



## English to Persian Translation of Compound Modifiers in the Press Articles from 2014 To 2017 Based on House's TQA Model

Hossein Sokhandan<sup>1\*</sup>, Hossein Younesi<sup>1</sup>, Mojgan Rashtchi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of English Translation, North-Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

E-mail: h.younesi40@gmail.com

E-mail: mojgan.rashtchi@gmail.com

\*Corresponding Author's E-mail: h.sokhandan1983@gmail.com

Received: 14-12-2022, Accepted: 02-05-2023

### ABSTRACT

*This research was a review of the English-to-Persian translation of compound modifiers in press articles from 2014 to 2017 concerning quality assessment according to House's (1977) TQA model. To this end, 150 pieces of news containing the compound modifiers were selected from different newspapers and journals as the source texts, and their equivalent translations were published in local newspapers as the target texts. In the first step, the source text and the target text profiles were provided. Then, the overt and covert errors in translating compound modifiers in the press articles were identified. The findings showed that out of 150 selected compound modifiers, 97 were overt errors, and 53 items had no errors. The overtly erroneous translations had 36 instances of not translated, 23 cases of addition, 14 instances of a slight change in meaning, 13 cases of substitution, and 11 instances of ungrammaticality. In terms of covert errors, there was only one error; in the target text, the translator took the author's stance instead of the journalist's. The findings also showed that translations of English compound modifiers of press articles do not undergo cultural filtering. Concerning the House's TQA model, the translation of compound modifiers of the press articles belonged to the covert translation.*

**KEYWORDS:** Compound Modifiers; Covert Errors; House's Model; Overt and Covert Translation; Overt Errors; Translation Quality Assessment

### INTRODUCTION

The translation process is not a mere linguistic operation; it is also a kind of communication across different cultures. Nida (1964) considered translation an essential instrument to construct representations of various cultures, which deals with both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) and their cultures. Languages work as a means to express and form cultural reality. The linguistic meanings of components can only be inferred while viewing the cultural settings in which they arise and are used. Therefore, in translation, both language and culture are related to each other. In this regard, translation is regarded as an intercultural and interlanguage communication. While translating, the translator always has to take the contextual and co-textual elements into consideration. Different translation strategies can be utilized to achieve an idiomatically and grammatically correct translation (Milikic, 2010).

Among different types of translation, journalistic translation is a subarea of research within translation studies. According to Valdeón (2012), journalistic texts are perhaps one of the areas least discussed from a translational point of view. Since the case of the translator-journalist is relatively rare, the translator of a text of journalism is obliged to know and, to the extent possible, apply the rules imposed on journalists and also know the basic rules and beliefs of the target language culture. The analysis of the source and translated versions



indicated several striking mismatches known as "overt errors" and sometimes semantic additions of compound modifiers. English compound modifiers, which are also known as compound adjectives, phrasal adjectives, or adjectival phrases, are modifiers of a noun, consisting of two or more words of which the left-hand component restricts or changes the modification of the right-hand one, as in "the five-floor building": five limits the floor that modifies the building (Crystal, 2004; Farghal & Al-Mumin, 2016).

Zhang et al. (2015) believe that the real problem is that there is no literal journalistic translation but adaptations to the social, economic, or cultural context of the target language. For Lane-Mercier (1997), journalistic translation generally respects the original text. Hence there is confusion among specialists in translatology. Moreover, as Newmark (1988) also holds, to translate or adapt the press text, the translator must be aware of such text characteristics, be a journalist, or master the rules for the drafting of the press text. A translator-journalist also should have a good knowledge of the culture of the target language to select equivalents for lexical items that are consistent with the target culture. In discussions about the translation process as a product or as an activity, the quality of the translation has always been one of the top priorities. What are the major criteria of a 'good' translation, while another one is 'bad' or 'poor'? Regarding the aim of the assessment and the theoretical framework of the study, there exist a variety of criteria, which are used to assess translation quality. As House (1981) states, what a good translation is, is one of the most significant questions to be asked when dealing with translation, and Halliday (2001) asserts that it is too difficult to say why or even whether, the translated text can be a good translation.

There has been a growing increase in the number of translated press texts. The events that occur in the world are transferred to people via different languages using translation. People want to know about the world's events, and the media translate and present this news to them. Each medium has its ideology, according to which the strategies for designing the format and content of their editorial and news items are conveyed. During the process of negotiation of meaning among languages through the forms—the forms that are almost different among languages—the forms experience deviations (Berman, 2000) or conscious or unconscious manipulations (Dukate, 2007). However, as far as this study is concerned, such deviations or manipulations are errors in the translation study theorists' viewpoints. Concerning the purpose of this study, translation errors may occur at two stages: one in the stage of understanding the source press texts and the other in expressing the concept in the target language by journalistic translators because translation means translating concepts from an SL to a destination language. As a result, the translators omitted some parts of the news, changed some clauses, and chose different equivalents for a specific part. This specific part may be a type of modifier. The difficulty of translating the compound modifiers into Persian naturally stems from the fact that these structural patterns are not characteristics of Persian. Sometimes, they seem to find their way into the Persian language through catchy academic papers and journalistic phrases. These problematic issues, translation-oriented interferences from the source text (ST) into the target text (TT) or English to Persian, have been investigated.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In this study House's translation quality assessment (TQA) model was used to evaluate the quality of the translation of compound modifiers in the press articles. House (2015) believes that translation is replacing a text in the SL with a semantically and pragmatically equivalent text in the target language. In 1977, the TQA model was proposed by House and later revised. In this model, the analysis and comparison of the source text (ST) and the target text (TT) occur at three levels language/text, register, and genre. The last two levels are known as situational dimensions. At a situational dimension level, the register or the text analysis is further subdivided into Field, Mode, and Tenor.

