

Explicitation as a Universal Translation Technique in an Arabic Translation of Gibran Khalil Gibran's "The Prophet"

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Abstract

This paper aims to examine the occurrences of explicitation as a universal translation technique. This technique has been investigated thoroughly and it became known in the field of translation as one of the translation universals as discussed by Baker (1998/2005, p.289). Explicitation has different techniques and they occur with different frequencies. As a result of the different frequencies of the explicitation occurrence, the paper seeks to investigate and introduce the reasons behind these different frequencies. Concerning the analysis performed, El-Nashar's (2016) framework is used as the tool of the analysis. The paper analyzes an English literary text that is translated into Arabic which is "The Prophet" which was written by Gibran Khalil Gibran in 1926 and translated by Tharwat Okasha in 1959. The number of words in the source text is 1,202 words while the number of words in the target text is 930 words, which reveals that explicitation occurrence is not a condition to have a longer translated text. So the aim of the paper is to find corroborate evidence that the explicitation usage is not only essential to the translation process, but it is a required technique that adds to the translated product.

Keywords: Explicitation, Universal Translation Technique, Translation-inherent, Pragmatic- inherent - The prophet

1. Introduction

1.1 Context of the Study

The explicitation technique has passed through different developing stages to reach the current concept known about it as one of the translation universals. These stages started after the first introduction to the explicitation as a technique by Vinay & Darbelnet (1958) till being a translation universal as Baker discussed (Baker, 1998/2005, p.289). Furthermore, Klaudy (2009) explains that explicitation usage is dictated by differences in cultures in order to transfer what is considered a general knowledge in the ST (which can be understood implicitly in ST) in to the TT (like the names of villages, places and items etc.). Moreover, Pym (2005) introduces explicitation as a model to manage the risk of minimization and avoid the risk of leaving the target reader in the dark missing any implicit meaning communicated. As a result, the study investigates explicitation techniques in accordance to these latest descriptions which raises new hypotheses and research questions about the nature of the occurrence of explicitation and the reasons behind the occurrence.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The paper aims to investigate the level of occurrences of the explicitation techniques in the literary translated text of "The Prophet" which is written by Gibran Khalil Gibran in 1926 in English and is translated by Tharwat Okasha in 1959 into Arabic. The analysis aims to provide evidence that explicitation is a required translation universal technique. Another aim is to identify the rate of frequencies for each subcategory of explicitation to present evidence that using explicitation with high frequency of occurrence is not a condition to have a longer redundant translated text (Séguinot, 1988). Besides the previous point, the paper aims to investigate why the target text is shorter in the presence of the occurrence of the explicitation.

1.3 Research Questions

The paper attempts to answer the following questions.

- 1- What is the level of occurrence for the explicitation technique?
- 2- What could be the reasons behind the level of occurrences revealed in the analysis?
- 3- How the length of the translated text is affected by the level of occurrence?

1.4 Rationale of the Study

To address the research questions proposed, the data is analyzed by applying El-Nashar's (2016) framework which has been applied on an official document translated into Arabic. It has given evidence that explicitation is a required universal translation technique and it is recommended to use the same framework on analyzing a different kind of text which is literary texts. As a result, this paper applies the framework on the literary work "The prophet" that was written by Gibran Khalil Gibran in 1926 and its translation by Tharwat Okasha in 1959 seeking to provide evidence in regard to the occurrence of explicitation as a main part of the translation process. In addition, to find corroborate proof that the explicitation usage is not a condition for having a longer translated text.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The paper analyses the first chapter of the literary work "The prophet" that was written by Gibran Khalil Gibran in 1923, as well as, its Arabic translation performed by Tharwat Okasha in 1959. The source text consists of 1,202 words and they are translated into 930 words. The analysis is conducted by using Nashar's eclectic framework (2016) to spot the occurrences of the explicitation in target text in comparison to the source text. The framework has 10 sub-categories (explained in section 3.2).

