# The Techniques and Gaps in Translation of Cultural Terms:

A Case of the Textbook 'My Country'

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

(Specialization on English Education)

By

Gyanu Dahal

**Faculty of Education** 

**Tribhuvan University** 

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

2008

# The Techniques and Gaps in Translation of Cultural Terms:

A Case of the Textbook 'My Country'

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education

University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

In Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in

**English Language Education** 

(Specialization on English Education)

By

Gyanu Dahal

**Faculty of Education** 

**Tribhuvan University** 

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

2008

T.U. Registration No.: 9-1-214-0331-96 Date of Approval of the Thesis

Second Year Exam Roll No.: 280204 (2061) Proposal: 27-07-2064

Date of Submission: 20-10-

2064

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Mrs Gyanu Dahal has prepared this thesis entitled "The Techniques and Gaps in Translation of Cultural Terms: A

Case of the Textbook 'My Country' under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance

Date: 20-10-2064 .....

Madhu Neupane (Guide) Lecturer

Department of English Language Education
Faculty of Education
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu
Nepal

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION**

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

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Reader and Head	
Department of English Language Education	Chairperson
T.U., Kirtipur	
Dr. Anjana Bhattarai	
Lecturer	
Department of English Language Education	Member
T.U., Kirtipur	
Mrs. Madhu Neupane (Guide)	
Lecturer	
Department of English Language Education	Member
T.U., Kirtipur	

Date: 23-10-2064

### **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL**

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

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Reader and Head	
Department of English Language Education	Chairperson
T.U., Kirtipur	
Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi	
Professor	
Department of English Language Education	Member
Chairperson	
English and Other Foreign Languages	
Education Subject Committee	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Mrs. Madhu Neupane (Guide)	
Lecturer	
Department of English Language Education	Member
T.U., Kirtipur	

Date: 24-10-2064

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Mrs. Madhu Neupane, Lecturer of Department of English Language Education, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur for her invaluable suggestions, guidance, inspiration, encouragement and co-operation to bring thesis in this form from the very beginning.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected teachers Prof. Shishir Kumar Sthapit, Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi, Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Prof. Dr. Tirtha Raj Khaniya, Dr. Anjana Bhattarai and Dr. Balmukunda Bhandari for their academic support.

I am really thankful to Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra, Head of the Department of English Language Education for his kind co-operation, suggestions, and encouragement. I would like to thank Mrs. Madhavi Khanal for her kind help.

I would also like to thank Mr. Prem Rai, Basanta Shrestha, Shiva Rai, Govinda Chaulagai and all other friends of Jana Jagriti Higher Secondary School, Solukhunbu for their kind co-operation and help.

Finally, I express my hearty thanks to my life partner Mr. Krishna Pd. Subedi for his cooperation, suggestions, inspiration, help and encouragement which helped me a lot to complete this work. It would be injustice if I forget to thank my lovely brother Mr. Badri Dahal, my mother Mrs. Kamala Dahal and my daughter Ms. Shreya Subedi for their help and encouragement for completing this work in time.

Gyanu Dahal

## **CONTENTS**

	Page No
Recommendation for Acceptance	I
Recommendation for Evaluation	II
Evaluation and Approval	III
Acknowledgements	IV
Contents	V-VI
List of Tables	VII
List of Abbreviations	VIII
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-19
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Cultural Categories	3
1.3 Definition of Translation	4
1.4 Techniques/ Producers of Translation	6
1.5 Gaps in Translation	13
1.6 Literature Review	17
1.7 Objectives	19
1.8 Significance of the Study	19
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	20-21
2.1 Sources of Data	20
2.1.1 Secondary Sources	20
2.2 Sampling Procedures	20
2.3 Process of Data Collection	20
2.4 Limitations of the Study	21
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION	22-53
3.1 Classification of Terms into Five Categories	22
3.2 Techniques/Procedures Used in the Translation of	
Cultural Words	25

APPENDIX	63-82
PHONETIC SYMBOLS	62
REFERENCES	59-61
4.2 Recommendations and Implications	57
4.1 Findings	54
AND IMPLICATIONS	54-58
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS	
3.3.6 Gaps Caused by Bad or Mis-translation	52
3.3.5 Gaps Caused by Deletion	51
3.3.4 Gaps Caused by Addition	50
3.3.3 Gaps Caused by Lack of Notes and Definitions	48
3.3.2 Gaps Caused by Lack of Conceptual Accuracy	47
3.3.1 Gaps Caused by Substitution	40
3.3 Gaps in Translation	39
Translation of Cultural Terms	37
3.2.6 The Overall Analysis of the Techniques used in	1
of Terms of Conceptual Terms	35
3.2.5 Techniques/Procedures Used in the Translation	l
of Terms of Social Culture and Organization	33
3.2.4 Techniques/ Procedures Used in the Translation	n
of Terms of Religious Culture	31
3.2.3 Techniques/ Procedures Used in the Translation	n
of Terms in Material Culture	28
3.2.2 Techniques/Procedures Used in the Translation	l
of Terms in Ecology	26
3.2.1 Techniques/Procedures Used in the Translation	

# LIST OF TABLES

	]	Page No.
Table No. 1	Frequency of Techniques in Translation of	
	Ecology	27
Table No. 2	Frequency of Techniques in Translation of	
	Material Culture	30
Table No. 3	Frequency of Techniques in Translation of	
	Religious Culture	32
Table No. 4	Frequency of Techniques in Translation of	
	Social Culture and Organization	34
Table No. 5	Frequency of Techniques in Translation of	
	Conceptual Terms	36
Table No. 6	Summary of the Techniques Used in Translation	1
	of Cultural Terms of all Categories	38
Table No. 7	Frequency of Different Kinds of Gaps in	
	Translation	53

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CDC - Curriculum Development Centre

JEMC - Janak Education Material Centre

SC - Source Culture

TC - Target Culture

SL - Source Language

TL - Target Language

SLT - Source Language Text

TLT - Target Language Text

ST - Source Text

TT - Target Text

App - Appendix

BS - Bikram Sambat

BC - Before Christ

AD - Anno Domini in the year of the Lord (Jesus Christ)

# PHONETIC SYMBOLS USED IN THE STUDY

# Based on Turner's (1931 as quoted in Phyak) Nepali Alphabet and Diacritic Marks

अ	a	क	k	द	d
आ		ख	kh	थ	dh
इ	i	ग	g	न	n
ई		घ	gh	Ч	p
उ	u	ङ		फ	ph
ऊ		च	c	व	b
ए	e	ন্ত	ch	भ	bh
ऐ	ai	ज	j	म	m
ओ	0	भ	jh	य	у
औं	au	ञ		र	r
अं	am,a	ट	t	ल	1
अ	ã	ठ	th	व	v/w
:	h	ड	d	भ	
		ढ	dh	ঘ	S
		ण	n	स	S
		त	t	ह	h
		थ	th		

(Note: The traditional letters ধ্ব, ব, and র are treated as Conjunct Letter. eg. ধ্ব - ks,ksh, kch; র - gy; ব - tr)