House (1977) emphasizes the concept of overt and covert translations. During the overt translation, the TT audiences are not directly addressed. Therefore, there is no need to recreate a second original text because an overt translation must be overtly a translation. Whereas, covert translation is producing a text that is functionally equivalent to the ST. As House (2014) argues, in covert translation, the ST is not particularly addressed to a



target cultural audience. The main difference between these two types of translations is related to the covert translation to gain functional equivalence. Achieving functional equivalence is difficult since differences in the socio-cultural standards of the two lingua-cultural communities need to be taken into consideration, and cultural filtering must be used (House, 2015).

Assessing the quality of a translated work has been one of the major concerns of translation studies since its inception. Despite the difficult progress in this field, improving a good set of criteria to solve various problems concerning the quality of translation has not yet been achieved, or at least, there is no or little agreement about this subject. During the last decades, various approaches and classifications have emerged regarding the approaches to TQA. As House (1997) argues, studies dealing with translation quality assessment are divided into three main categories:

- 1) In some pre-linguistic research studies in which the subjective and not-so-much-clear statements for the quality of a translated work provide the main trends. The example includes Savory's list of rules for a translation of high value.
- 2) In psycholinguistic studies (e.g., Nida & Taber, 1969), translation quality is assessed in terms of the effect of the translation on readership.
- 3) In ST-based studies that attempt to create linguistic standards to account for both the ST and the TT.

It should be mentioned that there are also pragmatic models developed by Koller (1974) and Reiß (1968, 1971). Malcolm Williams categorized TQA models into two main categories; the first models concern with a quantitative dimension like SEPT (1979) and Sical (1986), and the second category deals with non-quantitative, textological models like Nord (1991) and House (1997). Intuitive and subjective assessment of a translation has been considered since time immemorial by writers, philosophers, and many others, consisting more often than not of global judgments. The translation does justice to the original or the lost tone of the original in the translation. In a recent form, such intuitive evaluations are being propagated by neo-hermeneutic translation researchers who view translation as an individual creative activity relating exclusively to subjective interpretation and transfer decisions, interpretive skills and knowledge, and artistic-literary intuitions. Texts have no main meanings; rather, their meanings change depending on individual speakers' positions (Bühler, 1998).

### **HOUSE'S FUNCTIONAL-PRAGMATIC MODEL FOR TQA**

The TQA model developed by House (1977) is one of the latest and most appropriate models as she has applied it to nearly all types of texts and translational theories in her study. Her model is a comprehensive and detailed linguistic model TQA that uses register variables, i.e. field, tenor, and mode, for translation quality assessment. House (1977) recognizes three different perspectives of meaning, namely, the response-based, mentalist, and discourse/text-based view; each of them makes different conceptions of translation evaluation. House's model is based on the Hallidayan Systemic-Functional Theory (SFT). On the linguistic and text level, she considers the theories of text function and language function. She describes the function of text as the application of or use of the text in the specific context of the situation (House, 1997). Context includes three dimensions, field, tenor, and mode.

### **FARAHZAD'S MODEL**

In Farahzad's (1992) TQA model, there are two main features to be studied in rating each part of the translation (Khanmohammad & Osanloo, 2009). Sentences and clauses are the units of translation. Therefore, every verb in ST gets a score. Besides, the main clause is given one mark, and each sub-clause one more mark. Consequently, the accuracy and appropriateness are examined within each sentence and clause. According to Farahzad (1992), cohesion and style cannot be examined and rated at the sentence and clause level. Further, the elements of cohesion are all over the text, as are the elements that form the discourse style. For instance, if the source text is relatively unbiased, one may assign a minor number of points to it than in other cases where the maintenance of style is important.



### **DARBLENT'S MODEL**

Darbelnet (1977) was another expert who studied the area of TQA. According to Nord (2005), there are nine critical parameters for any translation appraisal. These parameters are the accuracy of individual translation units (error analysis), the accuracy of translation as a whole (text function), idiomaticity (lexical items), correctness of target language (error analysis, medium), tone (intention, sender), cultural differences (recipient, presuppositions), literary and other artistic allusions (not particularly relevant for technical texts), implicit intentions of author (author, motive, intention), and adaptation to end user (recipient). It is, again, an example of a non-quantitative approach to TQA.

### **HOUSE'S OVERT AND COVERT TRANSLATIONS**

In the final step of the assessment, House (1977) identified two kinds of translation: Overt vs. Covert Translations.

#### **A. OVERT TRANSLATION**

The overt translations are ST centered. An overt translation strategy uses the target-language readers' understanding to explain the source culture in the translated texts (House, 1977). The source text is connected in a particular way to the source language community and its culture. In this kind of translation, the TT addresses are not directly addressed. The target text does not pretend to be original. The important point in this type of translation is that a direct match between the functions of the STs and TTs is not possible. Translators would not use the target culture to interpret the source culture in the translation texts. Instead, translators further explain information that is related to the source culture (House, 2006, 2015). If the source culture is both interesting and well-known to other communities, most translators use an overt translation strategy in their target texts (House, 2006). However, an overt translation strategy needs to be performed carefully concerning statements about cultural gaps, as translators should preserve the original features for readers (House, 1997, p. 145). Hence, overt translation strategies focus on the lexical meanings that can result in a serious blunder between the source texts and the target texts because an overt translation strategy must follow the source culture with certainty (House, 2006).

