Syntactic Shifts in *Muglan*

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Abstract

This article explores the syntactic shift in *Muglān*. The data are collected from the secondary sources. The qualitative and descriptive method is used for analysis. The eleven sentences are taken from the source (ST), and their target (TT) was noted along with the transliteration. The selected sentences were analyzed based on structure, functions, and voice. Based on syntactic shift, the findings have been drawn on the basis of voice, sentence types, and sentence function. The shift from active voice (ST) into passive voice (TT) has a higher tendency than passive (ST) into active (TT). Similarly, on the basis of sentence types, compound sentences (ST) translated into complex sentences (TT) have the highest tendency. Simple sentences (ST) into compound sentences (TT) and Simple (ST) into complex (TT) were equal in tendency. Complex sentences in the source text (ST) are converted into simple sentences in the target text (TT) with has lowest tendency. Likewise, based on sentence function, exclamatory sentences (ST) are converted into declarative sentences (TT), and interrogative sentences in the source text are converted into declarative sentences in the target text has equal tendency.

Keywords: Muglan, syntactic shift, voice, sentence type, sentence function

Introduction

Translation is a process of rendering a message from one code to another, whether the codes are different languages or even sometimes varieties of the same language. In its common sense, translation is usually a bilingual activity which involves two languages as a source language (SL) and a target language (TL). Translation simply can be taken as a tool of transformation of information from the source text (ST) to the target text (TT).

Catford (1965) considers two kinds of shifts: shifts of level and shifts of category. A level shift is a shift when a concept that is expressed by grammar in one language is expressed by lexis in another language. Catford states that category shifts are departures from formal correspondence in translation. It means that category shifts are related to formal correspondence. He further discusses the classification of category shifts, such as structural shifts, class shifts, and unit shifts or rank shifts.

Newmark (1988) states that transposition or shifts consists of four types of grammatical changes. The first type is concerned with the change of a word's form (from plural to singular) or the position of adjectives, which offers the translator no choice. It refers to a change or transformation in the syntactic structure of a sentence or a phrase. It involves the arrangement of words and phrases to form grammatically correct sentences. It can occur for various reasons, including changes in language usage, style, or emphasis. Translation on the basis of syntactic shift has been analyzed and interpreted on the basis of voice, sentence types, and language function.

Review of Literature

Bhattarai (1997) has made an attempt to define the translation process and product of translation traffic between the Nepali-English language pair in particular. This study presents a brief, important survey of uni-and bidirectional translational activities in Nepali. It attempts to see translation, chiefly literary, its importance, the techniques, methods, and issues related to it. It focuses on the grammatical structure of Nepali. The focus of the study is the linguistic as well as literary analysis of the contemporary Nepali poetry in translation.

Adhikari (2080 B.S.) analyzed research entitled *Process-Product Interface in Literary Translation from Nepali into English*. The primary objective of the study is to explore processes of translating literary texts, analyze translation products, and work out the interface between them. The process dimension is explored in terms of phases, resources, and creativity, whereas the translation product is analyzed in terms of creativity, linguistic accuracy, fidelity, and syntactic manipulation. The study is a case of inverse translation in which English as a second language (ESL)/ English as foreign language (EFL) translation students were required to translate Nepali short stories into English, and ESL/ EFL translators were asked to share their views on and experiences of translating Nepali literary texts into English.

Neupane (2017) explored and categorized culture-specific terms (CSTs) in Bhattarai's novel *Muglān*, as well as investigated and analyzed the strategies applied in the translated version, and also assessed the strategies for plausibility and evaluated gaps in translation. The data for the study were collected from Nepali and English versions of the novel. The basic technique for collecting data was observation, which was done by using a checklist. The selection of the 220 cultural terms from the novel was done by applying a purposive sampling procedure. They were investigated in terms of five categories and seven strategies. The major finding of the research was that the terms were categorized into five types and employed seven strategies. The most frequent strategy was the translation by cultural substitution, followed by a loan word (plus explanation), a neutral word, and a general word. The subsequent strategies were translation by paraphrase (related words), paraphrase (unrelated words), and omission. Moreover, non-specific but different reasons were found in the selection and use of the strategies. Finally, the study found that cultural references necessitate the use of appropriate strategies for transferring them across languages.

Kafle (2012) analyzed research on *Sentence Level Translation: A Case of Palpasa Café.* The data in this study were obtained from the novel *Palpasa Café* (Nepali version) and its translated version. The study aims to analyze the sentences based on structure, functions, and voice, as well as in terms of addition, reference, and the sense aspect of the sentences in translation.

