

**TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATING PROVERBS:
A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Submitted to
The Department of English Education in partial Fulfilment
for the Master's Degree in Education**

**Submitted by
Sunita Yonghang**

**Faculty of Education
University Campus,
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2008**

**TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATING PROVERBS:
A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Submitted to
The Department of English Education in partial Fulfilment
for the Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization in English Education)**

**By
Sunita Yonghang
Faculty of Education
University Campus,
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2008**

T.U. Regd. No: 9-1-1-908-2000

Campus Roll No: 803/062

Second Year Exam Roll no: 280506/064

**Date of approval of the
thesis Proposal: 2065/3/4**

**Date of submission of the thesis:
2065/08/29**

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Miss **Sunita Yonghang** has completed the research of her M.Ed. thesis entitled **Techniques of Translating Proverbs: A Cultural Perspective** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date:

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel
Lecturer
Department of English Education
Faculty of Education
University Campus
T.U., Kirtipur

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

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

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Reader and Head

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Chairperson)

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel

Lecturer

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak

Lecturer

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Date: 2065/03/04

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

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

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Reader and Head

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Chairperson)

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor

Department of English Education

Chairman

English and Other Foreign Languages

Education Subject Committee

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel

Lecturer

Department of English Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

(Member)

Date:

DEDICATION

*Dedicated
to
my Parents
and
the Researchers
of
Translation Studies*

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: 2065/08/15

Sunita

Yonghan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend my deep sense of profound gratitude to **Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel**, Lecturer of the Department of English Education, for making constant supervision and guiding me with regular inspiration, encouragement and insightful suggestion throughout the study. I would like to acknowledge his invaluable instructions, suggestions, guidance and strong cooperation in completing this study.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Reader and Head of the Department of English Education for his inspiration and valued suggestions.

I owe a debt of profound gratitude to **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor and the Chairperson of the English and Other Foreign Languages, Education Subject Committee, University Campus, Kirtipur, for his contribution of 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.

Heartly acknowledgement is deserved to **Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak**, Lecturer of Translation Studies, Department of English Education whose valued suggestion, guidance, encouragement and cooperation are painstaking in completing this research work. I am ever grateful to all the professors, readers and the lecturers of the Department for their valued instructions.

Thanks are due to Mr. D.B. Angbung, Mr. Padam Bdr. Rai, Miss Sunita Manandhar and Mr. Gyan Bdr. Maharjan for their support.

All the translators of the proverbs of the Limbu, the Bantawa(Rai), and the Newari languages are highly acknowledged.

Explicit thanks go to my brother **Gopal Shubhechchhu** who not only inspired, suggested, helped and co-operated me but also encouraged me being involved

in the study. The study would not be completed in time in absence of his regular support. I must thank him for providing me with innovative ideas to strengthen and shape the study in this form. Thanks are also due to all who directly or indirectly helped me in this research.

Date: 10th December, 2008

Sunita Yonghang

ABSTRACT

The thesis entitled **Techniques of translating proverbs: A cultural perspective** is an attempt of the researcher to find out the techniques employed in translating the proverbs from cultural perspective. The main aim of the study is to find out the effective techniques that are used while translating the proverbs of the Limbu, the Newari and the Bantawa (Rai) languages into the English language along with their frequency of occurrences. It further aims at analyzing the role of culture in translation. It is natural and, thus, is common to exist the gaps in translation. The cultural gaps can be minimized by using appropriate translation techniques. The techniques having the highest frequency of occurrences are more effective and successful in rendering the message of the source language text in comparison to the techniques having the lowest frequency. Sense translation is one of the best techniques of translating any proverbial expressions. To meet the objectives of the research, seventy five respondents from three different languages, who were accessible to the researcher were assigned the proverbs of the selected languages to translate into the English language. The collected data were analyzed using the observational check list. The process underwent through the translation of the proverbs, their target language equivalence and the techniques used in translating them along with a brief anecdotal evaluation.

I have divided this thesis into the four chapters. The first chapter deals with the general background, literature review, objectives and the significance of the study. The second chapter contains the methodology which is sub-chaptered as the sources of data, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, process of data collection and the limitations of the study. The third chapter includes the analysis and interpretation of the data obtained from the field. The last, fourth chapter has the findings and recommendations of the study in which some pedagogical implications have been recommended to better the findings of this study as well as to strengthen such further studies.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Declaration	i
Recommendation for Acceptance	ii
Recommendation for Evaluation	iii
Evaluation and Approval	iv
Dedication	v
Acknowledgements	vi
Abstract	vii
Contents	viii
List of Tables and Figures	xi
List of Symbols and Abbreviations	xii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-22
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Translation: An Introduction	2
1.1.2 Importance of Translation	4
1.1.3 Translation and Culture	6
1.1.4 Translation Evaluation	7
1.1.5 Loss and Gain in Translation	10
1.1.6 Proverb: An Introduction	11
1.1.7 Types of Proverbs	13
1.1.8 Techniques of Translating Proverbs	14
1.1.9 Problems of Translating Proverbs	17
1.2 Review of the Related Literature	19
1.3 Objectives of the Study	20
1.4 Significance of the Study	22

