



Translators' Gender and Transference of Aesthetic Factors in the Translation of Rhymed Prose

Reza Keramat¹, Hafeze Raees Yazdi*²

¹M.A. Department of English Language Translation, Alborz Institute of Higher Education, Alborz, Iran
Keramatreza@gmail.com

²M.A., Department of English Language Translation, Alborz Institute of Higher Education, Alborz, Iran
Yazdnarcis@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the present research was to probe the probable relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. The purpose was achieved through descriptive, comparative, and relational tests and analysis. A translation protocol, consisting of 10 rhymed prose sentences which were translated by 25 female and 25 male BA students of English translation. These students were selected amongst 115 students through the series of processes. Translated rhymed prose sentences were assessed by two raters who were MA student of English translation with Waddington model of translation quality assessment. After analyzing the assessed papers, the researchers came to this conclusion that male participants mainly focused on the diction and form of rhymed prose sentences whereas female ones mainly focused on meaning and grammatical points. So male participants could transfer aesthetic factors better and it revealed that there was a relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. The researchers used T-test operation and concluded that the relation between above said issues was significant.

Keywords: Gender, Aesthetic factors, Rhymed prose, Translation process, Translation quality assessment

جنسیت مترجمان و انتقال عوامل زیبایی شناختی در ترجمه نثر قافیه دار

هدف پژوهش حاضر بررسی رابطه احتمالی جنسیت مترجمان و انتقال عوامل زیبایی شناختی در ترجمه نثر قافیه دار بود. این هدف با استفاده از آزمون ها و تحلیل های توصیفی، مقایسه ای و رابطه ای محقق شد. یک پروتکل ترجمه شامل ۱۰ جمله نثر قافیه دار که توسط ۲۵ دانشجوی دختر و ۲۵ دانشجوی پسر کارشناسی مترجمی انگلیسی ترجمه شده است. دانشجویان از بین ۱۱۵ دانش آموز طی یک سری فرآیند انتخاب شدند. جملات نثر قافیه دار ترجمه شده توسط دو ارزیاب با تمرکز بر مدل کیفیت وادینگتون مورد ارزیابی قرار گرفتند. پس از تجزیه و تحلیل مقالات ارزیابی شده، محققان به این نتیجه رسیدند که شرکت کنندگان پسر عمدتاً بر روی لغت و شکل جملات نثر قافیه دار تمرکز کردند، در حالی که شرکت کنندگان زن عمدتاً روی معنی و نکات دستوری تمرکز داشتند. بنابراین شرکت کنندگان مرد توانستند عوامل زیبایی شناختی را بهتر منتقل کنند و مشخص شد که بین جنسیت مترجم و انتقال عوامل زیبایی شناختی در ترجمه نثر قافیه رابطه وجود دارد. محققان با استفاده از آزمون تی به این نتیجه رسیدند که رابطه بین موضوعات فوق معنی دار است.

واژگان کلیدی: جنسیت، عوامل زیبایی شناختی، نثر قافیه دار، فرآیند ترجمه، ارزیابی کیفیت ترجمه

INTRODUCTION

Translation, as Richards claims, is probably the most complex type of event in the history of the cosmos (Nida, 1993). Many factors are crucial to the process of translating. All of these factors are categorized into three main categories: language, culture & translators' personal conditions. Each of these main categories has some sub-categories. One of these sub-categories is gender. Gender is a complicated issue and has a trace of all three main categories of language, culture & translators' personal conditions within itself. According to Chamberlian (1998, p. 96), "the issues relating to gender in the practice of translation are myriad, varying widely according to the type of text being translated, the language involved, cultural practices and many other factors". So, gender plays a significant role in the process of translation and quality of translated text.

