

**TECHNIQUES IN TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL
TERMS: A CASE OF NOVEL 'MOTHER'**

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

**Submitted by
Naresh Kumar Chaudhary**

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

2011

**TECHNIQUES IN TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL
TERMS: A CASE OF NOVEL ‘MOTHER’**

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

**Submitted by
Naresh Kumar Chaudhary**

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

T.U. Reg. No.: 9-1-214-226-2002

Second Year Examination

Roll No.: 280608/066

Date of Approval of the Thesis

Proposal: 2067-12-17

Date of Submission: 2068-03-07

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Naresh Kumar Chaudhary** has prepared this thesis entitled **Techniques in Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Novel 'Mother'** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2068-03-07

.....

Mrs. Hima Rawal (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

Faculty of Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Nepal

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation from the following 'Research Guidance Committee'.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

.....

Professor and Head

Chairperson

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Dr. Anjana Bhattarai

.....

Reader

Member

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Mrs. Hima Rawal (Guide)

.....

Teaching Assistant

Member

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Date: 2068-03-09

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

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

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

.....

Professor and Head

Chairperson

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

.....

Professor

Member

Department of English Education

Chairperson

English and Other Foreign Languages Education

Subject Committee

T.U., Kirtipur

Mrs. Hima Rawal (Guide)

.....

Teaching Assistant

Member

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Date: 2068-03-09

DECLARATION

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

Date: 2068-03-06

.....

Naresh Kumar Chaudhary

DEDICATION

**Dedicated
to my Parents, Gurus, Gurumas and Well Wishers.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am proud of the Department of English Education and Faculties for experiences and insights which I got during my study. The familial and inspirational environment always led us for better career.

From the core of my heart, I would like to express my profound gratitude to **Mrs. Hima Rawal**, teaching assistant, who is my honorable teacher as well as my thesis guide, helped me very much by providing me with her valuable time for all sorts of ideas, techniques, cooperation and information necessary for carrying out this research work. This work would have never seen the light of completion without her regular encouragement and constructive feedback.

My sincere graduate goes to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head of the Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, T.U., Kirtipur, for giving me invaluable and constructive suggestions and encouragement during this study. I am exceedingly grateful to my teacher **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, Reader of the Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur, whose guidance always encourages me to do my job without hesitation.

My deep respect and heartily gratitude goes to our Guru, renowned personality, **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee, T.U., Kirtipur, whose friendly way of teaching and support played a vital role in my academic achievement. I owe him very much.

Similarly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to **Prof. Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya**, **Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai**, **Prof. Dr. Anju Giri**, **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, **Dr. L. B. Maharjan**, **Dr. Bal Mukund Bhandari**, **Mr. Vishnu Singh Rai**, **Dr. Tapasi Bhattacharya**, **Mr. Raj Narayan Yadav**, **Mrs. Madhu Neupane**, **Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel**, **Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak**, **Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi** and all the other teachers at the Department of

English Education, T.U., Kirtipur, for their constructive suggestions and guidelines.

I am equally thankful to **Mrs. Madhavi Khanal**, Librarian of the Department of English Education for her kind support and encouragement.

Furthermore, I am extremely grateful to my mother and all other family members and relatives for their impatient care, love, constant help and guidance to complete this study.

My special thanks go to my lovely, frank and cooperative friends **Mr. Umesh Bhattarai, Mr. Kamal Prasad Pokhrel, Mr. Bikas Rimal, Mr. Suman Chaudhary, Mr. Bishwa Chaudhary, Mrs. Manju Chaudhary** and my lovely sister **Niru**, my nieces **Susma** and **Asmita**, my nephews **Ronit** and **Junet** for their regular inspiration, moral support and love.

Last but not the least, my special thanks go to **Mr. Nabin Shrestha** for his computer service and his untiring effort for beautiful type setting.

Ashad, 2068

Naresh Kumar Chaudhary

ABSTRACT

The present study entitled "**Techniques in Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Novel 'Mother'**" was an attempt to find out the techniques and their frequencies employed in translating cultural terms. The main purpose of this study was to identify and categorize the basic features of cultural terms and point out the techniques and their frequencies. The data for the study were collected from the novel 'Mother' and its Nepali translated version 'म'. In this research work one hundred and fifty cultural terms were identified and those terms were categorized into five categories as ecology, material culture, religious culture, social culture and organization and conceptual terms.

Findings of the study show that ten different techniques were found to have been employed in translating cultural words of the novel 'Mother'. For this study different techniques such as: literal translation, borrowing, substitution, claque, deletion, blending, paraphrasing, addition, sense translation and mistranslation have been applied in translation of cultural words. Among them, literal translation was the most frequent one which covered 23.33% and blending was the least used one which covered only 1.33% of the total cultural words.

