## A STUDY ON THE TECHNIQUES AND GAPS OF TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL TERMS: A CASE OF 'PRALHAD'

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education, University Campus, Kirtipur In Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in English Education

## By Chhatrapati Gautam

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kitipur, Kathmandu, Nepal 2008

## A STUDY ON THE TECHNIQUES AND GAPS OF TRANSLATION OF CULTURAL TERMS: A CASE OF 'PRALHAD'

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education, University Campus, Kirtipur In Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in English Education

> By Chhatrapati Gautam

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kitipur, Kathmandu, Nepal 2008

T.U. Registration No. 9-1-9-92-99 Exam Roll No. 280178/063 Date of Approval of the Thesis Proposal 2064-02-11 Submission: 2065-02-20

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE**

This is to certify that Mr. Chhatrapati Gautam has worked and completed this thesis entitled 'A Study on the Techniques and Gaps of Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Prahlad' under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2065-02-19

.....

Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma (Guide) Lecturer Department of English Education Faculty of Education T.U, Kiritipur, Kathmandu

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION**

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

# **Dr. Chandreshwor Mishra** Reader and Head Chairperson Department of English Education Faculty of Education T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma (Guide) ..... Lecturer Member Department of English Education Faculty of Education T.U, Kiritipur, Kathmandu • Mrs. Tapasi Bhattacharya Reader Member Department of English Education

Date:2064 -02-11

Faculty of Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

## **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL**

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following '**Research Evaluation Committee**'.

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Reader and Head	Chairperson
Department of English Education	
Faculty of Education	
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu	
Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi	
Professor	Member
Department of English Education	
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu	
and Chairperson	
English and Other Foreign Languages	
Education Subject Committee	
Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma (Guide)	
Lecturer	Member
Department of English Education	
Faculty of Education	
T.U, Kiritipur, Kathmandu	

Date: 2065-03-

# **DEDICATED**

To my parents who spent their entire life to make me what I

am today.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have received very helpful inputs from different sources while doing this thesis and I would like to record with gratitude the contributions made by them in the process of bringing out this thesis in the present form.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor, **Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma**, lecturer in the Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, University campus, Kiritpur, for his continuous guidance, invaluable suggestions and enlightening ideas.

I am equally grateful to **Dr. Chandershwar Mishra**, Reader and Head of the Department of English Education, University Campus, Kiritpur, for his constant co- operation and kind support of ideas.

I am grateful to **Professor Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, for providing me valuable suggestions and encouragement in the study. I am indebted to him for the inspirations have drawn from him.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor **Dr. Shanti Basnyat, Professor Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya** and **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, for their encouragement and academic support. My thank goes to **Mr. Amar Bahadur Shrestha**, Principal of Sundara Higher Secondary School, Nuwakot for his time support and suggestions. I would like to thank my senior brother **Mr. Sita Ram Gautam**, my parents and all my family members without whose love and co operation, this thesis would have never been completed.

Finally, I must be thankful to the Creative Computer service, Kirtipur, for neat typesetting.

Chhatrapati Gautam

#### ABSTRACT

The present study entitled A Study on the Techniques and Gaps of Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Prahland is an attempt to find out the techniques and gaps of translation of cultural terms in the translated version of Phrahlad drama, translated by Tika Ram Sharma. The original version was written by Bal Krishna Shama. The study tries to find out the frequency of different techniques of translation of cultural terms. The study is solely based on the secondary source of data. In order to carry out the study, Prahalad drama original version and translated version had been collected and 200 cultural terms had been selected from both SLT and TLT by nonrandom judgmental sampling procedure. So, the check list was the tool for data collection in the study. Substitution was the most widely used and deletion was the least used technique among different terms of translating cultural terms in Prahlad Drama.

This thesis comprises four chapters. Chapter one deals with introduction of translation with the definition and its relationship with language and culture. Similarly, it gives the cultural implication of translation, cultural categories and techniques of translation. This chapter also introduces the gaps in translation, the literature review, objectives, and significance of the study. The second chapter deals with the methodology adopted in the study that deals with sources of data, process of data collection and limitations of the study. The third chapter is devoted to the interpretation, analysis and evaluation of the collected data to discuss the techniques and cultural gaps found in the text. Chapter four concludes the findings, analysis and interpretation in which recommendations and pedagogical implications are also included. This chapter follows references and appendices.

viii

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CA	Componential analysis
Dr.	Doctor
DL	Donor language
e.g.	For example
etc.	et cetera
i.e.	id est (that is to say)
$L_2$	Second language
Ph. D.	Doctor of philosophy
Sc	Source culture
SL	Source language
SLT	Source language text
ST	Source text
TL	Target language
TLT	Target language text
TT	Target text