Adhikari (2011) conducted research entitled *Sentence Level Strategies in Translation: A Case of Ishwarko Adalatma Outsiderko Bayan*. This study attempted to analyze the sentence-level strategies in translation. He utilized only the secondary sources of data. The data were collected judgmentally from the three essays in the anthology of essays *Ishwarko Adalatma Outsiderko Bayan,* and its translated version, 'An Outsider in the Court of God'. The 75 sentences from three essays were taken from the Nepali version, and their translated versions were noted along with the transliteration. Then the selected sentences were analyzed on the basis of different sentence-level strategies as sentence type, voice, reference in translation, deletion, addition, and sense of SL taken or left in TL. There is the prevalence of simple sentences in the source text, and while translating them, the translator has translated most of them (62.07%) into simple ones, while 17.7% simple sentences were translated into compound and even into complex ones (20.7%)

Methodology

The theoretical basis of this study was developed by Newmark and Catford. The current study adopted document analysis within a qualitative research design. This study is based on secondary data. The Nepali version of the novel *Muglān* is written by Govinda Raj Bhattarai and translated by Lekhnath S Pathak, is widely used as the main source of data. The data for syntactic shift is based on eleven sentences for the analysis, whereas the total data universe consists of a hundred sentences. For this study, the print and electronic media, such as books, theses, articles, journals, and the internet, are used.

Results and Discussion

Translation based on Syntactic Shift

Catford (1965) considers two kinds of shifts: shifts of level and shifts of category. A level shift is a shift when a concept that is expressed by grammar in one language is expressed by lexis in another language. Catford states that category shifts are departures from formal correspondence in translation. It means that category shifts are related to formal correspondence. He further discusses the classification of category shifts, such as structural shifts, class shifts, and Unit shifts or rank shifts.

Newmark (1988) states that transposition or shifts consists of four types of grammatical changes. The first type is concerned with the change of a word's form (from plural to singular) or the position of adjectives, which offers the translator no choice. A syntactic shift refers to a change or transformation in the syntactic structure of a sentence or a phrase. It involves the arrangement of words and phrases to form grammatically correct sentences. It can occur for various reasons, including changes in language usage, style, or emphasis. Translation on the basis of syntactic shift has been analyzed and interpreted on the basis of voice, sentence types, and language function.

Syntactic Shift based on Voice

Based on voice, the syntactic shift of *Muglān* has been analyzed in terms of two categories: active to passive translation and passive to active translation. Out of the purposively sampled one hundred sentences, ninety-nine were in active voice in the source text, and they were translated into active voice in the target language. But four sentences in active voice in the source text were

translated into passive voice in the target text, whereas there are no passive sentences in the source text and were translated into active voice in the target text.

Table 1

Syntactic Shift based on Voice

Categories	Voice	No of Sentences	Percentage	Remarks
Syntactic Shift	Active to passive	4	3.96%	
	Passive to active	0	0%	

In the data universe, out of purposively sampled ninety-nine sentences of the source text, 4(3.96%) sentences were translated into passive ones in the target language text. For example:

1(a) ST: *dubaiko manmā kautuhal chha jigyāsā ra harek nayā drisyale prasna thapidinchha* (Active)

Gloss: both heart curiosity excitement, and every new sight adds to the question.

(b) TT: Both of them were filled with excitement, curiosity in their heart, and every new sight accrued more questions in them. (Passive)

2(a) ST: *borākā bhāri māthi basekā dui ṭhiṭā āphnai ānandamā dubekā thie* (Active)

Gloss: filled sacks above sit two lads' own happiness was drowned

(b) TT: The two lads seated on filled sacks were immersed in their own happiness. (Passive)

In the above-mentioned example (1a & b), the translator has shifted the active voice of the ST into the passive voice in the TT. The structure of the example (2 a & b) in ST is simple, which is in the active voice. The translator has shifted the active voice of the ST into passive voice in the TT.

Syntactic Shift based on Sentence Types

Based on sentence types, the syntactic shift of *Muglān* has been analyzed in terms of four categories: simple to compound, simple to complex, compound to complex, and complex to

simple. Out of 100 sentences, 35 were simple sentences in the source text language. The translator has translated 3 simple sentences into compound and 3 simple sentences into complex sentences in the TT. The translator has deleted some sentences in the target text as well.

Among the purposively selected 100 sentences, 33 were compound sentences in the source text. The translator has translated 23 sentences into complex sentences in the target text. Similarly, among the purposively sampled 100 sentences, 32 were complex sentences in the source text. The translator has translated one sentence into a simple sentence in the target text. Out of 32 complex sentences, one sentence was deleted in the target language text.

Table 2

Syntactic Shift based on Sentence Types

Categories	Types of Sentences	No of Sentences	Percentage	Remarks
Syntactic Shift	Simple to compound	3	8.57%%	
	Simple to complex	3	8.57%%	
	Compound to complex	23	69.69%	
	Complex to simple	1	3.12%	

In the data universe, 3 (8.57%) simple sentences out of 35 were translated into compound sentences, and 3 simple sentences (8.57%) were translated into complex sentences in the target text. Likewise, out of 33 compound sentences, 23 (69.69%) were translated into complex sentences in the target text. Among the 100 sampled sentences, 32 sentences were complex in the source text; only 1 (3.12%) sentence was translated into a simple sentence in the target text (TT). One sentence was deleted in the target text. For example:

Simple to Compound

Only a few numbers of Nepali simple sentences in the ST were translated into English compound sentences in the TT.

3(a) ST: *bholipalta bihānai uṭhera yātrā ārambha gare*

Gloss: the next morning woke up and started the journey.

(b) TT: They got up early the next day and started off.

