



APPLYING CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS IN TRANSLATION OF POLITICAL SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS

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Abstract: *The abstract explores the significance of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in translating political discourse, an area not yet fully addressed in translation studies (TS). According to the researcher, there is currently no comprehensive framework in TS that leverages CDA for analyzing political texts effectively. CDA, an evolving field within critical applied linguistics (CAL), has begun intersecting with TS but lacks a unified approach for supporting translators in analyzing both source texts (ST) and target texts (TT).*

This thesis uses Fairclough's CDA framework (1989) along with Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) by Holliday (1985) to investigate how language and ideology influence translation. Specifically, it aims to reveal hidden ideological assumptions within the texts and examine whether translators' ideologies shape their translations. Findings indicate that CDA enables translators to recognize genre norms, understand socio-political contexts, and identify power and ideology in text construction. This process enhances translators' critical awareness, helping them engage more thoughtfully with ideological nuances in their work.

Keywords: *CDA, translation studies, power, ideology, source language, target language.*

Introduction

The debate surrounding genre and text type is prominent in translation, with each genre possessing unique conventions beyond word choice and structure. Political texts are particularly challenging, as they serve as tools for conveying the power or ideology of one group to another. In our globalized world, political texts often need translation, requiring the translator to go beyond linguistic features and consider the embedded ideologies in the source text.

To meet these analytical needs, this study adopts Fairclough's approach to CDA, which contrasts with other methods like van Dijk's social-cognitive model and the discourse-historic approach of the Vienna School. Fairclough's model examines discourse as text, discursive practice (including text production and interpretation), and social practice, analyzing each layer to understand broader socio-cultural contexts.

Review of Literature

Translation Studies today is no longer concerned with examining whether a translation has been “faithful” to a source text. Instead, the focus is on social, cultural, and communicative practices, on the cultural and ideological significance of translating and of translations, on the external politics of translation, on the relationship between translation behavior and socio-cultural factors. There are three key concepts that are very significant in all CDA trends: the concept of power, the concept of ideology and the concept of history, (Wodak 2001, cited in Andreassen 2007). Out of



these concepts, the first two which are more relevant to the present study are expanded further of course in relation to discourse (language).

The integration of discourse analysis in translation studies (TS) was initiated in the functionalist theories of translation by Munday (2001) which, including text analysis of the ST, aimed at the analysis of text type, language function, the effect of the translation and the participants of the translation event. Denaturalization involves showing how social structures determine the properties of discourse and how discourse determines social structures (Fairclough 1995).

Method

Methodology is one of the most complicated issues in the field of CDA. Meyer (2001), for instance, claims that there is no common methodology or theoretical viewpoint in CDA. CDA theoreticians draw on a number of theoretical levels in their analyses, from epistemology or general social theories, socio-psychological theories, discourse theories to linguistic theories (cited in Walker, 2004). As stated, various factors must be taken into consideration in analyzing a piece of discourse such as linguistic elements, social elements, historical elements and cognitive ones. However, the linguistic element is still at the core of the CDA approach. Fairclough's model of CDA, provides a more accessible method of doing CDA than alternative theoretical approaches. He argues that to fully understand what discourse is and how it works, analysis needs to magnet the form and function of the text, the way that this text relates to the way it is produced and consumed, and the relation of this to the wider society in which it takes place. Description is the first stage of the CDA, which includes the analysis of the texture of texts, (Fairclough 2003:158). The first stage of the textual analysis is the examination of the linguistic analysis of the text on morphological and grammatical levels. The main parts to be analyzed in this stage are vocabulary and grammar.

The focus of analysis is based on linguistic choices within the three functions or components of Hallidayan model of language. Furthermore, the researcher will take into account the lexical choices (emotive language) used by George W. Bush in addressing the Iran's nuclear issue. Therefore, the linguistic choices which are to be analyzed in President Bush's comments regarding Iran's nuclear program are as follows:

- Passivization and nominalization within ideational meaning.
- Modality within interpersonal meaning.
- Thematic structure (thematization) within textual meaning.
- Lexical choices (emotive language).

Procedure

This research, based on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), involves discussions and discourse analysis following pre-established categories, mostly falling within a qualitative research framework. Since certain objectives couldn't be achieved within this qualitative scope, a quantitative element has been included, specifically calculating lexical diversity of discursive structures in both the Source Text (ST) and the corresponding Target Texts (TTs). This mixed-method design is intended to provide a comprehensive insight into the current phenomenon.