#### **B. COVERT TRANSLATIONS**

The covert translations are TT centered. A covert translation enjoys the condition of a source text in the target culture. In this type of translation, the target text addresses are directly addressed. Therefore, the translation is like the source text, not like a product of translation. Covert translation strategy refers to the way the ST matches the translation texts in terms of functional meanings and lexical meanings (House, 2006). It is saying that the covert translation strategy is helping readers understand the original culture, by using the target culture's understanding and frame of reference to describe and explain the source culture (House, 1977).

### **PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

Kargarzadeh and Pazireh (2017) investigated the quality of the *Kite Runner* novel based on House's (2014) TQA model. Firstly two profiles of the source text and target texts in terms of register analysis have been provided. Further, the researcher recognized the genre and statement of the quality of both versions. Infinitesimal mismatches in field, tenor, and mode were found when the source and target texts were compared, and they were accounted for in overtly erroneous statements. Leading matches, on the other hand, were accounted for through covert translation. The tenses and the choice of meanings that were not suited to the vocabulary were also mismatched. There was no culture filter because the informal and culture-specific phrases were completely transmitted. In addition, the translation was over.

Alikhademi (2015) evaluated the quality of the translation of medical texts based on the House TQA model. To conduct the study, the Persian translation and the original of *Medical Longmans Embryology* were selected. Alikhademi compared the translation with its original and found a series of mismatches or errors. Consistent with the classification of House errors, Alikhademi classified the found errors into un-translated, slight change in meaning, omission, addition, and grammatical errors. However, Alikhademi indicated that this



scientific text, i.e. the type of medical text is translation followed covert translation of House. Finally, the researcher concluded that medical texts were translated covertly.

Another study related to TQA was conducted by Varzandeh and Jadidi (2015). In this study, the effect of academic experience on translation quality has been explored. For this purpose, several hundred male and female translators were selected. These translators worked in official and non-official offices. These participants were selected using a purposive sampling method. Further, these participants were put into two groups of fifty. However, to test translators' quality of translation under the effect of academic experience, some paragraphs of a novel are given to participants to translate. As translations finished, they were rated using Waddington's (2001) method D of TQA. After performing the necessary statistical measures, the results indicated that academic experience could affect translation quality. In another study, Tabrizi et al. (2015) carried out a study to assess the Persian translation of Orwell's (1949) *Nineteen Eighty-Four* using House's (1997) model of TQA. After the selection of the sample, the source and target texts register analyses profiles were developed. Besides, their genres are identified. Tabrizi et al. found a handful of overt and covert mismatches. The dimensional mismatches were found in the dimensions of the field, tenor, and mode. In addition, the overtly erroneous cases were classified into omissions, additions, substitutions, and breaches of the target language system. Furthermore, the frequencies of occurrences of subcategories of overt errors along with their percentages were calculated. However, the results and their analysis indicated the literary text investigated was not translated overtly, which ran against House's claim in literary texts are translated overtly.

Ehasani and Zohrabi (2014) applied the House TQA mode to the translation of advertising texts. After the collection of advertising catalogs by three translators, the register analysis of both texts was performed. The comparison of translations and their originals resulted in overtly erroneous errors, covertly erroneous errors, and translation types (overt vs. covert). In addition, the statistical measurement of the chi-square test revealed that there is a significant difference between source texts and their translation. However, the results indicated that the translation of advertising texts was both overtly and covertly translated. In another different and significant study, Zekri and Shahsavr (2016) assessed the quality of drug leaflets based on the House model of TQA. They found that the translation of medical texts also changes translation. These changes were types of overt errors of addition, omission, significant change in meaning, a slight change in meaning, and creative translation.

Khorsand and Salmani (2014) investigated the translation of anthems of *Animal Farm* novels based on House's model of TQA. The researchers first formed the two text profiles on four different levels of function of the individual text, genre, register (field, mode, and tenor), and language/text. Further, they found some errors across translations and were classified as overt and covert. The findings indicated that expert performance does not always guarantee better performance. In addition, the covert errors were different in essence but the same at the rate. In other words, there was a relative covert match between Persian anthems and their English versions. Furthermore, Khorsand and Salmani found that the translator preserved the original content and its tenor changed. Until now, there has been conducted no research on English to Persian compound modifier translation in the press. Overall, journalistic translation is in its infancy and only 15 years is considered. Most of the numerous studies on news language ignore the role of translation in news production (Palmer, 2009). Although a small number of articles on this topic were available before, most research into news translation has been published from the mid-2000s onwards, or perhaps a few years earlier.

The *Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies* was written by multiple specialist authors from around the world and edited by Millan-Varela and Bartrina (2013); this volume brings together authoritative original articles on pressing issues and includes a chapter about news translation as part of its section on specialized translation. Holland, the author of the article, claims that the function of the target text is of paramount importance to understand the changes that any source news text undergoes when rendered into another language. Schäffner (2012) analyzed a corpus of translated journalistic texts and political quotes that were re-contextualized for the home audience (without any reference to the translation act). She shows that institutional and ideological conditions of translation production are of decisive importance in these cases of political



journalism and political communication. The Handbook of Translation Studies includes two entries related to news translation. The first is 'Journalism and translation', written by Van Doorslaer (2010). He stated 'translation forms an integral part of journalistic work: a complex, integrated combination of information gathering, translating, selecting, reinterpreting, contextualizing, and editing. But the other article related to news translation is "media interpreting" which was written by Franz Pöchhacker this entry is about audiovisual translation and is not within the scope of this study.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Using a comparative and corpus-based, this research study attempted to assess the quality of the Persian translation of compound modifiers in the press articles from 2014 to 2017 concerning quality assessment according to House's TQA model. This study's main corpus consisted of news texts in English randomly selected from different newspapers and their Persian equivalents printed in Iran. All of the press articles chosen for this study were randomly selected from politics, sports, arts, science, economics, and the like. The same newspaper articles were used to provide a basis for extracting, analyzing, and comparing the Persian English compound modifiers. Therefore, the corpus of this study consisted of 150 pieces of news selected from Euro News, B.B.C, CNN, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Times, and News Week, as the source texts and their equivalent translations published in local newspapers such as Tasnim, B.B. C Persian, Fars News, ISNA, IRNA, and the like as the target texts.