1.6 Significance of the Study

Various papers have investigated explicitation as a phenomenon previously. Now, after explicitation became a universal translation technique and a required part of the translation process (Blum-kulka, (1986/2000) and Baker (1998/2005, p.289)), new hypotheses and questions are raised regarding this current concept. As a result, the paper aims to find evidence regarding this current perspective "universal translation" and also address the matter of longevity of the translation in the presence of explicitation. Another significant point is using applying the eclectic framework devised by Nashar (2016). Nashar recommended using the framework in analyzing literary data. This paper is the first to use and apply the framework that Nashar recommended.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Explicitation as a universal technique

In accordance to Murtisari (2016), the explicitation concept has passed through a lot of stages till reaching the current stage that defines explicitation as

a translation universal. Murtisari (2016) highlighted different stages which I believe that three of these stages are considered turning points in the development of the explicitation concept. The first stage represents the introduction of the explicitation as a strategy by Vinay and Darbelnet (1958). They defined explicitation as “a procedure that consists of introducing in the target language details that remain implicit in the source language, but come clear through the relevant context or situation” (Murtisari 2016, p.67).

The second stage started when the term “addition” proposed instead of “explicitation. In other words, Nida (1964, p. 9.227) has introduced a replacing term for explicitation which is “addition”. According to Nida (1964, p. 9.227), the term “addition” reflects the elements added to the text and introduced the following definition: addition “may legitimately be incorporated into a translation”. We can find that Nida’s definition (1964) is not different from the concept introduced by Vinay & Darbelnet. But Nida (1964) has contributed and highlighted the type of additions and their sub-categories as grammatical additions, structural alterations and amplification (Nida, 1964).

The third stage started when Blum-kulka (1986/2000) introduced the systematic studies for explicitation. Blum-kulka (1986/2000) proposed a new definition that is different from Vinay & Darbelnet (1958) and Nida(1964). Blum-kulka used the term explicitation hypothesis and explained it as “an observed cohesive explicitness from the SL to TL texts regardless of the increase traceable to differences between the two linguistic and textual systems involved” (1986/2000, p.300). Also, Blum-kulka added in her explanation that the reasons for having explicitation occurrence are “the translation process itself” through “the process of interpretation performed by the translator on the source text” (1986/2000, p.300).

In regard to what is discussed above, Blum-kulka’s work (1986/2000) is a main gate that has led the researchers to investigate explicitation thoroughly to have evidence about the nature of explicitation and its role in the translation process. Also, it helped in developing the concept defining explicitation as one of the translation universals (Baker, 1998/2005, p.289).

2.2 Explicitation as a pragmatic-inherent and a cognitive choice

Klaudy (2009) presented that explicitation usage is a necessity in the translation process to fill the gaps between cultures. In other words, the target culture may not share the same aspects in the source culture, so the translator

uses the explicitation to transfer what is considered general knowledge in the ST and is easily and implicitly understood.

Pym (2005) introduced the explicitation as a model for managing the risk of minimization and loss of meaning. He has supported this model by stating that 'since translation involves communication into a context with a fewer shared references, it involves greater risks than non-translation, which does not consistently have this feature. And where there are greater risks, there are greater opportunities for risk minimization'. Thus, he has discussed that some types of the explicitation techniques appear as norms and are used by professional translators as part of a highly automatized decision-making process, while others occur as the result of intralingual paraphrasing in the target language, as part of the translator's revision of the target text. This point sheds the light that reason behind the usage of explicitation in the translation process is cognitive choice. In this aspect, Farghal (2004) stated that

"Text comprehension, which is an intralingual activity, must be followed by text ideation in the Target Language (TL) during the translating process, which is an interlingual activity. This interlingual feat involves essentially the cognitive and linguistic re-encoding of the Source Language (SL) text in the TL. At first glance, the cognitive code may be argued to be a constant in interlingual communication because the propositions that comprise the meaning/content of a text are held to be universal. However, on a closer examination, we soon discover that the alleged constancy is apparent in nature, due to the fact that it is the reader who brings coherence (i.e. assigns meaning) to the text and, consequently, reconstructs the cognitive code of the SL text in light of his/her schematic interpretation of any given text. As a result, the same text may receive different interpretations from different readers. This potentiality, which is essentially a function of existing schemata and the multi-layeredness of texts, especially literary texts, accounts for the presence of different text ideations in translation".

