

**THE TECHNIQUES AND GAPS IN TRANSLATION OF
CULTURAL TERMS: A CASE OF MUNA-MADAN**

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

**Submitted by
Nirmala Bhattarai**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2012**

**THE TECHNIQUES AND GAPS IN TRANSLATION OF
CULTURAL TERMS: A CASE OF MUNA-MADAN**

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

**Submitted by
Nirmala Bhattarai**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2012**

T.U. Reg.9-2-29-1616-2005

Second Year Examination

Roll No. 280625/066

Date

Proposal Approval: 06/07/2012

Thesis Submission: 19/12/2012

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mrs. Nirmala Bhattarai** has prepared this thesis entitled **Techniques and Gaps in Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Muna-Madan** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance

Date: 19/12/2012

.....

Mr. Ashok Sapkota (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

Faculty of Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Nepal.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended from the following **Research Guidance Committee:**

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Chairperson

Dr. Tara Dutta Bhatta

Reader

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Member

Mr. Ashok Sapkota (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Member

Date:

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

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Chairperson

Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi

Lecturer

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Member

Mr. Ashok Sapkota (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur, Nepal

.....

Member

Date:

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: 18/12/2012

.....

Nirmala Bhattarai

DEDICATION

**Dedicated
To
My daughter**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

From the core of my heart, I would like to express my profound gratitude to **Mr. Ashok Sapkota**, teaching assistant, who is my honorable teacher as well as my thesis guide, helped me very much by providing me with his 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 his encouragement and constructive feedback.

My sincere gratitude goes to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head the Department of English Education, Faculty of Education, T.U., Kirtipur, for giving me invaluable and constructive suggestions and encouragement during this study. I would like to extend my gratefulness to **Dr. Tara Dutta Bhatta**, Reader of the department of English Education, Faculty of Education, T.U., Kirtipur for his suggestions and comments.

My deep respect and heartily gratitude goes to **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, Reader of the Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur, whose friendly way of teaching and support played a vital role in my academic achievement. I owe her very much.

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

My special thanks go to my lovely, frank and cooperative husband **Mr. Rupesh Shrestha** for his regular inspiration, moral support, constant help and guidance to complete this study.

Furthermore, I am extremely grateful to my mother and all other family members and relatives for their love, impatient care, and direct or indirect support to complete this study.

Nirmala Bhattarai

ABSTRACT

The present research work entitled 'The Techniques and Gaps in Translation of Cultural Terms: A Case of Muna Madan' is an attempt to find out the techniques employed in translation of Nepali cultural terms into English version of Muna Madan and to point out the gaps in translating process contextually. The data for the study was collected from Muna Madan and its English translated version. In this research work, one hundred 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 nine different techniques were found to have been employed in translating cultural words of Muna Madan. Literal translation, transference, substitution, claque, blending, deletion, and sense translation have been applied in translation of cultural words. Among them, literal translation was the most frequent one which covered 30% and deletion was the least one which covered 1% of the total cultural words. The techniques such as literal translation, transference, substitution and elaboration are found as techniques to translate the cultural terms. Very few instances of gaps were found in translation process because of the use of inappropriate techniques. In most of the cases, gaps were existed while translating through substitution. Other gaps were existed through the use of elaboration, substitution, literal, deletion and substitution.

This study is divided into four chapters. Every chapter consists of necessary headings and sub headings. Chapter one introduces the study in terms of general background, review of the 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 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 are the concluding parts of the study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Declaration	i
Recommendation for Acceptance	ii
Recommendation for Evaluation	iii
Evaluation and Approval	iv
Dedication	v
Acknowledgements	vi
Abstract	vii-viii
Table of Contents	ix-xii
List of Tables	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xiv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-24
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Importance of Translation	4
1.1.2 Translation as Process Vs Product	5
1.1.3 Techniques used in Translation	6
1.1.4 Gaps in Translation	15
1.1.5 Cultural Categories	18
1.1.6 The Translated Version of Muna Madan	20
1.2 Review of Related Literature	20
1.3 Objectives of the Study	23
1.4 Significance of the Study	24
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	25-25
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	26