### **DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

In collecting the data, the researcher selected a corpus and used content analysis to analyze the corpora from a collection of texts. The following principles underlying House's model of TQA were applied. To this end, firstly, the English samples consisting of compound modifiers were compared with their corresponding parts in the Persian translation, and based on House's (1997) model, the ST and TT were analyzed, and their profiles were obtained. Then, the frequency and percentage of occurrences of overt and covert errors were computed. Each error was taken into consideration while calculating the frequency of occurrences. Each error and mismatch was provided with a description and an example from ST and TT. Later on, the quantitative measure of frequency and percentage were used and were calculated to answer the research questions. The process of data analysis includes the following steps:

- 1) Doing a register analysis to present the ST profile,
- 2) Explaining the ST genre recognized in the register,
- 3) Recognizing the ST function,
- 4) Repeating the same steps with the TT,
- 5) Comparing the ST and TT profiles to find out equivalences,
- 6) Identifying the covertly and overtly erroneous errors,
- 7) Determining the overt and covert translations, and
- 8) Providing a statement of quality

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

The data for this study were collected from different news texts. As part of the present study, 150 texts were selected. Then, both translational models, overt and covert, were taken into consideration. After that, out of the Persian translation, the parallel translation of English sentences was extracted. It should be mentioned that since the main aim of this study was examining the English to Persian translation of compound modifiers, the researchers considered the sentences which conveyed the same idea. The researcher started to evaluate the compound modifiers while he knew the presupposition that, since the original English sentences were not part of a literary work, thus it was not essential to be rendered overtly according to House's TQA model. After investigating both types of corpora, Persian, and English press articles, the ST, as well as the TT in each sample were studied to find out the translation of the compound modifiers. One hundred fifty sentences containing compound modifier and their Persian translations were examined by the raters regarding House's TQA model



for data analysis. To fulfill the objectives of the study, two expert and experienced translators (except the researcher) took responsibility. To find out the internal consistency of the two raters, in terms of any disagreement between the raters, they discussed and reached an agreement on the translation quality. At first, the ST and TT profiles, including the field, tenor, mode, genre, and function, were provided. Then, their overt and covert errors and the types of strategies applied by the translators were identified considering the comparative analysis of the ST and TT using House's (1997) TQA model.

In the semantic analysis, it was notable that many of the compound modifiers had overt or covert equivalents in Persian translation. The choice of overt Persian equivalents for two-item modifiers was easier than with more covert equivalents. In this case, the journalist translator should select the Persian equivalents for these modifiers, which were basically in agreement with Iranian culture. The quantitative measures of frequency and percentage were used to answer the research questions. General conclusions were drawn, and the detailed results and discussion were presented in the following sections.

### ANSWERING THE FIRST RESEARCH QUESTION

**RQ1:** Are there any overt/covert errors in the Persian translation of compound modifiers in the press articles based on House's (1997) TQA model?

Applying House's TQA model, the profile of the source text was prepared to answer the first research question. The source text profile includes a register analysis. The register itself contains field, tenor, and mode. Every sub-classification of register again is categorized as lexical, syntactic, and textual means.

#### SOURCE TEXT PROFILE

Using House's model, the ST profile was provided.

**Field:** is the nature of the social action that is occurring. The field can be divided into two parts:

Subject matter: English press articles and News in journals and newspapers from 2014 to 2017.

Social action: General, Politics, Sports, Economics

Based on House's model (1997), the field is analyzed through tripartite means as follows:

#### 1) SYNTACTIC MEANS IN THE SOURCE TEXT

The language of news has specific characteristics of its own. Newspaper language is a mixture of different stylistic aspects, a combination of different kinds of material (Crystal & Davy, 1969; van Dijk, 1988). The language of the press may be said to be a particular discourse that has its own style and vocabulary (Pape & Featherstone, 2005). The language of the newspaper is relatively formal and impersonal. Expressions and colloquial words are not found except in quotations.

In source texts, ample use of passive voice can be shown.

**ST:** The Phalanx has been used by multiple navies around the world.

**TT:** سامانه فالانکس را نیروهای دریایی در سراسر دنیا استفاده می کنند.

#### 2) LEXICAL MEANS IN THE SOURCE TEXT

In language usage, there is the process of a lexical choice and the reason why the users choose these words rather than others (Fairclough, 1995). Pape and Featherstone (2005) showed that when journalists choose any words, they make decisions on how the facts are presented through the selected words. In discourse, to convey ideological meaning lexical choices are the main tools (van Dijk, 1998).

**ST:** Brigadier General Hossein Rahimi has been appointed as the new commander of Tehran's police force, Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

**TT:** به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر ، روز دوشنبه سرتیپ حسین رحیمی به عنوان فرمانده جدید نیروی انتظامی تهران منصوب شده است.

Since there is no equivalent for سردار and نیروی انتظامی in English, the reporter of the ST has selected the words Brigadier General and Police force, instead.

#### 3) TEXTUAL MEANS IN THE SOURCE TEXT

The textual cohesion is achieved through the repetition of topic terms and iconic linkage.



**ST:** Rouhani, who was inaugurated as president for a second four-year term on Saturday, has introduced ministers for 17 ministerial seats, introducing no one for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

**TT:** روحانی که روز شنبه برای یک دوره چهار ساله دوم به عنوان رئیس جمهور شروع به کار کرده ، وزرایی را برای ۱۷ کرسی وزارت معرفی کرده و هیچ کس را برای وزارت علوم ، تحقیقات و فناوری معرفی نکرده است.

