A Discourse Analysis of Translation from Thai into English in Parallel Corpus Perspective: A Case Study of *The Happiness of Kati*

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Abstract

Parallel corpus, containing original source texts and translated versions, is used for analysing translations in many languages (Hernández, 1996, pp. 218-237, Li, Zhang, & Liu, 2011, pp. 153-166). However, there are few studies on parallel corpus in translation strategies from English into Thai and Thai into English, In addition, the previous studies are focused on the structure of the language (Detnaraphan and Mallikamas, 2008; Manomaivibool, 2004; Rujirawong, 2006; Siriwonkasem, 2006; Thanalertkul, 2009). In terms of addition, the previous study was done on the structures of addition in translation from Thai into English (Decha, 2006). This study consequently aimed to analyse linguistic markers, and cultural transfer of additions found in translation strategies from Thai into English.

Both Thai and English versions of The Happiness of Kati were the sampling of this study because they received many awards such as S.E.A. Write award for Thai version, the second award of John Dryden Translation Competition for English version.

The results of the study showed that linguistic markers indicating additions contained punctuations and lexical markers. Furthermore, many types of addition were used for transferring Thai cultures from Thai to English such as the explanation of background of the characters, scenes, jokes, and cultural terms. The results of this study are useful for translation teachers, professional translators, and English teachers. Parallel corpus is useful for translation studies. Addition is important technique for intercultural communication. It helps the readers in other communities understand Thai culture easily.

1. Introduction

Intertextuality refers to the ways in which all utterances (whether written or spoken) necessarily refer to other utterances, since words and linguistic/grammatical structures pre-exist the individual speaker and the individual speech. Intertextuality can take place consciously, as when a writer sets out to quote from or allude to the works of another. It

always, in some sense, takes place in all utterance. Thus, the structure of language can be said to be intertextual inasmuch as meaning is not intrinsic to any single word (Wolfreys, 2004, p. 119). In addition, intertextuality is adopted in many translation studies such as the study on intertextuality and literary translation between Arabic and English (Alawi, 2010, pp. 2437-2456), and the application of scenario theory in intertextuality (Hoyle, 2008).

Corpus refers to a large collection of authentic texts, either written texts or transcriptions of recorded speech that have been gathered in electronic form according to a specific set of criteria. It is used with concordancing tools which are computer programs to search for words or other linguistic entities in corpora and display them in their context (Bowker and Pearson, 2002, pp. 10-11; Teubert, and Cermakova, 2007, p. 140; Tognini-Bonelli, 2001, p. 2).

In terms of translation studies, parallel corpus, containing original source texts in one language and their translated versions in one or more other languages, is used for analysing translations in many languages such as a pilot study on translation equivalence between English and Spanish (Hernández, 1996, pp. 218-237), and a study on Translation style and ideology: A corpus-assisted analysis of two English translations of Hongloumeng (Li, Zhang, & Liu, 2011, pp. 153-166). In translation strategies from English into Thai and Thai into English, there are a few studies on parallel corpus. The previous studies are focused on the structure of the language such as The strategies of translation in passive voice of literary work from English into Thai (Manomaivibool, 2004; Siriwonkasem, 2006). A study of strategies in translation of adjective-noun collocations from English into Thai (Thanalertkul, 2009), and the strategies of translation in passive voice of literary work from Thai into English (Detnaraphan and Mallikamas, 2008; Rujirawong, 2006).

Unlike the previous studies, this study is done on intertextuality of translation from Thai into English. It is aimed to study additions in terms of linguistic markers and cultural transfer. In the previous study, it was focused on the structures of addition in translation from Thai into English including addition of subjects, sentence markers, articles or plural form, punctuations, and stylistic expression (Decha, 2006, pp. 41-51).

