LIGHT
2	Original Text	They were both attached to their children.	Both of them loved their children very much.	Physical Bonding	Emotional Bonding	EMOTIONAL BONDING IS PHYSICAL BONDING
	Kurdish Translation	**هەردووکیان دڵیان زۆر لای منداڵەکانیان بوو.** Literal Meaning: Both their hearts were so much with their children.	Both of them loved their children very much.	Physical Closeness	Emotional Intimacy	EMOTIONAL INTIMACY IS PHYSICAL CLOSENESS
3	Original Text	Heathcliff's black eyes flashed.	He was very angry.	Fire	Anger	ANGER IS FIRE
	Kurdish Translation	**چاوە ڕەشەکانی هیتکلیف ئاگری لێ دەباری.** Literal Meaning: Heathcliff's black eyes were raining fire.	He was very angry.	Liquid Fire	Anger	ANGER IS LIQUID FIRE

4	Original Text	She suddenly broke into a fury.	She suddenly became very angry.	Building	Anger	ANGER IS A BUILDING
	Kurdish Translation	له ناکاوٚ تووڕەییەکەی تەقییەوە. Literal Meaning: Suddenly, her anger exploded.	She suddenly became very angry.	Hot Fluid in a Container	Anger	ANGER IS HOT FLUID IN A CONTAINER
5	Original Text	He sank in a swoon.	He became unconscious.	Down	Unconscious	UNCONSCIOUS IS DOWN
	Kurdish Translation	له هۆش خۆی چوو. Literal Meaning: He became unconscious.	He became unconscious.	-	-	-
6	Original Text	I suppose	I think	-	-	-
	Kurdish Translation	من وای بۆ دەچم. Literal Meaning: That is how I move toward it.	I think	Arriving	Understanding	UNDERSTANDING IS ARRIVING

Table 2: Examples of Conceptual Metaphors Found in Animal Farm

		The Metaphorical Linguistic Expression	Meaning in Context	Source Domain	Target Domain	Conceptual Metaphor
1	Original Text	Those of us who are capable of it are forced <u>to work to the last atom of our strength.</u>	...to work until we have no strength and energy left.	Chemical Element	Strength	STRENGTH IS A CHEMICAL ELEMENT
	Kurdish Translation	...هەتا دوا گەردیلەی وزەو توانامان کاربکەین. Literal Meaning: ...to work to the last atom of our energy and strength.	...to work until we have no strength and energy left.	Chemical Element	Strength	STRENGTH IS A CHEMICAL ELEMENT
2	Original Text	The animals' blood boiled with rage.	They were very angry.	Hot Fluid in a Container	Anger	ANGER IS HOT FLUID IN A CONTAINER

	Kurdish Translation	**خێنی ئاژەڵەکان غەزەب دەیجۆشاند.** Literal Meaning: The animals' blood boiled with rage.	They were very angry.	Hot Fluid in a Container	Anger	ANGER IS HOT FLUID IN A CONTAINER
3	Original Text	Terrible stories were leaking out from Pinchfield.	Disturbing stories were being disclosed by Pinchfield.	Fluid in a Perforated Container	Information	INFORMATION IS A FLUID IN A PERFORATED CONTAINER
	Kurdish Translation	**چەردە شایعەیەکی وەحشەتناک لە پێنچ فیلدەوە دزەیان دەکردە دەرەوە.** Literal Meaning: Terrible rumours were leaking out from Pinchfield.	Disturbing stories were being disclosed by Pinchfield.	Fluid in a Perforated Container	Information	INFORMATION IS A FLUID IN A PERFORATED CONTAINER
4	Original Text	June came.	June arrived.	Something Moving Toward You	Time	TIME IS SOMETHING MOVING TOWARD YOU
	Kurdish Translation	**مانگی گوڵان هات.** Literal Meaning: June (In Kurdish: The month of flowers) came.	June arrived.	Something Moving Toward You	Time	TIME IS SOMETHING MOVING TOWARD YOU
5	Original Text	He was too overcome by amusement to be able to utter it.	He was unable to say it as he was greatly amused.	Opponent	Happiness	HAPPINESS IS AN OPPONENT
	Kurdish Translation	**خۆشحالی هێندەی داگرتبوو وێنەدەچوو توانای وتنی هەبێت.** Literal Meaning: He was heavily infected with happiness that he seemed unable to say it.	He was unable to say it as he was greatly amused.	Virus	Happiness	HAPPINESS IS A VIRUS

	Original Text	In January, food fell short.	In January, food decreased.	Down	Less	LESS IS DOWN
6	Kurdish Translation	**لە ژەنیوەریدا خۆراک کەمی هێنا.** Literal Meaning: In January, food decreased.	In January, food decreased.	-	-	-

Our findings reveal distinct patterns in the translation of conceptual metaphors from English to Kurdish in two works of English prose fiction: Wuthering Heights and Animal Farm. These patterns can be categorized into four main categories based on the degree of linguistic and conceptual resemblance between the source and target languages.