4(a) ST: *duwaiko man sarir duwai uḍeko kshaŋ thiyo*

Gloss: both heart bodies were flying moment.

(b) TT: It was a moment when their minds and bodies both were flying.

Simple to Complex

The Nepali simple sentences in the ST translated into English complex sentences are found very lower in the TT.

5(a) ST: *chhaiṭhau din bihān uṭhera herdā din rāmrari ughrieko thiyo*

Gloss: on the sixth day morning woke up and saw the day had emerged.

(b) TT: When they got up on the sixth day, it was already daybreak.

6(a) ST: *jhakāi sakeko u pani relko sui…yãle jhaskanthyo*

Gloss: shaking with him was the sound of the train, which was shaking.

(b) TT: Even though he was extremely drowsy, he would keep himself awake with the cooo…oooo of the train.

Compound to Complex

Most of the Nepali compound sentences in the ST were translated into English complex sentences in the TT.

7(a) ST: *yo melā…bālā chaturdarsiko jātrā bhandā ṭhulo melā chhinmā lāgchha ra harāuchha pani*

Gloss: this fair is bigger than the Jātrā of bālā chaturdashi would be there one moment and disappear also.

(b) TT: It seemed like a carnival, a carnival much bigger than the *Jātrā* of *bālā chaturdashi*, that would be there one moment and disappear in another.

8(a) ST: *ghar phirne bhae bāṭo ta thāhā lāgyo tara uslāi aba ghar phirnuko mātra moha thiena*

Gloss: knew the way back home, but he was no longer interested in returning home.

(b) TT: He had found out the way that led towards his homeland, but to get back home was not the only intention for him.

Complex to Simple

Only one Nepali complex sentence in the ST was translated into an English simple sentence in the TT.

9(a) ST: *belā belā yastai hune garchha jasto yahã hijo hunthyo*

Gloss: It happens like this now and then, like it happened here yesterday.

(b) TT: The same pattern from the past repeated itself, from time to time.

In the above examples, the structure of examples (3) and (4) in the ST is simple. But the translator has split each of the ST into two simple sentences and joined them with a coordinator '*and*' to shift into a compound in the TT. Likewise, the translator broke the ST into two clauses in the example (5) and joined with the subordinator '*when*' to shift into a complex in the TT. In the example (6), the translator has split the ST into two simple sentences and joined them with the coordinator '*even though*' to shift into a complex sentence in the TT. In the examples (7) and (8), the compound sentences in the ST are shifted into the complex sentences in the TT. The ST of the example (9) was complex. The lexical items in Nepali *yastai* and *jasto* in the ST denote a subordinator. There are two clauses in the ST. However, the translator merges them into one clause to create a simple sentence in the TT.

Syntactic Shift based on Sentence Function

Based on sentence function, the syntactic shift of *Muglān* has been analyzed in terms of two categories: declarative to exclamatory and interrogative to declarative. Out of 100 sentences, 3 sentences were the exclamatory sentences in the source text language, and one sentence was translated into a declarative sentence in the target text. Likewise, one interrogative sentence out of six sentences was translated into a declarative in the target text.

Table 3

Syntactic Shift based on Sentence Function

Categories	Language Function		No of Sentences	Percentage	Remarks
Syntactic Shift	Exclamatory declarative	to	1	33.33%	
	Interrogative declarative	to	1	16.66%	

In the data universe, it is clear that out of 3 exclamatory sentences, 1(33.33%) was translated into a declarative in the target language text. Likewise, 1(16.66%) out of 6 interrogative sentences was translated into declarative in the target text. For example:

Exclamatory to Declarative

Only one Nepali exclamatory sentence in the ST was translated into an English declarative sentence in the TT.

10(a) ST: *abhar parera basyo sāhib!*

Gloss: trouble felt sat sahib.

(b) TT: We are in deep trouble, *Sahib*.

Interrogative to Declarative

The tendency to translate Nepali interrogative sentences into English declarative sentences was found to be very low.

11(a) ST: *sagaĩ āekā sāthi yahã harāe, gharmā ke samāchār lagidinu?*

Gloss: together coming friends here lost home what news to take.

(b) TT: They were worried about how to break the news of their disappearance to their people at home.

In example (10), the translator has shifted the exclamatory sentence of the ST into the declarative in the TT. The translator has added the phrase *again in the morning* in the TT to create sense. In the example (11), the translator has shifted the interrogative of the ST into declarative in the TT.

Conclusion

The findings have been drawn on the basis of voice, sentence types, and sentence function regarding syntactic shift. The shift from active voice (ST) to passive voice (TT) has a higher tendency than passive (ST) to active (TT). Similarly, on the basis of sentence types, compound sentences (ST) translated into complex sentences (TT) have the highest tendency. Simple sentences (ST) into compound sentences (TT) and simple (ST) into complex (TT) were found to be equal in tendency. Complex sentences in the source text that were translated into simple sentences in the target text have the lowest tendency. Likewise, based on sentence function, exclamatory sentences (ST) that were translated into declarative sentences (TT) and interrogative sentences in the source text into declarative sentences in the target text have an equal tendency.

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