3. Methodology

This paper uses El-Nashar's (2016) framework that was employed in analyzing a different type of data (an official document text). For this reason, the framework is used in this paper in analyzing literary texts seeking to provide corroborating evidence for what has been presented in El-Nashar's (2016) findings that prove the explicitation as a translation universal. In order to address the research questions that are proposed, the analysis is quantitative – qualitative. The analysis investigates how the level of occurrences for explicitation usage and the frequencies of the sub-categories influence the

translated text in comparison to the source text. In addition, it seeks the reasons behind the translators' choices.

3.1 Data Collection

In this paper, the data to be analyzed is the first chapter from the literary text "The prophet" was written by Gibran Khalil Gibran in 1926 compared to its Arabic translation performed by Tharwat Okasha in 1959. The analysis is performed by comparing the used words and structures in the source text to the words and structures used in the translated text. This comparison is conducted to spot the usage of the explicitation techniques included in the framework and record it. All the explicitation features found while analyzing the data are recorded and categorized under one of the techniques proposed in the framework. They are also counted to identify the level of occurrence beside the frequency for each technique to address the research questions proposed accurately.

3.2 Tools of Analysis

As mentioned earlier, El-Nashar's (2016) framework is the tool that is used in the analysis of the data. El-Nashar's (2016) framework consists of ten explicitation techniques. The framework is modified by removing 5 of the techniques, adding one new technique found while analyzing the data and adding one sub-category to one of the existing techniques. Both frameworks are explained below:

3.2.1 Framework

3.2.1.1. Explicative Paraphrase: It is a lexical addition that makes the TT longer than the ST but does not change the meaning. Four main categories have been observed:

3.2.1.1.1 *Addition of nouns:* a noun is rendered into TT which is not in ST e.g.

English language skills requirement

شرط التمتع بمهارات اللغة الإنجليزية

3.2.1.1.2 *Addition of adjectives:* an adjective is rendered into TT which is not in ST e.g.

Qualification outline for candidates

عرض موجز لكيفية تأهيل المرشحين

3.2.1.1.3 *Addition of verbs:* a verb is rendered into TT which is not in ST e.g.

Minor illnesses of less than 5days

الأمراض البسيطة التي تستدعي إجازة

3.2.1.1. 4 Recasts: an ST word or phrase rendered by adding a combination of a noun and an adjective, inserting preposition, or even rephrasing the entire ST word or expression e.g.

Annual leave entitlements

رصيد الأجازات السنوية المستحقة

3.2.1.2. Conjunctions: They will be divided into the most famously used Arabic conjunction "و" ("and") as well as other conjunctions e.g.

This temporary contract may be renewed...

ويجوز تجديد هذا العقد المؤقت...

This vacancy may exist through the transfer...

فقد تنشأ هذه الوظيفة الشاغرة بسبب نقل موظف ...

3.2.1.3. Reference: Reference as an explicitation technique is often discussed within the context of replacing ST pronouns with TT nouns. Two other shifts will be added, however, to this category as follows:

3.2.1.3.1 Replacing pronouns with nouns e.g.

contract of three originals, one to be handed for the social insurance office

عقد من ثلاثة أصول، يُقدّم الأصل الأول إلى مكتب التأمينات الاجتماعية

3.2.1.3.2 Adding demonstratives e.g.

A meeting should be arranged with their immediate supervisor to solve the problem.

ويجب ترتيب اجتماع مع مشرفهم المباشر لحل هذه المشكلة.

3.2.1.3.3 Addition of referential clitics means a referential pronoun typically attached, or criticized, to an Arabic noun .e.g.

Employees should wear uniform while on duty

يجب على الموظفين ارتداء الزي الرسمي أثناء تأديت هم عملهم.