In the present research the researchers examined the role of translators' gender on the transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. Rhymed prose is like poetry without line break. Although it resembles a short piece of prose, with a specific message but its allegiance to poetry can be seen in the use of aesthetic factors such as poetic diction, form, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and rhyme (internal rhyme). Because of the above said aesthetic factors translators have a hard task in the process of Rhymed Prose translation. So, translators cannot easily find the equivalences of source language words in the target language and replace them with each other according to the norms of target language rather they should focus on the form and aesthetic factors too in order to create an acceptable and aesthetic translation.

Translation is the process of transferring form and content from source language into target language. Transference of content unlike form is not too problematic. According to Jakobson (cited in Munday, 2001, p. 37): "The problem of meaning and equivalence focuses on differences in the structure and terminology of language rather than inability of one language in expressing message written in another language." In rhymed prose translation, form is very important. So, translators should choose the proper lexicon and grammatical structure in order to transfer it to the best form.

Since different studies such as Lakoff (cited in Wardhaugh 1990) and Yule (1996) have proven that male and female use different lexicon and grammatical structure in their speech, their translation will be different too. But nowadays people who involve in the translation programme rarely concentrate on this issue. For example, professors at university have been assessing translation performance of students regardless of their gender. They also expect both genders to produce the same-quality translation. Moreover, the publishers and translation centers give different types of text to both genders for translation regardless of their gender. This issue, not caring for translators' gender, roots from this assumption that gender could not have any effects on translation. This study tried to investigate the probable relation between gender and translation. Since translation is a broad area of research, the researchers just focused on the probable relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Fairus and Fauzi (2017) has investigated the role of gender in the process translation. Qualitative method was used in this study and the data gathered analyzing a recount text and determining some phrases as the base of analysis to be translated by four samples, two males and two females. As a result, after the



analysis made, it has been concluded that gender in particular might affect the translation works. Although there were some differences, not any proof found that showed gender might affect translation works significantly.

Mahjabin, Sayadian & Naeimi (2016) investigated the role of gender in Persian translations of a Thousand Splendid Suns based on Waddington's model, method C. Although there were some deletion cases in male's translation, the results of chi-square showed that there was not any significant difference between the translators in their success to maintain the quality and accuracy in translation. The results of the study showed that the female translators outperformed the male counterpart in completing the part of accuracy.

Moghaddas (2013) investigated the effect of gender in translation accuracy of Iranian English translators. Regarding the issue, six English novels and their equivalent translations were used. Each translation was compared with the target text sentence by sentence and the inappropriate translations which were influential and effective on the target text understanding and translation accuracy were studied. The total number of the inappropriate translations in each group for male and female translators were counted and surveyed. The observations after data analysis and statistical calculations rejected the hypothesis referring the difference in the translations of male and female's translators in translation accuracy.

Shafiee & Rabeie, (2011) examined the effect of gender ideology of the translators on two Persian translations of Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights. The findings revealed that although both translations have many similar features in respect to some maxims of translation, in both of them gender ideology of the translator is a key figure in translating the gender related items/parts of the source text, as each translator uses his/her own gender ideology in the interpretation and transformation of the SL text into TL.

Golavar (2009) analyzed the relationship between the gender of a translator and the gender of the evaluator of the work of that translator. The researcher hypothesized that if a male rater is to evaluate a translated text done by both a man and a woman, he would unconsciously choose the translation of the same gender and vice versa. The test included 20 questions; it was designed based on two translations of one chapter of a short story which was translated one by a male and the other by a female translator from English to Persian. The data analysis of the study showed that the relationship between the variables of the study was not proved and the research hypothesis was rejected.

METHOD

Research Design

This study followed the ex-post facto design since the researchers observed the event, discovered, measured, and determined the degree of relation between two variables which were Translators' Gender and Transference of Aesthetic factors. So, it followed a cause & effect design. The translation of 10 sentences of Khawjah Abdullah litany book which were written in rhymed prose done by both male and female semi-professional translators (participants) were compared and contrasted in the form of relational, comparative and descriptive tests.