A few previous studies were done on the use of parallel corpus in translation studies from Thai into English. Interestingly, parallel corpus is used in this study because of many benefits. According to Manomaivibool (2004, pp. 5-6), it is beneficial for translation studies. Firstly, the researchers can spend less time because they can use the concordancing tool for searching terms, containing source texts and target texts quickly. Secondly, it is the useful tool for doing research systematically because the researchers can use the concordancing tools for searching the desirable structures of the sentence. Thirdly, the concordancing tool helps the researcher know the frequency of search terms quickly. In the author's point of view, the results of this study are useful for translation teachers, professional translators, and English teachers.

2. The concept of intertextuality

Intertextuality was coined originally by Julia Kristeva, and refers to the ways in which all utterances (whether written or spoken) necessarily refer to other utterances, since words and linguistic/grammatical structures pre-exist the individual speaker and the individual speech. Intertextuality can take place consciously, as when a writer sets out to quote from or allude to the works of another. But it always, in some sense, takes place in all utterance. Thus the structure of language can be said to be intertextual inasmuch as meaning is not intrinsic to any single word (Wolfreys, 2004, p. 119).

In addition, it is not merely a formal, literary matter, it is also historical and therefore culture and ideology (Allen, 2000; Wolfreys, 2004, p. 120).

Intertextuality contains several different voices or points of view. For example the novel contains authorial voice presenting the relations and dialogues between characters and all characters' voices (Allen, 2000, p. 23). In the author's view, like the novel, translated texts contain many voices such as the author's voice and the translator's voice.

3. The concept of addition

According to Nida (1964, pp. 226-240, as cited in Decha, 2006), addition is technique of making implicit information in the source language explicit. It is employed in the translation to help naturalize the target texts and bring about understanding to the target readers. By doing this, no semantic content will be added. It basically changes the manner of communication of the source texts. Nida (1964, pp. 226-240) explains that addition can be divided into three main types discussed as follows:

1) Addition of elliptical expressions

Though, ellipsis exists in every language; its employment is not the same in all languages. Therefore, the translator may have to add ellipsis information such as subject, verb elements.

2) Addition of obligatory specification

This type of addition can be made when the language formations in the target language are ambiguous and when the specification is needed to avoid misleading reference.

3) Addition of grammatical restructure

Some lexical are added in the restructuring of a source text such as shifts of voice, modification from indirect to direct discourse, alteration of word classes, amplification from implicit to explicit status, addition of answers to rhetorical questions, addition of classifiers, addition of connectives, and addition of target language categories.

4. Research methodology

Both Thai and English versions of The Happiness of Kati were the sampling of this study due too many awards. Thai version written by Jane Vejjajiva got S.E.A. Write award in 2006. English version translated by Prudence Borthwick got the second award of John Dryden Translation Competition by British Comparative Literature Association. In terms of parallel corpus compilation, the contents of these books were put in the table in the sentential alignment by using Microsoft Word 2007. This table contained two main columns: the left column including Source language in Thai and the right column including target language in

English. After that, the translated version was tagged for additions by putting <translation by addition> before additions and </addition> after additions. Then, two new electronic text files were created by using Notepad. The source language in the left column was copied and pasted in the first text file and the target language in the right column was copied and pasted in the other text file. ParaConc was used for uploading files and searching terms.

5. Results of the study

This section contains two main sections: linguistic markers, and cultural transfer found in *The Happiness of Kati* as discussed below.

5.1 Linguistic markers

It was found from *The Happiness of Kati* that linguistic markers indicated addition. They were divided into two main types as follows:

5.1.1 Punctuations

Comma, parentheses, and dash were linguistic markers used for indicating addition in English translated version as shown in the following examples.

Example 1

Source language: ห้องพระเป็นอีกห้องหนึ่งที่ยายใช้เวลาในแต่ละวันรองจากห้องครัว

Back translation: The shrine room was another place Grandma spent a lot of time each day.

Target language: The shrine room, ***with its tiers of gold-lacquered tables,*** was another place Grandma spent a lot of time each day.

