

**LOSS OF MEANING IN TRANSLATION:
A CASE STUDY OF BASAIN**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

**Submitted by
Rajan Khanal**

**Faculty of Education
University Campus
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
2011**

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**T.U. Regd. No.: 9-2-9-552-2003
Campus Roll No.:1087/065
Exam Roll No.: 280661/066**

**Date of approval of the
Thesis Proposal: 2067/11/2
Date of Submission of Thesis:2068/04/01**

DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date: 2068 -03-30

Rajan Khanal

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Rajan Khanal** has completed the research of his M.Ed. thesis entitled **Loss of Meaning in Translation: A Case Study of Basain** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2068/04/01

.....

Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari (Guide)

Reader

Department of English Education

Faculty of Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation by the following 'Research Guidance Committee':

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Chairperson)

Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari (Guide)

Reader

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Mrs. Madhu Neupane

Lecturer

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Date: 2068 /04/04

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following ‘Thesis Evaluation and Approval Committee’.

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head
Department of English Education
University Campus
T.U., Kirtipur

(Chairperson)

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor
Department of English Education
Chairperson
English and Other Foreign Languages
Education Subject Committee
University Campus
T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari (Guide)

Reader
Department of English Education
T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Date: 2068/04/05

DEDICATION

Dedicated to

My parents who devoted the great span
of their lives to stand me in this
position, even under a very
complicated situation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At this very moment, I would like to extend my deep sense of profound gratitude to **Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari**, Reader of the Department of English Education, for making constant supervision and guiding me with regular inspiration, encouragement and insightful suggestions throughout the study. I would like to acknowledge his invaluable instructions, suggestions, guidance and kind cooperation in completing this study.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head of the Department of English Education for his inspiration and valued suggestions. Hearty acknowledgement goes to **Mrs. Madhu Neupane**, Lecturer of the Department of English Education whose valued suggestion, guidance, encouragement and co-operation are important in completing this research work.

Being more frank and true, I owe a debt of profound gratitude to **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor of the Department and the Chairperson of the English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee, University Campus, T.U., Kirtipur, for his continuous guidance, regular inspiration and enthusiastic encouragement both to complete this research and in my academic life.

I am equally grateful to **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, Reader of the Department of English Education for her inspirations, suggestions and regular support. I am ever grateful to all the professors, readers and the lecturers of the Department for their valued instructions and suggestions.

Lastly, but not least, thanks are due to all my friends who encouraged and assisted me during the study period.

Date: 2068/04/05

Rajan Khanal

ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled ‘**Loss of Meaning in Translation: A Case Study of Basain**’ is an attempt of the researcher to find out the cases of cultural meaning loss in the translation of novel Basain. It further aimed to explore the causes of loss of meaning in translation. Furthermore, it aimed to analyze the ways that can be used to compensate the meaning gap in translation as well. Only the secondary sources of data were used in the study. Descriptive and analytical study design along with qualitative data were used. Twenty two different cases of meaning loss in the translation of the novel Basain were found. The study explored causes of the loss of meaning to occur in translation. Some of the major causes were pointed out as-cultural gap, deletion, negligence of the translator, lack of functional equivalence, lack of co-cultural and socio-cultural knowledge (of the SL) of the translator, over generalization of the meaning, carelessness of the translator, incomplete linguistic knowledge (of the SL) of the translator, transliteration and so on. It has also been found that the quality of translation is determined by the selection and the application of the appropriate translation techniques. It also depends upon how competent and familiar the translator is with the SL culture and the message to render into the TL. Maintaining cultural gap with cultural equivalence, avoiding deletion, use of addition and elaboration, searching for functional equivalence, in depth study of the source language grammar and content, avoiding the use of transliteration etc. are found as some of the ways used to compensate the meaning loss in translation.

The thesis has been divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains the introductory part which deals with the theoretical analysis of the study. The second chapter contains the methodology which deals with the detail description of the methodology applied in the study. The third chapter includes the analysis and interpretation of the data obtained from the field. It includes the transliteration of the SL text, their target language equivalence and the instance of loss of meaning. After their general presentation, the causes of meaning loss have been analyzed along with the analysis of possible ways to overcome such meaning loss in translation. As the collected data were qualitative in nature, they are analyzed and interpreted descriptively in a narration. The fourth chapter contains the findings and recommendations of the study.

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