Category I. Same Linguistic Realization, Same Contextual Meaning, Same Conceptual Metaphor

In this category, both the linguistic realization and the contextual meaning of the metaphor remain consistent between English and Kurdish. The underlying conceptual metaphor remains unchanged as well. For instance, the metaphor "LOVE IS LIGHT" is maintained in both languages, exemplified by "He has extinguished my love" in English and its corresponding Kurdish translation. This suggests a seamless transfer of the metaphor between languages, reaffirming the universality of certain metaphors. Many of the metaphors found in the novels fall into this category.

Category II. Slightly Different Linguistic Realization, Same Contextual Meaning, Slightly Different Conceptual Metaphor

Here, while the contextual meaning remains intact, there are subtle differences in linguistic expression and slight adjustments to the conceptual metaphor. For instance, the metaphor "ANGER IS FIRE" is evident in both languages. Nevertheless, in the Kurdish translation of "Heathcliff's black eyes flashed," the metaphor shifts to "ANGER IS LIQUID FIRE." This change retains the core idea of anger being intense and consuming, albeit with a nuanced variation.

Category III. Completely Different Linguistic Realization, Same Contextual Meaning, Completely Different Conceptual Metaphor

This category involves a more substantial shift in both linguistic realization and conceptual metaphor while preserving the contextual meaning. For example, the metaphor "ANGER IS A BUILDING" in English transforms into "ANGER IS HOT LIQUID IN A CONTAINER" in Kurdish. In spite of the linguistic and conceptual differences, the underlying emotion of anger remains consistent across both languages. This indicates that while the linguistic expressions may change drastically, the core meaning can still be retained through alternative metaphors.

Category IV. Either the Source or the Target Language is a Metaphor

In some instances, either the source language or the target language employs a metaphorical expression, while the other one remains literal in nature. As an illustration, consider the English expression "I suppose," which has metaphorically been rendered in Kurdish as "That is how I move toward it." This choice of translation corresponds to the underlying conceptual metaphor in Kurdish, where "UNDERSTANDING IS ARRIVING." Although there exists a literal equivalent in Kurdish, the translator has favored the metaphorical equivalent, probably due to the greater prevalence of its use in everyday communication compared to its literal counterpart. The occurrence of such cases as this was of course very rarely spotted throughout the novels.

All these categories are in line with the theoretical foundation of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) and its assertion that metaphors are closely linked to thought, language, and culture. Kövecses' (2005) notion that metaphorical linguistic expressions can vary due to cultural and ideological beliefs and assumptions is corroborated by the observed variations in the translations. Moreover, as is evident from the findings, the veracity of Maalej's (2008) view apropos of mapping conditions is also confirmed.

5. Conclusion

This qualitative research has delved into the intricate process of translating metaphors from English to Sorani Kurdish within the context of two renowned works of English prose fiction: Wuthering Heights and Animal Farm. The primary objectives of this study were to unravel the cultural and cognitive adjustments made by the translators and their impact on the target language.

Throughout our analysis, we have identified distinct patterns in the translation of conceptual metaphors, classifying them based on the extent of linguistic and conceptual alignment between the source and target languages. These patterns have vividly demonstrated the dynamic interplay between linguistic expression, cultural context, and the underlying essence of metaphors.

Our findings not only reiterate the foundational principles of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), but also underscore the profound influence of cultural and cognitive factors on the translation process. They emphasize that translation is an artful act that necessitates the careful consideration of both source and target cultures, lest the richness and subtlety of metaphors be lost in the process.

The significance of the present study extends to the realms of translation studies and comparative literature. By scrutinizing the adjustments inherent in the translation of metaphors, we have enriched our comprehension of how language, culture and cognition intertwine within the intricate task of translation. This study serves as a stepping stone for future investigations in this domain.

Nonetheless, it is crucial to acknowledge to certain limitations. This research, by design, is confined to a specific scope, focusing solely on two select novels and their corresponding Kurdish translations. To obtain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of metaphor translation, future studies could broaden the spectrum of texts and languages examined. Additionally, the incorporation of reader reception and interpretation of translated metaphors could offer a deeper understanding of their resonance within the target culture.

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