3.2.1.4. Phrase-to-clause raising: where an ST phrase is rendered into a TT clause e.g.

Modified policies

السياسات التي تم تعديلها

3.2.1.5. Lexical repetition: Where an ST word of single occurrence is repeated in the TT e.g.

New and modified policies

السياسات الجديدة والسياسات التي تم تعديلها

3.2.1.6. Narrowing (Specification): It means that the TT word selected is narrower (or more specific) in meaning, than the ST word e.g.

Home address and phone number

عنوان المنزل ورقم التليفون الأرضي

3.2.1.7. Amplification: When there is no immediate equivalent of the ST word in the TT, another phrase is given for illustration e.g.

The university's offshore retirement investment plan

خطة الجامعة الخاصة باستثمار مكافأة التقاعد بنظام "الأوف شور" (بعيدا عن القيود الضريبية القومية)

3.2.1.8. Substitution: If an ST word does not exist in TT, it is substituted with another in TT having similar meaning e.g.

Marital status

الحالة الاجتماعية

3.2.1.9. Ellipsis: Ellipsis means that some words are omitted in order to avoid repetition on condition that the omitted words in the elliptical ST sentence must be the ones that would appear twice in the full TT sentence e.g.

The candidate is held accountable for the information provided on the resume and later on the application form when completed.

ويعد المرشح مسؤولاً عن المعلومات الواردة في سيرته الذاتية الموجزة، وكذلك يعد مسؤولاً فيما بعد عن المعلومات الواردة في نموذج التقدم لطلب الوظيفة عند استيفائه

3.2.1.10. Lexical broadening: It occurs when an SL unit of a more specific meaning is replaced by a TL unit of a more general meaning e.g.

Hats or caps may be worn

يجوز ارتداء القبعات بأنواعها (قلنسوة أو كاب)

3.2.2 Framework with Additional Parameters

3.2.2 .1. Explicative Paraphrase: a new category has been observed which is

3.2.2 .1.1 Addition of Vocatives e.g. Prophet of God يا نبي الله

3.2.2 .2. Semantic broadening: It occurs when an SL unit has a singular form transferred into plural form in TL which changes the semantic meaning employed in the translated text e.g. not without **a wound** in the spiri

جروح

4. Results & Discussion

Based on the analysis performed, 116 occurrences of explicitation found on the translated text. The table below shows the exact number and the frequency percentage for each technique used followed by examples to highlight how the explicitation is required in the translation process. Although the number of occurrences is 116 and the most frequent usage is the explicative paraphrase (which is a lexical addition that makes the TT longer than the ST but does not change the meaning), the translated text didn't get longer. Actually, the number of words in the source text is 1,202 and the number of words in the translated texts is 930 words. The translator's lexical and choices syntactic choices made the meaning rendered into the target text more obvious as in e.g. number 2. The translator added the word *ملاح* which made the meaning communicated in the ST more explanatory in the TT. Another prominent choice the translator performed is the referencing category. Pym (2005 p.31) argues that "...translators orient reference systems in order to manage the risks of non-cooperation in communication, and that they tend to be risk-averse because of the cultural reward system that often structures their professional tasks". Table 1 indicates that number of occurrence is high but the frequencies for each category differ. The highest frequency goes to the explicative paraphrase, the second place goes to reference and the lowest frequency goes to the lexical repetition. In regard to the framework introduced to analyze the data, it is found that the translator performed 6 sub-categories that mainly depended on adding lexemes to the TT not altering or replacing a word by another word. The interpretation of these frequencies highlights that the translator chose to manage risk of losing any meaning communicated in the SS that wouldn't be transferred to the TT. Risk is defined by Pym (2005) as not to fulfil the purpose of the translation. Also, Pym added that the translators tend to be risk-averse by using explicitation and add (words, phrases, etc.) to avoid any risk of not rendering the meaning communicated in the translation.