Participants

The study was conducted by administering the tests (homogenizing translation test and rhymed prose translation test) among 115 BA students of English translation at Shahid Bahonar university of kerman (1 class), Islamic Azad university of Kerman (1 class) and Payam-e- Noor University of kerman (1 class). The first class had 38 female students and only 6 male students, the second class had 20 female and 14 male students, and the last one had 25 female and 12 male students. The researchers only analyzed the girl's performance of the first class and boy's performance of all three classes. Moreover, after analyzing their performance in the translation of tests, 8 females and 4 males had been omitted again because their score was less than 15 in their homogenizing test. Thus, 30 female students and 28 male students had remained for further analysis. Based on Mohammadi (personal communication, May 20, 2012) the researchers needed at least 50 participants (25 females and 25 males) to reach a valid and reliable score by T-Test operation of SPSS software. So, he had chosen 25 female participants out of 30 ones and 25 male participants out of 28 ones through systemic random sampling.

Instruments

In the present research, the researchers provided a homogenizing translation test and a rhymed prose translation test. Homogenizing translation test contained a short story which was written in simple prose (appendix 1) in order to measure the participant's general ability in translation. The researchers had chosen this story because it was a literary text. In fact, this story was originally written in rhymed prose by one of the great Iranian poets, Mullana, (1260), but Fathi (1380) had rewritten it in prose and put it in his own weblog(www.masnavi.persianblog.ir). Moreover, this short text was chosen since it could save participant's energy for the main test, rhymed prose translation, to show their best performance.

Rhymed prose translation test contained 10 sentences of rhymed prose(appendix 1) which were chosen from the Abdullah Ansari litany book (2008) because its form was very close to poetry and its translation was gender bound. Indeed, the researchers had to find a rhymed prose which had the most allegiance to poetry, since aesthetic factors such as poetic diction, form, and rhyme could be seen better in it. The rhymed prose which was written by Ansari had such features, that is, having allegiance to poetry. The rhymes in which Ansari made were a kind of poetry because most of its symmetries are coupled (mozdavaj), studded (morasaa), and rhymed (mosajaa) that sometimes imitated the eight-syllable & rhymed chants in Sasanid era. Moreover, the rhymed prose of Ansari was the best of all according to Zarinkoob (2004). He stated that, amongst all the rhymed prose writers, Ansari was the best because he had been under the effects of Arab literature, that is, he was grown up by literature and poetry of Arabs, so he could write nice rhymed prose. Zarinkoob continued that Ansari was the only person who could create a good balance between form and meaning (2004). Therefore, the researchers chose this prose for the above said reasons.

Theoretical framework

The researchers have used the "Method A" which was proposed by Waddington regarding translation quality assessment in order to discover whether there were any significant differences between the translation done by male and female translators in term of transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. This method was based on Hurtado's model (1995) which broke down errors



into three macro-categorical of understanding, expression, and function (Mueis cited in Ghodrati, 2009, p 4). Waddington's "Method A" unlike other models was a very analytic model for translation quality assessment. Waddington carefully itemized different factors which are important in the process of translation. Indeed, Waddington model of translation quality assessment had two categories

Table 1

Waddington Model of Translation Quality Assessment

First category	Paragraph or sentence number	Second category	Paragraph or sentence number
Accuracy parameters	Score	Expression & Aesthetic parameters	Score
1. nonsense		1. grammar	
2. addition		2. lexical items	
3. omission		3. style	
4. unresolved linguistic reference		4. main function	
5. loss of meaning		5. secondary function	

Data Collection Procedures

The participants were asked to take a test including two parts within 90 minutes:

- a) First, a homogenizing translation test
- b) Second, a rhymed prose translation test

This two-part test was taken as a mid-term examination of students in the course of translation workshop in order to have the best performance of students (participants). They were allowed to use dictionaries but they did not have the permission to consult with each other or asked anything from anyone while taking the test. After taking these tests, the researchers asked two raters who were post graduate student of English translation to assess according to tables which were designed by the researchers based on "Method A" of Waddington model (2001). Waddington himself assessed translation based on errors. Every serious error had minus 2 (-2) score and every minor error had minus 1(-1) score; on the other hand, every exceptional good solution had plus 2 (+2) score and every good solution had only plus 1 (+1) score. But this kind of scoring is a little subjective, so the researchers used this model and parameters differently. He provided two tables based on the above said parameters for translation quality assessment (Table 2 &3).