**Tenor**

Tenor is the participants' relationship, the author's provenance and stance, social role relationship, and social attitude (House, 1997). A team writes the press articles, rather than a single person; therefore, the authors' temporal, geographical, and social provenances are not known to everyone.

Translator's provenance and stance: Press translators, university instructors, and news translators

Social role relationship: Symmetrical/Asymmetrical

Social attitude: Formal

The authors' geographical, temporal, and social provenance is unknown to everyone, and the English they use are Standard English. The authors' social provenance is not obvious. News articles are published in a print or the Internet news medium such as a newspaper, newsletter, news magazine, news-oriented website, or article directory that discusses the current or recent news of either general interest (i.e., daily newspapers) or on a specific topic (i.e., political or trade news magazines, club newsletters, or technology news websites).

**MODE**

The medium, or the channel, is called simple, which is written to be read. A text can be a simple monologue or a dialogue between two people, or a more complex combination of utterances (House, 1997). Press article sentences are usually longer forms of written texts; more attention is paid to the style of the text than in straight news reports. Most often they are a mixture of pictures, drawings, or other artistic forms.

Medium: written

Participation: Complex

Genre: The genre used to create the press articles is the journalism genre, which refers to different journalism styles, fields, or separate genres in writing accounts of events.

Source text genre: journalism

Source text function: ideational

**TARGET TEXT PROFILE**

**Field:**

Subject matter: Persian press articles and News in journals and newspapers from 2014 until 2017.

Social action: General, Politics, Sports, Economics

**Tenor:**

The press articles are translated by a team of translators, rather than a single person; therefore, any article will have contributions from some people.

Social role relationship: asymmetrical

Social attitude: formal

**Mode:**

Medium: Written

Participation: Complex

Target text genre: journalism

Target text function: Ideational

**COMPARISON OF THE ST AND TT**

The comparison of the ST in terms of tenor showed that the news articles were generally provided by experienced political journalists or reporters in a formal way where the addresser (journalists) and the addressees have various social role relationships; thus, their relationship was regarded as asymmetrical. The same analysis was considered for the TT profile, with the only difference being that in the TT the translator took the author's stance instead of the journalists. In this part, the tenor mismatch was found in the comparison of the profiles of the ST and TT. It was a case of the covertly erroneous errors found while analyzing press articles.





The comparison of the ST and TT also showed 97 out of 150 cases of overtly erroneous errors, including mismatches of denotative meanings and breaches of the target language (Persian) system were identified and presented based on House's model. Overtly erroneous errors are classified into the following items:

#### CHANGE OF DENOTATIVE MEANING THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

**a) Not translated:** This error typically occurs when some words of the source text intentionally or unintentionally are omitted or left with no translation. Here again due to meaning distortion, this is considered a subcategory of overtly erroneous error.

##### Sample:

**ST:** Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government held an independence referendum on September 25 (Tehran Times, 2017).

**TT:** دولت خودمختار منطقه کردستان عراق باره استقلال این منطقه همه پرسى اجرا کرد (مشرق نیوز، ۱۳۹۶).

In the above sample, the compound modifier, semi-autonomous, is made of a numerical prefix (semi) and an adjective (autonomous). Moreover, the reference to the third person can be observed. As it can be seen in the Persian translation, the compound modifier, semi-autonomous which means having a degree of, but not complete, has been changed into خودمختار which means autonomous. Indeed, the prefix (semi) is not translated.

##### Sample:

**ST:** Iran's recently sworn-in President Hassan Rouhani submitted a roster of his ministers to the parliament (the Majlis) for approval (Tehran Times, 2017).

**TT:** حسن روحانی، رئیس جمهور ایران، بعد از ادای سوگند ریاست جمهوری در مجلس شورای اسلامی، فهرست وزرای پیشنهادی خود را برای حضور در کابینه دولت دوازدهم به مجلس فرستاد (بی بی سی فارسی ۱۷ مرداد ۹۶).

As it can be seen, the compound modifier, sworn-in President, is made of a verb (sworn-in) and a noun (president). However, it is not translated as a compound modifier. It is translated as a prepositional phrase, بعد از ادای سوگند ریاست جمهوری.

##### Sample:

**ST:** Iran is working on a home version of the U.S.-made Phalanx (Tehran Times, 2017).

**TT:** فرمانده نیروی دریایی ارتش جمهوری اسلامی ایران از آغاز فرآیند تحقیقات برای ساخت نمونه ایرانی سامانه دفاع دریایی فالانکس خبر داد (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۳).

In this sample, the U.S.-made compound modifier is not translated into TT, and it differs from ST because the writer did not write this word. The omission of this part can be due to political issues.

##### Sample:

**ST:** Iranian Foreign Ministry has warned of widespread famine and risk of starvation in Yemen, blaming Riyadh for the catastrophe in the war-torn country (Tehran Times, 2017).

**TT:** سخنگوی وزارت امور خارجه ایران هشدار داد که خطر قحطی و گرسنگی و فاجعه انسانی در یمن جدی بوده و جامعه جهانی به فکر چاره جویی باشد (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۶).

In this sample, the underlined part containing the war-torn country compound modifier is not translated into TT, and it differs from ST because the writer did not write this word. The omission of this part can be due to political issues.

#### b) Additions

##### Sample:

**ST:** Iran is working on a home version of the U.S.-made Phalanx (Tehran Times, 2017).

**TT:** فرمانده نیروی دریایی ارتش جمهوری اسلامی ایران از آغاز فرآیند تحقیقات برای ساخت نمونه ایرانی سامانه دفاع دریایی فالانکس خبر داد (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۳).