As shown in this example, comma, around the phrase "with its tiers of gold-lacquered tables", indicated addition in the target language.

Example 2

Source language: น้ำใช้ใส่ตุ่มซีเมนต์อยู่ใต้ถุน เอาไว้ซักผ้าล้างจาน

Back translation: Washing water went in the huge cement jar under the house.

Target language: Washing water went in the huge cement jar under the house

   (quite a spacious area, as the house was the old-fashioned

   kind built on stilts).

This example showed that parentheses were put around "quite a spacious area, as the house was the old-fashioned kind built on stilts" in order to indicate addition.

Example 3

Source language: ตานั่งอ่านหนังสือพิมพ์รออยู่แล้วกับถาดอาหารเหมือนเคย

Back translation: Grandpa was already read his newspapers, waiting there as

   always. The tray was beside him.

Target language: Grandpa was already waiting there—reading his newspaper, as

   always. A tray***-containing curry, vegetables, and fried fish,***

   each dish in a small plastic bag— was beside him. ***With the***

   addition of Kati's steaming bowl of rice, their daily merit

   offering to the monks was complete.

Dash was put around "containing curry, vegetables, and fried fish, each dish in a small plastic bag" in order to show addition.

5.1.2 Lexical markers

Lexical markers were divided into two main types: grammatical words, and content words mentioned as follows:

5.1.2.1 Grammatical words

Grammatical words contained two main types including conjunctions and prepositions discussed as follows:

Example 4

Source language: กะทิอนุโมทนาบุญกับตาและอธิษฐานอยู่ในใจ

Back translation: Kati joined her prayers to Grandpa's and prayed silently.

Target language: Kati joined her prayers to Grandpa's and prayed silently ***that her own wished would be granted***.

In this example, preposition, "that", was the grammatical marker. It was put before the additional clause "her own wished would be granted".

Example 5

Source language: ตรงเชิงบันไดมีโอ่งใบเล็ก ๆ ใส่น้ำไว้ล้างเท้าก่อนขึ้นบ้าน

Back translation: By the stairs was a little water jar. This was for washing your feet, before you came upstairs.

Target language: By the stairs was a little water jar. This was for washing your feet, before you came upstairs ***from the yard or the underneath part of the house***.

As illustrated in this example, preposition, "from", was placed in front of "the yard or the underneath part of the house" in order to indicate addition in the translated version.

5.1.2.2 Content words

Content words can be divided into two main groups: cultural terms and character names as discussed below.

Example 6

Source language: ทั้ง ๆ ที่ตาท้วงว่าคนแถวนี้จะทำบุญใหญ่กันตอน***สงกรานต์***

Back translation: even though Grandpa reminded her that, in these parts, people made their big offering at the ***Songkran***.

Target language: even though Grandpa reminded her that, in these parts, people made their big offering at the Songkran ***water festival*** ***in April***.

The cultural term, Songkran, was lexical marker of addition in English version.

Example 7

Source language: กะทิวิ่งแข่งลงบันไดมากับเพื่อน ๆ สวนกับพี่***ทอง***ที่หน้าห้องพักครู

Back translation: Kati raced her friends downstairs and ran past **_Tong_** walking in the opposite direction.

Target language: Kati raced her friends downstairs and ran past **_Tong_** walking in the opposite direction. **_Tong was three years older than Kati and in Year Seven at school_**.

As shown in this example, "Tong" which was the character name indicated addition in the target language.

5.2 Cultural transfer

From *The Happiness of Kati*, the translator use many types of addition for transferring Thai cultures from Thai version to English translated version which were divided into four main groups as mentioned below.

5.2.1 Explanation of characters

Example 8

Source language: น้าฎาเป็นคนขับรถมารับกะทิและตากับยาย

Back translation: Aunt Da came to pick up Kati and Grandpa and Grandma.

Target language: **_Mother's friend_** Aunt Da came to pick up Kati and Grandpa and Grandma.