Table 1 *Explicitation techniques found in the data*

Explicitation techniques	Number of occurrences	Frequency percentage
Explicative Paraphrase	61	52.5%
Reference	27	23.25%
Conjunction	17	14.5%
Raising	6	5.25%

Semantic broadening	4	3.5%
Lexical repetition	1	1%
Total	116	100%

4.1 Explicative Paraphrase: Three main categories have been observed: Addition of nouns, Addition of verbs and Addition of vocatives.

4.1.1 Addition of nouns (a noun is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

1-But as he descended the hill, a sadness came upon him

1- و حين هبط من التل لفته غمامة حزن

2-Suffer not yet our eyes to hunger for your face

2- فلا تترك ابصارنا منذ الان عطشي الي ملامح وجهك

4.1.2 Addition of verbs (a verb is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

3-A voice cannot carry the tongue and the lips that give it wings

3-الصوت حين ينطلق لا يحمل معه جناحيه لسانه و شفتيه

4-And others came also entreated him

4-وجاء قوم اخرون يتوسلون اليه ألا يفارقهم

4.1.3 Addition of vocatives (a vocative is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

5-And you, vast sea, sleeping mother

5-و أنت أيها البحر الفسيح بل الأم الهاجعة

6-Prophet of God, in quest of the uttermost, long have you searched the distances for your ship

6-يا نبي الله، يا من سعي وراء أسمى الغايات ، يا من ظل يتطلع إلي الأفاق بحثا عن سفينته

4.2. Reference: It will be divided into two types: 'replacing pronouns with nouns'; and 'addition of referential clitics'.

4.2.1 Replacing pronouns with nouns

ST

TT

7-He climbed the hill without the city walls

7-أرتقي المصطفى التل فيما وراء أسوار المدينة

8-These things he said in words

8- هذه أمور عبر عنها المصطفى بالكلمة

4.2.1 -Addition of referential clitics (referential clitics is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

9-And he answered:

9-و أجابهم المصطفي:

10-And we will give it unto our children, and they unto their children and it shall not perish

10-و سنزوده أبناءنا من بعدنا، و سيزودونه هم أبناءهم من بعدهم، و لن يبيد

4.3. Conjunctions: They will be divided into the most famously used Arabic conjunction "و" ("and") as well as other conjunctions.

4.3.1- Arabic conjunction "و" (Arabic conjunction "و" is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

11-Now when he reached the foot of the hill

11-و الآن، حين بلغ المصطفي سفح التل

12- Empty and dark shall I raise my lantern

12- و لسوف أرفع مصباحي خاليا مظلمًا

4.3.2 Other conjunctions (Other conjunction is added to the TT which is not in the ST)

ST

TT

13-Only another winding will this stream make, only another murmur in this glade

13- ما هي إلا إثناءه أخري فحسب لهذا الجدول، ثم ما هي إلا همسة واحدة في هذه الغابة

14- And you, vast sea, sleeping mother

14- وأنت أيها البحر الفسيح بل الأم الهاجعة

4.4. Raising: where a prepositional phrase is raised into a verbal phrase.

ST

TT

15- He turned again towards the sea

15-إستدار يستقبل البحر ثانية

16- Who alone are peace and freedom to the river and the stream

16- يا من في صدرك وحدك يجد النهر و الجدول السلام و الحرية

4.5. Semantic broadening: It occurs when an SL unit has a singular form transferred into plural form in TL which changes the semantic meaning employed in the translated text.

ST

TT

- 17- And I cannot withdraw from them و بالأنقال إلا أنشق عنها الأوجاع فلا أستطيع أن أنشق عنها إلا الأوجاع without a burden and an ache
- 18- Nay, not without a wound in the جروح الروح هذه المدينة إلا وفي الروح جروح spirit shall I leave this city

4.6. Lexical repetition: Where an ST word of single occurrence is repeated in the TT.

- ST TT
- 19-And he and the people proceeded مضى و مضى القوم معه إلى الساحة الكبرى towards the great square

4.7. Limitations of this study

The data selected are small and limited because the analysis is applied on one chapter only from the text (1st chapter). One chapter is selected as this paper is a case study which paves the way to bigger researches and bigger analyses to have corroborated findings. As a result, we need to widen the amount of the data to have more evidences to have more representative findings.