Initially, the selected ST portions are examined based on the pre-defined criteria: active/passive voice, thematic structure, modalization, nominalization, emotive language, and the social and situational context of the speeches. Then, these segments are analyzed in their Persian translations, produced by eight translators holding M.A. degrees in translation studies, using the same analytical factors as applied to the ST. The translators were chosen through convenient sampling. The analysis will display comparative data to identify similarities and differences between the ST and TTs, determining where translators may have deviated from the dominant ideology of the ST.

Results and Discussion

As fully discussed, Hallidayan and Fairclough’s models meet the goals of the present study. Therefore, this study is conducted within these frameworks. Thus, the analysis will be carried out in terms of the following linguistic features:

- - Active and passive voices
- - Nominalization
- - Modality
- - Thematization
- - Emotive language (emotive lexical choices)

In this study, the number of tokens is the total number of running words and types are considered as the total number of different discursive structures in the corpus. Following, the calculated lexical variety for each discursive structure in ST and TTs is shown on a bar graph.

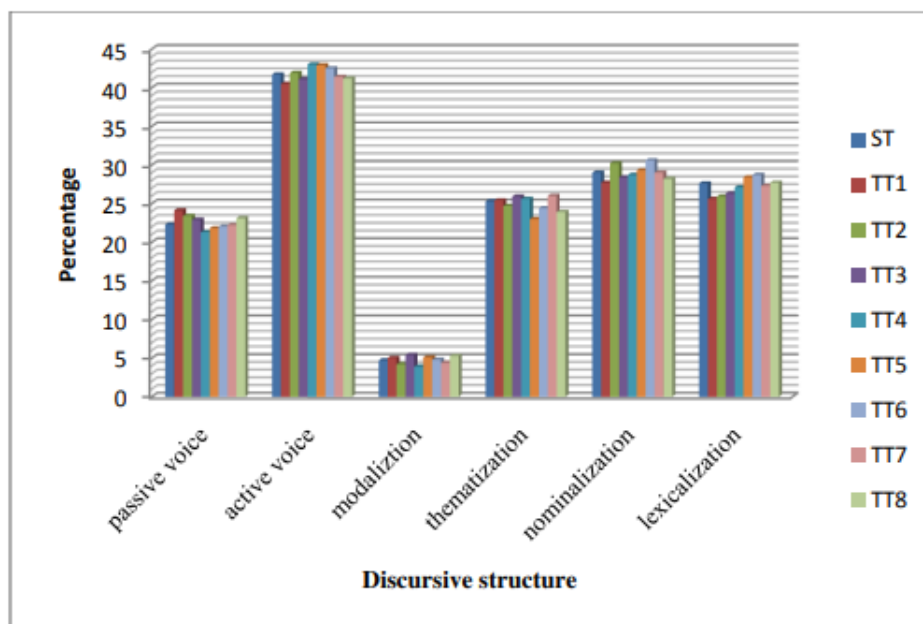


Figure 1. Lexical Variety

The aforementioned TT analysis exposed a number of complications related to the translation of political texts. Even though the text type required a dynamic translation, most of the translators have used the static strategy to translation and have applied a very literal approach. Hence, most of the translations reflect the SL structure, which delays the level of perception of the TT. It may be related to the phenomenon of “foreignizing”, i.e. the usage of borrowing from the English language and gram-

mathematical structures, but may also be related to the lack of time and accurateness during the contentment of the translation task.

Additionally, the application of the CDA framework in translator training would provide the future translators with an analytic tool which helps them to found a step by-step procedure for the analysis of the ST and the production of the TT, which would advance their awareness of the importance of the role of language in the socio-cultural context as well as the impact of their own textual choices in the translation process.

Conclusion and Implications

The main aim of this study was to prove the hypothesis that CDA is a helpful implement in the translation process of political texts. The CDA integration in translation is a very new field within TS and has not been researched comprehensively. The present research – contains a variety of approaches and reflections and does not offer an applicable model for translation-oriented analysis of both STs and TTs within political discourse.

This comparative analysis located within Translation studies from a CDA viewpoint can provide a broader analytical angle for translation students helping them to recognize texts in connection with all kinds of textual and extra textual constrains such as ideology, power relations, and cultural and historical backgrounds. Indeed, this enquiry was an attempt to emphasize that the underlying ideological filter, most often as an invisible hand, makes every text unbiased or innocent let alone texts having politicized language.

In view of this, the findings of the present paper and/or other CDA based research aim to contribute to a better understanding of politically slanted texts whose contents are more or less transparent, and accordingly to give translators a deeper insight towards subtle persuasive strategies which place readers in specific ideological positions.

The results of the TT analysis show that most translators have not been able or have failed to pay attention to the power and ideological struggle in the respective political text and have not transferred the same effect in the TL.

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