This study is divided into four chapters. Every chapter consists of necessary headings and subheadings. Chapter one introduces the study in terms of general background, review of the related literature, objectives and significance of the study. Chapter two deals with the methodology under which sources of data, process of data collection and limitations of the study are presented. Chapter three is the core of the study, which presents statistical analysis and interpretation of the data. Descriptive and analytical approaches are used to analyze the data. Chapter four discusses the findings of the study. On the basis of findings, some recommendations and pedagogical implications are suggested. The references and appendices are the concluding parts of the study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page No. |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Declaration</i> | <i>i</i> |
| <i>Recommendation for Acceptance</i> | <i>ii</i> |
| <i>Recommendation for Evaluation</i> | <i>iii</i> |
| <i>Evaluation and Approval</i> | <i>iv</i> |
| <i>Dedication</i> | <i>v</i> |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | <i>vi</i> |
| <i>Abstracts</i> | <i>viii</i> |
| <i>Table of Contents</i> | <i>ix</i> |
| <i>List of Tables</i> | <i>xii</i> |
| <i>List of Symbols and Abbreviations</i> | <i>xiii</i> |

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION 1-24

| | |
|---|----|
| 1.1 General Background | 1 |
| 1.1.1 Translation Studies | 3 |
| 1.1.2 Importance and Scope of Translation | 4 |
| 1.1.3 Problems of Translation | 6 |
| 1.1.4 Translation of Cultural Terms | 8 |
| 1.1.5 Cultural Categories | 9 |
| 1.1.6 Techniques/Procedures of Translation | 10 |
| 1.1.7 Transliteration | 19 |
| 1.1.8 An Overview of the Novel 'Mother' (m) | 20 |
| 1.2 Review of the Related Literature | 22 |
| 1.3 Objectives of the Study | 24 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 1.4 Significance of the Study | 24 |
| CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY | 25-26 |
| 2.1 Sources of Data | 25 |
| 2.1.1 Secondary Sources of Data | 25 |
| 2.2 Sampling Procedure | 25 |
| 2.3 Tools for Data Collection | 25 |
| 2.4 Process of Data Collection | 26 |
| 2.5 Limitations of the Study | 26 |
| CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION | 28-50 |
| 3.1 Classification of the Cultural Terms in Five Categories | 28 |
| 3.1.1 Ecology | 28 |
| 3.1.2 Material Culture/Artifacts | 29 |
| 3.1.3 Religious Culture | 29 |
| 3.1.4 Social Culture and Organization | 30 |
| 3.1.5 Conceptual Terms | 31 |
| 3.2 Techniques Used in Translation of Cultural Terms | 31 |
| 3.2.1 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Ecological Culture | 32 |
| 3.2.2 Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Ecological Culture | 35 |
| 3.2.3 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Material Culture (Artifacts) | 36 |
| 3.2.4 Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Material | |

| | |
|---|----|
| Culture (Artifacts) | 39 |
| 3.2.5 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Religious Culture | 40 |
| 3.2.6 Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Religious Culture | 42 |
| 3.2.7 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Social Culture and Organization | 43 |
| 3.2.8 Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Social Culture and Organization | 46 |
| 3.2.9 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Conceptual Culture | 46 |
| 3.2.10 Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Conceptual Culture | 49 |
| 3.3 Technique-wise and Category-wise Comparison of Statistical Results | 50 |

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 52-53

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 4.1 Findings | 52 |
| 4.2 Recommendations | 53 |

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix I

Appendix II

Appendix III

LIST OF TABLES

| S. N. | Title | Page No. |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Table No. 1: | Ecological Terms and Their Translation | 28 |
| Table No. 2: | Terms of Material Culture and Their Translation | 29 |
| Table No. 3: | Terms of Religious Culture and Their Translation | 30 |
| Table No. 4: | Terms of Social Culture and Organization and Their Translation | 30 |
| Table No. 5: | Conceptual Terms and Their Translation | 31 |
| Table No. 6: | Frequency of Techniques Used in Ecological Culture | 36 |
| Table No. 7: | Frequency of Techniques in Translation of Material Culture | 39 |
| Table No. 8: | Frequency of Translation Techniques of Terms of Religious Culture | 43 |
| Table No. 9: | Frequency of Translation Techniques of Terms of Social Culture and Organization | 46 |
| Table No. 10: | Frequency of Translation of Conceptual Terms | 49 |
| Table No. 11: | Technique-wise and Category-wise Comparison of Statistical Results | 50 |

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------|
| % | : | Percentage |
| CUP | : | Cambridge University Press |
| EFL | : | English as a Foreign Language |
| OUP | : | Oxford University Press |
| ELT | : | English Language Teaching |
| ESL | : | English as a Second Language |
| p. | : | Page |
| pp. | : | Pages |
| SL | : | Source Language |
| SLT | : | Source Language Text |
| TL | : | Target Language |
| TLT | : | Target Language Text |
| RL | : | Receptor Language |
| DL | : | Donor Language |
| S. N. | : | Serial Number |
| Dr. | : | Doctor |
| T.U. | : | Tribhuvan University |
| M. Ed. | : | Mater in Education |
| No. | : | Number |
| B. S. | : | Bikram Sambat |
| Prof. | : | Professor |
| Ph. D. | : | Doctor of Philosophy |
| i.e. | : | That is |
| http | : | Hyper Text Transfer Protocol |
| www | : | World Wide Web |