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY 23-25

2.1	Sources of Data	23
2.1.1	Primary Sources	23
2.1.2	Secondary Sources	23
2.2	Sampling Procedure	24
2.3	Tools for Data Collection	24
2.4	Process of Data Collection	24
2.5	Limitations of the Study	25

CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION 26-66

3.1	Transliteration, Technique Identification and Anecdotal Evaluation of the proverbs	26
3.1.1	Transliteration, Technique Identification and Anecdotal Evaluation of Limbu Proverbs	27
3.1.1.1	About the Translators of Limbu Proverbs	33
3.1.1.2	Analysis of the Frequency of Different Techniques	34
3.1.1.3	Analysis of Technique-wise Result	35
3.1.1.4	Technique-wise Interpretation of Anecdotal Evaluation	35
3.1.1.5	Statistical Description of the Data	36
3.1.2	Transliteration, Technique Identification and Anecdotal Evaluation of Bantawa (Rai) Proverbs	37
3.1.2.1	About the Translators of Bantawa (Rai) Proverbs	44
3.1.2.2	Analysis of the Frequency of Different Techniques	44
3.1.2.3	Analysis of Technique-wise Result	45
3.1.2.4	Technique-wise Interpretation of the Anecdotal Evaluation	46
3.1.2.5	Statistical Description of the Data	47
3.1.3	Transliteration, Technique Identification and the Anecdotal Evaluation of Newari Proverbs	48

3.1.3.1	About the Translators of Newari Proverbs	55
3.1.3.2	Analysis of the Frequency of Different Techniques	55
3.1.3.3	Analysis of Technique-wise Result	56
3.1.3.4	Technique-wise Interpretation of the Anecdotal Evaluation	56
3.1.3.5	Statistical Description of the Data	57
3.2	Holistic Analysis of the Frequency of Different Techniques of Translation	58
3.3	Holistic Analysis of Technique-wise Result	60
3.4	Holistic Interpretation of Anecdotal Evaluation in Terms of the Translation Techniques	61
3.5	Holistic Statistical Description of the Data	63
3.6	The Relationship between Culture and the Translation Techniques	64

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 67-70

4.1	Findings of the Study	67
4.2	Recommendations	69

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

APPENDIX -1(a) Questionnaire for the Native Speakers of the Limbu
Language

APPENDIX -1(b) Questionnaire for the Native Speakers of the Bantawa
(Rai) Language

APPENDIX -1(c) Questionnaire for the Native Speakers of the Newari
Language

APPENDIX -2 (a) Responses of the Native Speakers of the Limbu Language

APPENDIX -2 (b) Responses of the Native Speakers of the Bantawa (Rai)
Language

APPENDIX -2 (c) Responses of the Native Speakers of the Newari Language

APPENDIX -3(a) List of the Translators of the Limbu Language

APPENDIX -3(b) List of the Translators of the Bantawa(Rai) Language

APPENDIX -3(c) List of the Translators of the Newari Language

APPENDIX -4 List of Transliteration System

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table	Title	Page
Table No. 1	: Frequency of Different Techniques	34
Table No. 2	: Technique-wise Result of Limbu Proverb	37
Table No. 3	: The Frequency of Different Techniques Used in Translating Bantawa (Rai) Proverbs	44
Table No. 4	: The Technique-wise Result of the Proverbs of the Bantawa (Rai) Language in Translation	48
Table No. 5	: The Frequency of Different Techniques of Translating Newari Proverbs.	55
Table No. 6	: Technique-wise Result of Newari Proverbs	58
Table No. 7	: Holistic Frequency of Different Techniques	58
Table No. 8	: Technique-wise Result of the Proverbs	63

FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
Figure No. 1	: Holistic Frequency of Different Techniques	59
Figure No. 2	: Technique-wise Result of the Proverbs	64

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	—	Percent
&	—	And
/	—	Slash (Divide)
A	—	Annotation
Ban	—	Bantawa (Rai) Language
Bdr.	—	Bahadur
CET	—	Cultural Equivalence Translation
Dr.	—	Doctor
e.g.	—	For example
Eng	—	English
ER	—	Equivalence Replacement in the Target Language
esp.	—	Especially
etc.	—	Etcetera
FoE	—	Faculty of Education
i.e.	—	That is
LC	—	Lexical Creation
Lim	—	Limbu Language
LT	—	Literal Translation
ML	—	Medium Language
Mr.	—	Master
MT	—	Mother Tongue
New	—	Newari Language
No.	—	Number
Pd.	—	Prasad
Prof.	—	Professor
SL	—	Source Language

SLT	—	Source Language Text
ST	—	Sense Translation
ST	—	Source Text
T.U.	—	Tribhuvan University
TL	—	Target Language
TLT	—	Target Language Text
U.K.	—	United Kingdom
US	—	United States
Vs.	—	Versus