## PHONETIC SYMBOLS USED IN THE STUDY

अ	a	क्	k	द्	d
आ		ख्	kh	ध्	dh
इ	i	ग्	g	न्	n
ई	ī	घ्	gh	प्	p
उ	u	ङ्		দ্	ph
ক	ū	च्	с	ब्	b
ए	e	छ्	ch	મ્	bh
ऐ	ai	ज्	j	म्	m
ओ	0	भर्	jh	य्	у
औ	au	ट्		र्	r
अं		ठ्	h	ल्	1
अः	~	ड्		व्	W
		ढ्	h	श्	
		ण्		ष्	
		त्	t	स्	S
		थ्	th	ह्	h

(Source: Turner, R.L: A Comparative and Etymological Dictionary of the Nepali Language: 1931)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Recommendation for Acceptance	Ι
Recommendation for Evaluation	II
Evaluation and Approval	III
Dedication	IV
Acknowledgements	V
Abstract	VI
Abbreviations	VII
Phonetic Symbols Used in the Study	VIII
Contents	IX
List of Tables	XII
<b>CHAPTER ONE : INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Language and Culture	1
1.2 Translation: Definition	2
1.2.1 Cultural Implication of Translation	4
1.2.2 Cultural Categories	5
1.3 Techniques/ Procedures of Translation	7
1.4 Gaps in Translation	15
1.5 The Translated Version of Prahlad	18
1.6 Review of the Related Literature	19
1.7 Objectives of the Study	21
1.8 Significance of the Study	22

1.9 Definition of Terms	22
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	
2.1 Sources of Data Collection	27
2.1.1 Secondary Source of Data	27
2.2 Sampling Procedures	27
2.3 Tools for Data Collection	27
2.4 Process of Data Collection	28
2.5 Limitations of the Study	28
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	
3.1. Classification of Cultural Terms in Different Categories	29
3.2 Techniques of Translation of Cultural Words	32
3.2.1 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms of	
Ecological Culture	33
3.2.2 Techniques used in Translation of terms of	
Material Culture (Artifacts)	35
3.2.3 Techniques Used in Translation of Term of Mythological	
Pattern	37
3.2.4 Techniques Used in Translation of Terms of Social	
Culture and Organization	40
3.2.5 Techniques Used in Translation of Conceptual Terms	42
3.3 Gaps in Translation	46
3.3.1 Gaps Caused by Substitution	46

3.3.2 Gaps Caused by the Lack of Notes or Definition	53
3.3.3 Gaps Caused by Transligual Lexical Ambiguity	56
3.3.4 Gaps Caused by Addition	59
3.3.5 Gaps Caused by Deletion	59
3.3.6 Gaps Caused by Mistranslation	60
3.4 Frequency of Different Types of Gaps	60
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS	
4.1 Findings	61
4.2 Recommendations and Pedagogical Implications	63
REFERENCES	66
APPENDICES	

## LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 1 : Ecological Terms	29
Table No. 2 : Material Culture Artifacts	30
Table No. 3 : Mythological Pattern	31
Table No. 4: Social Culture and Organization	31
Table No. 5: Conceptual Terms	32
Table No. 6 : Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in	
Ecological Culture	34
Table No. 7 : Frequency of Techniques Used in the Translation of	
Terms of Material Culture	37
Table No. 8 : Frequency of Techniques Used in Translation of	
Terms of Mythological Pattern	39
Table No. 9: Frequency of Techniques Used in Translation of	
Social Culture and Organization	41
Table No. 10 : Frequency of Techniques Used in Translation of	
Conceptual Terms	44
Table No. 11 : Technique-wise and category-wise comparison of	
stastical result	45
Table No. 12 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	47
Table No. 13 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	47
Table No. 14 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	47
Table No. 15 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	48
Table No. 16 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	48
Table No. 17 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	49
Table No. 18 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	49

Table No. 19 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	50
Table No. 20 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	50
Table No. 21 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	51
Table No. 22 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	51
Table No. 23 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	52
Table No. 24: Gaps Caused by Substitution	52
Table No. 25 : Gaps Caused by Substitution	53
Table No. 26 : Gaps Caused by Addition	59
Table No. 27 : Gaps Caused by Addition	59
Table No. 28: Gaps Caused by Mistranslation	60
Table No. 29 : Frequency of Different Types of Gaps	60