2.4	Process of Data Collection	26
2.5	Limitations of the Study	26
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION		27-75
3.1	Classification of the Cultural Terms into Five Categories	27
3.1.1	Ecology	27
3.1.2	Material Culture	28
3.1.3	Religious Culture	29
3.1.4	Social culture and organization	31
3.1.5	Conceptual Terms	32
3.2	Techniques Used in Translation of Cultural Terms	33
3.2.1	Technique Used in Translation of Terms in Ecological Culture	34
3.2.1.1	Literal Translation	34
3.2.1.2	Transference	38
3.2.1.3	Elaboration	39
3.2.1.4	Substitution	40
3.2.1.5	Blending	40
3.2.1.6	Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Ecological Culture	41
3.2.2	Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Material Culture	42
3.2.2.1	Literal Translation	42
3.2.2.2	Elaboration	42
3.2.2.3	Substitution	43
3.2.2.4	Blending	44
3.2.2.5	Deletion	45
3.2.2.6	Transference	45
3.2.2.7	Frequency of techniques of Translation Used in Material Culture (Artifacts)	46
3.2.3	Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Religious Culture	47
3.2.3.1	Literal Translation	47
3.2.3.2	Elaboration	49

3.2.3.3	Substitution	49
3.2.3.4	Transference	51
3.2.3.5	Blending	52
3.2.3.6	Sense translation	53
3.2.4	Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Social Culture and Organization	54
3.2.5	Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Social culture and Organization	55
3.2.5.1	Literal Translation	55
3.2.5.2	Elaboration	56
3.2.5.3	Transference	57
3.2.5.4	Substitution	59
3.2.5.5	Reduction	60
3.2.5.6	Claque	62
3.2.5.7	Sense Translation	62
3.2.5.8	Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Social Culture and Organization	63
3.2.6	Techniques Used in Translation of Terms in Conceptual Culture	64
3.2.6.1	Literal Translation	64
3.2.6.2	Elaboration	65
3.2.6.3	Transference	66
3.2.6.4	Substitution	67
3.2.6.5	Frequency of Techniques of Translation Used in Conceptual Culture	67
3.2.7	Technique-wise and category-wise comparison of Statistical Results	68
3.3	Gaps in Translation	70
3.3.1	Gaps Caused by Literal Translation	71
3.3.2	Gaps Caused by Substitution	71
3.3.3	Gaps caused by Elaboration	73
3.3.4	Gaps Caused by Deletion	74
3.3.5	Gaps Caused by Sense Translation	75

3.3.6 Frequency of Different Kinds of Gaps in Translation	75
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMANDATIONS	76-78
4.1 Findings	76
4.2 Recommendations	77
REFERENCES	79-80
SAMPLE TEXTS	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page No.
Table No. 1: Ecological Terms and their Translation	27
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	31
Table No. 5: Conceptual Terms and Their Translation	32
Table No. 6: Frequency of Techniques Used in Ecological Culture	41
Table No. 7: Frequency of Techniques in Translation of Material Culture	46
Table No. 8: Frequency of Techniques in Translation of Religious Culture	54
Table No. 9: Frequency of Techniques in Translation of Social Culture and Organization	63
Table No. 10: Frequency of Techniques in Translation of Social Culture and Organization	67
Table No. 11: Technique-wise and Category-wise Comparison	69
Table No. 12: Technique-wise Comparison of Gaps in Translation Process	75

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

%	:	Percentage
CUP	:	Cambridge University Press
Dr.	:	Doctor
e.g.	:	For example
ed.	:	Edition
ELT	:	English Language Teaching
etc	:	Etcetera
i.e.	:	That is
Ibid	:	From the same source
M.Ed	:	Master's Degree in Education
No.	:	Number
OUP	:	Oxford University Press
P	:	Page
Prof.	:	Professor
SL	:	Source language
SLT	:	Source language text
SN	:	Serial number
ST	:	Source text
T. U.	:	Tribhuvan University
TL	:	Target language
TLT	:	Target language text
TT	:	Target text