Table 2

First Category of Waddington Model for Assessing Homogenizing Translation Test

1. Nonsense parameter	score
The translator frequently uses nonsense expression in his/her performance	1
The translator sometimes uses nonsense expression in his/her performance	2



The translator rarely uses nonsense expression in his/her performance	3
The translator never uses nonsense expression in his/her performance	4
2. Addition parameter	
The translator frequently uses addition technique in his/her performance inappropriately	1
The translator sometimes uses addition technique in his/her performance inappropriately	2
The translator rarely uses addition technique in his/her performance inappropriately	3
The translator uses addition technique in his/her performance appropriately	4
3. Deletion parameter	
The translator frequently uses deletion technique in his/her performance inappropriately	1
The translator sometimes uses deletion technique in his/her performance inappropriately	2
The translator rarely uses deletion technique in his/her performance inappropriately	3
The translator uses deletion technique in his/her performance appropriately	4
4. Unresolved extra linguistic reference parameter	
Unresolved extra linguistic elements are frequently found in translation.	1
Unresolved extra linguistic elements are sometimes found in translation.	2
Unresolved extra linguistic elements are rarely found in translation.	3
Unresolved extra linguistic elements are never found in translation.	4
5. Loss of meaning parameter	
The translator has rarely been able to communicate the intended meaning of the ST.	1
The translator has relatively been able to communicate the intended meaning of the ST.	2
The translator has mostly been able to communicate the intended meaning of the ST.	3
The translator has been able to communicate the intended meaning of the ST.	4

Table 3

Second Category of Waddington Model for Assessing of Rhymed Prose Translation Test

	Score
1. Grammar parameter	
The text is dominated by grammatical inaccuracy. Comprehension is obstructed because almost none of the sentences are grammatically well-formed.	1
Serious grammatical errors are very frequent; however, few sentences are well-formed. Comprehension is difficult	2
There are some grammatical inaccuracies; however, there are several well-formed sentences. Comprehension requires reading the text.	3
There are few, if any, grammatical inaccuracies. Comprehension is not obstructed by any grammatical inaccuracy.	4
2. Vocabulary parameter	
	Score



The frequent use of imprecise, ineffective, and inadequate use of vocabulary has made it difficult to comprehend some parts of the translation.	1
The vocabulary used is rather precise; however, there are rare cases in which ineffective use of vocabulary has obstructed comprehension.	2
Despite the few imprecise and ineffective use of vocabulary, comprehension is not obstructed.	3
Effective and adequate vocabulary is used precisely. The vocabulary used in the translation corresponds to the vocabulary used in the ST.	4
3. Style parameter	
Score	
In most cases, the TT style does not correspond to that of ST.	1
In some cases, the TT style does not correspond to that of ST.	2
In a few cases, the TT style does not correspond to that of ST.	3
The TT style corresponds to that of ST.	4
4. main function parameter	
Score	
There are frequent problems as evidence of the mismatch between the main function of the TT and that of ST.	1
The translator seems to have a general understanding of the ST main function. Yet there are some problems which have slightly changed the main function of the TT.	2
Although some problems are observable; the main function of the ST and that of TT are the same.	3
The main function of the TT is the same as that of the ST.	4
5. secondary function parameter	
Score	
There are frequent problems as evidence of the mismatch between the secondary function of the TT and that of ST.	1
The translator seems to have a general understanding of the ST secondary function. Yet there are some problems which have slightly changed the secondary function of the TT.	2
Although some problems are observable; the secondary function of the ST and that of TT are the same.	3
The secondary function of the TT is the same as that of the ST.	4