Some words have been added to the underlined compound modifier's translated version to give more information to the target text readers in the above sample. The English compound modifier has been changed into a phrase to convey the message to the TT readers.



### c) Substitutions

#### Sample:

A close-in weapon system (CIWS) for defense against anti-ship missiles; the deputy commander of the Iranian Navy has said (Tehran Times, 2017).

TT: نیروی دریایی ارتش آمریکا از سامانه های دفاع نزدیک دریایی (CIWS) برای مقابله با موشک های ضد کشتی و سایر تهدیدات استفاده می کند که فالانکس (Phalanx CIWS) نام دارد (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۳).

As it can be seen in this sample, for the first underlined compound modifier, the word دفاع has been substituted with the word weapon which means اسلحه. The perception of the reader may be different from that of the writer as a weapon is usually not equivalent to اسلحه. Therefore, the suggested Persian translation is as follows:

#### Sample:

ST: Iran is working on a home version of the U.S.-made Phalanx.

TT: ایران از آغاز فرآیند تحقیقات برای ساخت نمونه ایرانی سامانه دفاع دریایی فالانکس خبر داد (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۳).

In this sample, the phrase نمونه ایرانی is substituted with a home-made-version which means نسخه داخلی or نمونه داخلی.

#### Sample:

ST: The U.S.-educated Zarif was approved as foreign minister by a 232-36 vote.

TT: محمد جواد ظریف تحصیل کرده آمریکا با ۲۳۲ رای موافق و ۳۶ رای مخالف به عنوان وزیر امور خارجه منصوب شد (خبرگزاری ایرنا، ۱۳۹۳).

In this sample, the underlined compound adjective consists of a noun + past participle. In Persian translation, it is translated as an adjective + noun. Since in Persian, the adjective comes after the noun, in the translated version the compound modifier has been placed after the noun, ظریف.

### d) Slight Change in Meaning

#### Sample:

ST: Two ISIS-claimed terrorist attacks on the administrative building of Iran's Majlis and the shrine of Imam Khomeini in Tehran left 17 people killed and 52 injured.

TT: دو تیم تروریستی وابسته به داعش به یکی از ساختمان های اداری مجلس شورای اسلامی و تقریباً همزمان به حرم امام (ره) حمله کردند (خبرگزاری تسنیم، ۱۳۹۶).

As seen, the English compound adjective is made of a noun + past participle. In Persian translation, the compound modifier is translated as an adjective phrase with a slight change in meaning.

### e) Cases of Ungrammaticality

#### Sample:

ST: Russian-made S-300 antiaircraft missile systems (Tehran Times, 2015)

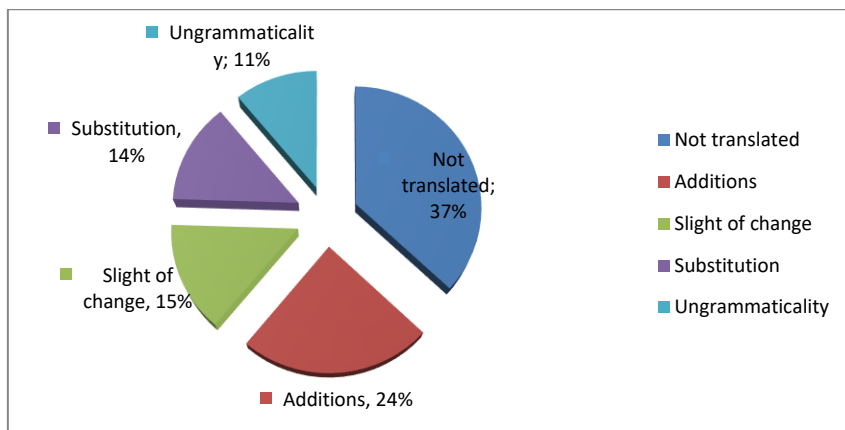
TT: سامانه اس ۳۰۰ روسی (میزان آنلاین، ۱۳۹۵)

Considering the above sample, the word, systems, is a plural noun, but its translation سامانه is a singular noun. It should be mentioned that this type of translation does not cause a challenge.

To categorize the data, the first step was to organize them in a systematic form; that is, overt errors based on House's (1997) TQA model were selected and tabulated alongside their Persian counterparts. Table 1 and Figure 1 show the frequency of overt errors found in the corpus of this study. A total number of 97 overt errors were found in the collected compound modifiers in the press articles.

Table 1 Frequency and Percentage of the Overtly Errors Found in the Corpus of the Study

Overtly Errors	Frequency	Percentage
Not translated	36	37%
Additions	23	24%
A slight change in meaning	14	14.5%
Substitutions	13	13.5%
Cases of ungrammaticality	11	11%
Total	97	100%



**Figure 1** Frequency and percentage of the overt errors found in the corpus of the study

### ANSWERING THE SECOND RESEARCH QUESTION

**RQ2:** Considering the covert notion of House's theory, do Persian translations of English compound modifiers of press articles undergo cultural filtering?

The findings showed that concerning the covert notion of House's theory, the translation of English compound modifiers of press articles does not undergo cultural filtering. There are cases in the data where the translator has omitted the hyphenated compound from the translation altogether and has substituted it with a simple Persian adjective or a phrase.

### ANSWERING THE THIRD RESEARCH QUESTION

**RQ3:** According to the House's TQA model, to which category of overt or covert translations do the translations of compound modifiers belong?

House (1977) makes a distinction between two types of translations: overt and covert translations. The well-known examples of overt translation are literary texts. In the case of covert translations, the function of the ST and TT for both the target groups should remain the same. Regarding House's TQA model, the translation of compound modifiers of the press articles belongs to the covert translation.