The data are taken from one source only which characterize the findings to be limited. It is suggested to apply the analysis on different types of datasets to have more comprehensive evidences through providing different wider findings. Also, using different datasets will enhance having more proofs about the nature of the Explicitation techniques, clearer reasons for the differences between the level of frequencies and the nature of the Arabic language.

5. Conclusion

In accordance to the Analysis results mentioned in the discussion, the findings reflect that the explicitation is a translation technique and used as a translation-inherent. Being a translation-inherent supports that explicitation is a universal translation technique, as well as, It is proven by the level of occurrences for the explicitation techniques in the chapter analyzed. In addition, the analysis shed the light that one of the reasons behind such level of occurrence is that the Arabic language system may be in favor of using verbs, conjunctions and referential clitics as; they have the highest frequency of occurrence in the translated text by being added to explicit the meaning. The last finding revealed is related to the longevity of the translated texts using explicitation. Although there are high occurrences of the explicitation

techniques especially the ones using addition of new units that are not present in the source text, the translated text is shorter than the source text, which highlights that the explicitation is not a condition for redundancy. The reasons behind having a shorter target text are mainly related to the Arabic language system. As well as, the usage of referential clitics mainly, they are not separated from their referent as in the English language system so they decrease the number of words. Also, some of the conjunctions added are linked to the word that comes after them like "ف". Finally, it can be inferred from the analysis applied that this study has some limitations like the amount of the data analyzed (should be applied on a wider bigger amount). Also, it is suggested to use the removed Explicitation techniques mentioned in the original framework and to select different data to provide more evidence to have stronger position by the interpretation of the findings. The study can be performed after working on these limitations to provide more corroborating evidence.

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المستخلص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى فحص حالات التصريح كأسلوب ترجمة عالمي. لقد تم التحقيق في هذه التقنية بدقة وأصبحت معروفة في مجال الترجمة كواحدة من أساليب الترجمة العالمية كما ناقشتها بيكر (2005/1998 ، ص 289). يوجد للتصريح تقنيات مختلفة وتستخدم بترددات مختلفة. نتيجة هذا الاختلاف في الترددات لاستخدام التصريح ، يسعى البحث إلى تقصي الأسباب الكامنة وراء هذه الترددات المختلفة والتعريف بها. فيما يتعلق بالتحليل الذي تم إجراؤه للنص ، يتم استخدام إطار عمل النشار (2016) كأداة للتحليل. يحلل البحث نصًا أدبيًا إنجليزيًا مترجمًا إلى العربية وهو "النبي" كتبه جبران خليل جبران عام 1926 وترجمه ثروت عكاشة عام 1959. ويبلغ عدد الكلمات في النص المصدر 1202 كلمة بينما يبلغ عدد الكلمات في النص الهدف 930 كلمة ، مما يكشف أن حدوث التصريح ليس شرطًا للحصول على نص مترجم أطول. بمعنى آخر ، يدعم هذا الاختلاف في عدد الكلمات المفهوم الذي ينص على أن استخدام التصريح ليس شرطًا لنص طويل مترجم وبه تكرار. الهدف من الورقة البحثية هو العثور على دليل مؤيد على أن استخدام الشرح ليس ضروريًا فقط لعملية الترجمة ، ولكنه تقنية مطلوبة تضيف إلى النص المترجم. المقارنة التي أجريت بين النص المصدر والنص الهدف تسلط الضوء على أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بينهما. و يعكس إبراز أوجه التشابه والاختلاف إلى أي مدى تم الاستفادة في النص المترجم من استخدام التصريح. علاوة على ذلك ، تكشف هذه الجوانب عن الأسباب الكامنة وراء استخدام التفسير كتقنية ترجمة عالمية.

الكلمات الدالة: التصريح، أسلوب عالمي للترجمة، أسلوب متأصل في الترجمة، أسلوب متأصل بالبراغماتية، النبي