Each table contains 5 parameters and each parameter has divided into four parts in order to make assessment as objective as possible. In other word, the raters used the first category of "Method A" for assessing the homogenizing translation test and the second category of "Method" for assessing the rhymed prose translation of rhymed prose. When the papers were assessed, the researchers analyzed scores and omitted the students whose grades in homogenising test were less than 15 and only analyzed the scores of the rest of the students in prose translation tests in two ways. First, he analyzed them item by item, parameters by parameters. Second, he analyzed the scores by through independent sample T-Test operation in order to see whether there was any significant relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. After analyzing scores of participants



in each parameter separately, the researchers concluded that male participants can transfer the aesthetic factors of rhymed prose better, but in order to accept or reject the null-hypothesis of the research, the researchers had needed to analyze the final scores of both male and female participants by SPSS software. After analyzing by SPSS, the following results have been defined:

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researchers scrutinized each parameter separately and compared female and male performance with each other. After analyzing and comparing, the researchers reached the following results:

1. Grammar parameter

Females had less grammatical errors than males in their translation; that is, 60% of females and 25% of males had no grammatical inaccuracy in their translation.

2. Lexicon parameter

Although both male and female participants used few ineffective vocabularies, only 20% of boys and 0% of girls had precisely used adequate and effective vocabularies.

3. Style parameter

Although both male and female participants had weak performance in the translation and transference of style and aesthetic factors from source language to target language, male participants had the better one; that is, 32% of males and 0% of female could exactly create the source text style and aesthetic factors in target language.

4. Main & Secondary function parameter

Male participants have focused more on main function while female ones have focused on secondary function. In other word, where 48% of males and 0% of females exactly fulfilled the main function of translation, 44% of female and 36% of males can exactly fulfill the secondary function in their translation.

To sum up, males had better performance in using effective vocabulary and transferring source language style and aesthetic factors while females' translation was more accurate, having less grammatical errors, and focused on the meaning more than style.

Table 4

T-Test Operation

Dimension	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
	Male	25	17.3400	1.32853	.26571
	Female	25	16.2400	.92556	.18511

This table clearly illustrates number of participants, the mean score of them, standard deviation and its mean. The number of participants in both genders was 25. The mean score of male participants was 17.34 while female ones were 16.24. So, it could be concluded that male participants could transfer aesthetic factors better and gained better score by raters. But in order to understand whether the n-



hypothesis was rejected or accepted, the Sig. (2-tailed) in table 5 should be checked. Before checking the Sig. (2-tailed), the Sig at the Levene' test should be checked in table 4.12 in order to see whether the variances were homogenous or not.

Table 5

Levene's Test for Equality of Variances

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means	
		F	Sig.	T	Df
RPT S	Equal variances assumed	7.348	.009	3.397	48
	Equal variances not assumed			3.397	42.856

In this table the sig at Leven's test for equality of variances should be checked. The sig. was 0.009 which was more than 0.005, so it can be concluded that the variances are homogenous and the Sig. (2-tailed) in the first row of the next table (table 6) should be checked for the acceptance or rejection of the n-hypothesis.

Table 6

Independent Samples T-test for Equality of Means

		T-test for Equality of Means		
		Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
RPTS	Equal variances assumed	.001	1.10000	.32383
	Equal variances not assumed	.001	1.10000	.32383

When the Sig. (2-tailed) in the first row, equal variances assumed, was checked, it could be seen that the sig. was 0.001 which was less than 0.001. So, the n-hypothesis was rejected and it can be concluded that the relation between gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose was significant.

This study proved that female participants unlike male ones focused on meaning and grammar more than using effective vocabularies and transferring style and beauty in their translation of rhymed prose. This finding had some similarities and differences to/with previous findings.