### DISCUSSION

This research aimed at analyzing a set of press article translations by comparing the original texts and their Persian translations using the House' (1997) model. For answering the first research question, the register (Field, Tenor, and Mode) and the genre of the ST and TT were analyzed, and then the translation was studied to find mismatches. The comparison of the ST indicated that for the tenor, the news articles were usually prepared by experienced political journalists or reporters in a formal way in which the addresser, the journalists, and the addressees, played different social roles. As a result, their relationship was considered asymmetrical.

The findings revealed interesting facts about the translation of English compound modifiers of press articles into Persian. It was revealed that overt errors were more frequent than covert errors because the translation of compound modifiers requires many translation procedures. Obviously, it can be stated that in the genre of press article translations, there exists some translation errors and problems. Therefore, it was necessary to evaluate the quality of translation in such works with a comprehensive global application benefited by international journalists.



The analysis of the data to answer the second research question showed that cultural filtering did not play a significant role in the translation of English compound modifiers into Persian. Since the focus of this study was on compound modifiers, the cultural filtering was not used to obtain different components of source culture because of cultural differences. Furthermore, the data analysis indicated that a covert kind of translation is needed to translate press articles because the function of the source and target text for both target groups should remain the same. This finding helped the researcher to answer the third research question. Compound modifiers must be translated covertly because press articles are classified under the covert translation of House's translation quality assessment. Therefore, the judgment for assessing the quality of the translation was based on the criteria described for covert translation.

The findings of this study are in agreement with findings reported by Alikhademi (2015) and Tabrizi, et al. (2014), who examined overt and covert errors in the Persian translations of Longman's Medical Embryology and Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four, respectively. The results are in line with the results of a study carried out by Zekri and Shahsavari (2016), who investigated the quality of drug leaflets' Persian translation.

The results of the present study, to some extent, are supported by the findings of a study done by Kargarzadeh and Pazireh (2014) which assessed the quality of the Persian translation of Kite Runner applying House's functional pragmatic model. The outcomes were slight mismatches in field, tenor, and mode, which were considered overt erroneous expressions and leading matches considered covert translation. The mismatches were some mistranslations of tenses and the selection of improper meanings for the lexicon. Since the informal and culture-specific terms were transferred completely, the culture filter was not applied.

The findings are partially in agreement with the results of a study conducted by Nemati Moghadam and Rezaee (2017), who assessed the quality of the Persian translation of the book Principles of Marketing based on House's TQA model. The outcomes revealed dimensional mismatches classified based on the various register dimensions, including field, tenor, and mode, and overt and covert errors. All mismatches on the different levels of register also indicated that the cultural filter was used in translation.

However, the findings are not in line with Jamali and Vahid Dastjerdi (2015) who assessed the semantic adequacy through English translations of Persian official texts in focus. They showed that many of the articles under their study have been translated accurately considering semantic adequacy, while a number of them have been erroneously translated in this respect. Considering the frequently observed errors in the English translations of Persian official texts, the researchers not only expected a lack of errors in translators' renderings but also expected to learn from them because translations were carried out by official translators of the judiciary, concerning the fact that these translators are usually acquainted with official texts and legal conditions.

## CONCLUSION

Considering the findings of this study it can be concluded that the translators sometimes completely ignore some terms and use the equivalents that lead to a complete distortion of meaning. In some instances, the translators faced some local and cultural terms; in this case, they selected their best alternatives. In some cases, translators have not translated the words and have kept the original form and used the nearest equivalent in the English language and culture. Compound modifiers must be translated covertly since press articles have been classified under the covert translation of House's TQA. Several previous research studies revealed that translators meet difficulties during translating press articles (Chilton, 2004; Schäffner & Bassnett, 2010). Consequently, any effort to find ways to reduce translation problems made by translators and improve their ability to translate press articles is remarkable.

The findings of this study have different implications for those who practice in research programs. Given the cultural differences in translation, individuals have to profoundly understand a foreign culture and language and know how to master the way to apply translation in cultural interactions. The findings of this study can be useful for translation trainers and those who are interested in the field of Translation Studies. The findings are also beneficial for a novice, professional, and freelance translators. They can familiarize themselves with the strategies and procedures used for translating compound modifiers in press articles. The working procedures of



editorial teams would be another effective area to study. One main focus should be on enhancing the realization level of translation and translators' role in producing reports of international news. Editorial teams should be more selective in acknowledging the application of terminologies in the reporting of international news phenomena before publishing finished reports.

#### REFERENCES

- Alikhademi, A. (2015). The application of House's model on Longman's medical embryology and Its Persian translation. *British Journal of Education*, 3(2), 1-20. Retrieved from [www.eajournals.org](http://www.eajournals.org)
- Berman, A. (2000). Translation and the trials of the foreign. In L. Venuti (Ed.), *The translation studies reader* (pp. 284-297). London: Routledge.
- Bühler, A. (1998). Vier vorurteile über hermeneutic-Eine Polemik," Hermeneutik und Naturalismus. In B. Kanitschneider & F. J. Wetz (Eds.), Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 83-97.
- Chilton, P. (2004). *Analyzing political discourse: Theory and practice*. London: Routledge.
- Crystal, D. (2004). *Rediscover grammar*. Harlow: Pearson Education.
- Crystal, D., & Davy, D. (1969). *Investigation English style*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Darbelnet, J. (1977). Levels of translation. *Babel*, 13(1), 6-16. doi.org/10.2307/412181
- Dukate, A. (2007). *Manipulation as a specific phenomenon in translation and interpreting*. Riga: University of Latvia.
- Ehsani, F., & Zohrabi, K. (2014). Assessing translation of advertising text (English-persian) based on House's functional-pragmatic model of TQA. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 98, 420-424. DOI: 10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.03.435
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Media Discourse*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Farahzad, F. (1992). Testing achievement in translation classes. In C. Dollerup & A. Loddegaard (Eds.), *Teaching translation and interpreting: training, talent, and experience* (pp. 271-278). Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing Company.
- Farghal, M., & Al-Mumin, F. (2016). Hyphenated English compound adjectives in Arabic translation: The case of Dan Browns the Da Vinci Code. *Jordan Journal of Modern Languages and Literature*, 8(2), 157-175.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (2001): *Towards a theory of good translation*. In E. Steiner & C. Yallop, (2001a), *Exploring translation and multi-lingual text production: Beyond context*. (pp. 13-18).
- House, J. (1981): *A model for translation quality assessment*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.
- House, J. (1997). *Translation quality assessment: A model revisited*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr.
- House, J., (2006). Text and context in translation. *Journal of Pragmatics* 38(3), 338-358.
- House, J. (Ed.) (2014). *Translation: A multidisciplinary approach*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- House, J. (2015). *Translation quality assessment: Past and present*. New York: Routledge.
- Jamali, N., & Dastjerdi, H. V. (2015). Assessment of semantic adequacy: English translations of Persian official texts in focus. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 5(12), 2571-2580.
- Kargarzadeh, F., & Pazireh, A. (2017). Assessing the quality of Persian translation of Kite Runner based on House's (2014) functional pragmatic model. *International Journal of English Language & Translation Studies*, 5(1), 117-126.
- Khorsand, M., & Salmani, B. (2014). Anthems as propaganda: A discursal translation quality assessment. *International Journal of Language Learning and Applied Linguistics World (IJLLALW)*, 5(3), 222-237. <http://www.ijllalw.org/finalversion5319.pdf>
- Koller, W. (1974). Anmerkungen zu definitionen des übersetzungs'vorgangs' und der übersetzungskritik', in W, Wilss & G, Thome (Eds) *Aspekte der Theoretischen, Sprachenpaarbezogenen und Angewandten Sprachwissenschaft*, (pp. 35-45). Heidelberg: Groos.
- Lane-Mercier, G. (1997). Translating the untranslatable. The translator's aesthetic, ideological and political responsibility. *Target*, 9(1), 43-48.
- Milikic, B. (2010). *A translation study focusing on the translation of adjectives and constructions with of* (Unpublished Master's Thesis), Linnaeus University, Sweden. Retrieved from: <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:332239/fulltext01>



- Millan-Varela, C., & Bartrina, F. (Eds.). (2013). *The Routledge handbook of translation studies*. Routledge.
- Nemati Moghaddam, M., & Rezaee, M. (2017). Assessing the quality of Persian translation of the book "Principles of Marketing" based on the House's (TQA) model. *Journal of language and translation*, 7(4), 49-64. 20.1001.1.20088590.2017.7.4.4.4
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A textbook of translation*. Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall.
- Nida, E. A. (1964). *Toward a science of translating*. Leiden: E. J. Brill.
- Nida, E. A., & Taber, C. (1969). *The theory and practice of translation*. Leiden: Brill.
- Nord, C. (1991). *Text analysis in translation*. Rodopi, Amsterdam- Atlanta.
- Nord, C. (2005). *Text analysis in translation*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Palmer, J. (2009). News gathering and dissemination. In M. Baker & G. Saldanha (Eds.), *Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies* (2nd ed., pp. 186-189). London: Routledge.
- Pape, S., & Featherstone, S. (2005). *Newspaper Journalism: A Practical Introduction*. London: SAGE Publications.
- Reiß, K. (1968). Überlegungen zu einer theorie der übersetzungskritik', *Linguistica Antverpiensia*, 2, 369-83.
- Reiß, K. (1971). *Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Übersetzungskritik*. Munich: Hueber.
- Schäffner, C. (2012). Unknown agents in translated political discourse. *Target. International Journal of Translation Studies*, 24(1), 103-125. doi.org/10.1075/target.24.1.07sch
- Schäffner, C., & Bassnett, S. (2010). *Political discourse, media and translation*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Tabrizi, H. H., Chalak, A., & Taherioun, A. H. (2014). Assessing the quality of Persian translation of Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four based on House's model: Overt-covert translation distinction. *Acta Linguistica Asiatica*, 4(3), 29-42.
- Valdeón, R. A. (2012b). Information, communication, translation. In Y. Gambier & L. van Doorslaer (Eds.), *Handbook of translation studies* (Vol. 3, pp. 66-72). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- van Dijk, T. A. (1988). *News as discourse*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- van Dijk, T. (1998). *Ideology: a multidisciplinary approach*. London: SAGE Publication.
- Van Doorslaer, L. (2010). Journalism and translation. *Handbook of translation studies*, 1, 180-184.
- Varzande, M., & Jadidi, E. (2015). The effect of translators' emotional intelligence on their translation quality. *English language teaching*, 8(8), 104-111.
- Waddington, C. (2001). Different methods of evaluating student translations: The question of validity, *Meta: Translators' Journal*, 46(2), 311-325. <https://doi.org/10.7202/004583ar>CopiedAn e
- Zekri, A., & Shahsavari, Z. (2016). Quality assessment of Persian translation of English pharmaceutical leaflets based on House's model. *International Journal of English Language & Translation Studies*, 4(4), 67-76.
- Zhang, M., Pan, H., Chen, X., & Luo T. (2015). Mapping discourse analysis in translation studies via bibliometrics: a survey of journal articles. *Perspectives*, 23(2), 223-239.