Firstly, Yule (1996) stated that women unlike men most often use grammatical, prestigious and bookish form. This issue has proven in the present research too, that is, 64% of female participants followed grammatical structure while only 24% of male participants followed grammatical structure.

Secondly, in some studies such as Lakoff (cited in Wardhaugh, 1990) it has proven that women usually use color words in their speech and writing, so it is assumed that female participants should choose more effective vocabularies in the process of rhymed prose translation but the present research



proved that male participants used more effective vocabularies. To be more precise, 24% of male participants and 0% of female ones precisely used adequate and effective vocabularies.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This study was designed in order to investigate the probable relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose. This kind of prose was gender bound issue in translation studies, since it contained aesthetic factors such as diction, rhyme, form, etc. In order to conduct such research a five-step processes had been undertaken. In the first step, the researchers had given a two-part translation test –homogenizing translation test and rhymed prose translation test – to 115 female and male students of three universities. They were participants of this study. They had to translate this test within 90 minutes from Persian to English.

Although 115 students were existed, the translation papers of just 70 of them, 38 female and 32 males, were selected for further analysis. After selecting, in the second step, these translated papers were given to two raters who were MA student of English translation and acquainted with Waddington model (2001) in advance. This model was selected by researchers for assessment amongst other models such as Farahzad (1992), Sainz (1992), Qinai (2000), Beeby (2000); since it was very analytical and carefully itemized different factors which were important in the process of translation quality assessment.

After assessing in the third step, the researchers omitted those participants whose score in homogenizing translation test was less than 15 in order to increase the reliability and validity of the results. Then he extracted 25 female and 25 male participants for both descriptive and empirical analysis.

After descriptive analysis, in the fourth step, the researchers came to this conclusion that male participants had better performance in the transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed pros; in other word, male participants mainly focused on diction and form which were elements of aesthetic. On the other hand, female participants mainly focused on grammar and meaning which were elements of comprehension. Thus, it could be concluded that there is a relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose but in order to test the hypothesis, in the last step, the researchers used t-test operation with SPSS software and reached this conclusion that, their relation is significant.

The present research investigated the probable relation between translators' gender and transference of aesthetic factors in the translation of rhymed prose and came to this conclusion that there was a significant relation between these two under research issues and it is also proven that male participants could transfer aesthetic factors better in the process of rhymed prose translation and produce a more qualified translation. Therefore, people who are involved in the translation programme such as teachers, curriculum designers and publishers could benefit the result of this study. Teachers for many years used to assess the performance of students in literary translation equally courses that include aesthetic factors, regardless of their gender. But from now on the teachers can assess based on students' capabilities. Moreover, curriculum designers may create some changes in the courses of translation programme in order to make the translation of male and female participants more equal.

The most noticeable implication of this study is for publishers since they are engaged in translating different literary books and publishing them. Up to now, they assume that gender is not affective on the translation but now based on the present study they understand that male participants transfer aesthetic



factors better and produce a better translation. Thus, they can make some changes in their translation policy.

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Biodata

Mr. Reza Keramat is M.A. in English Translation at Alborz higher education university, Qazvin. He has been involved in teaching English for more than 16 years at universities, high schools and language



institutes. He has been teaching English in Chmaran technical university of Kerman and different institutes and high schools of Kerman. His main areas of interests include foreign language teaching, innovative methods of teaching, analysis of students' language learning and teacher training.

Email: Keramatreza@gmail.com

Ms. Hafeze Raees Yazdi is M.A. in English Translation at Alborz higher education university, Qazvin. She has been involved in teaching English for more than 10 years at universities, high schools and language institutes. She has authored some papers in international and national academic journals and presented in several national and international conferences. Her main areas of interest include methods and techniques of translation teaching, re-translation, machine translation and translation studies.

Email: yazdnarcis@gmail.com