In this example, the phrase, "mother's friend" was added in English version in order to explain the relation between Aunt Da and Kati's mother.

5.2.2 Explanation of scenes

Example 9

Source language: ตรงเชิงบันไดมีโอ่งใบเล็ก ๆ ใส่น้ำไว้ล้างเท้าก่อนขึ้นบ้าน

Back translation: By the stairs was a little water jar. This was for washing your feet, before you came upstairs.

Target language: By the stairs was a little water jar. This was for washing your feet, before you came upstairs **_from the yard or the underneath part of the house_**.

This example illustrated that "from the yard or the underneath part of the house" was added in order to help the readers in other cultures imagined the under part of Thai style house.

5.2.3 Explanation of jokes

In the author's view, it is difficult for the readers in other cultures to understand Thai jokes so the translator tries to explain them by adding information as shown in the following examples.

Example 10

Source language: พี่ทองบอกว่าทุกกลางวันมีอาหารบุฟเฟต์รออยู่

Back translation: Tong said that at lunchtime he had a whole buffet meal waiting for him.

Target language: Tong said that at lunchtime he had a whole buffet meal waiting for him ***from the varied offerings people had made to the monks***.

This example was Tong's joke. The translator added "from the varied offerings people had made to the monks" in order to explain why he had a whole buffet meal waiting for him.

5.2.4 Explanation of cultural terms

The translator explained the meaning of some cultural terms by adding more information. These cultural terms were subdivided into four main types: ceremonies, places, foods, and living things discussed as follows:

Example 11

Source language: ตากรวดน้ำใต้ต้นโพธิ์ใหญ่

Back translation: Grandpa poured water from a little brass vessel onto the ground under the big banyan tree, ***completing the offering to the monks***.

Target language: Under the big banyan tree, Grandpa poured water from a little brass vessel onto the ground, completing the offering to the monks. ***Like a river flowing from the mountains to the sea, the water symbolized the merit they had earned and passed on to departed loved ones.***

In this example, the translator explained Thai belief in pouring water from a little brass vessel onto the ground by adding "Like a river flowing from the mountains to the sea, the water symbolized the merit they had earned and passed on to departed loved ones." in the English version.

Example 12

Source language: กะทินึกไม่ออกว่าตากับยายรู้สึกอย่างไรที่ลูกสาวคนเดียวแต่งงานในแดน ไกล และไม่มีวี่แววว่าจะกลับสู่มาตุภูมิในอนาคตอันใกล้กะทินึกไม่ออกว่า ตากับยายรู้สึกอย่างไรที่ลูกสาวคนเดียวแต่งงานใน แดนไกล และไม่มี วี่แววว่าจะกลับสู่มาตุภูมิในอนาคตอันใกล้ นี่ยังไม่รวมถึงเรื่องที่สาว อยุธยารับรักหนุ่มที่มีวงศ์วานอยู่มัณฑะเลย์

Back translation: Kati couldn't imagine what Grandpa and Grandma must have thought about their only child marrying so far away from home, not to mention the fact that the girl from Ayutthaya was marrying a boy from Mandalay.

Target language: Kati couldn't imagine what Grandpa and Grandma must have thought about their only child marrying so far away from home, not to mention the fact that the girl from Ayutthaya was marrying a boy

from Mandalay, ***cities that in the past had feuded and fought***

for centuries.

The translator explains the history of Mandalay by adding "cities that in the past had

feuded and fought for centuries".

Example 13

Source language: ส่วนรายการอาหารก็ไม่หนีไข่ดาวกับไก่ผัดกะเพรารสเด็ด ไข่พะโล้สี

น้ำตาลเข้มเข้าน้ำเข้าเนื้อเพราะทิ้งไว้ข้ามคืน ไข่ลูกเขยฉ่ำน้ำข้นเหนียว

ไข่ตุ๋นเนื้อเนียนสนิท ไข่นกกระทาชุบแป้งทอด

Back translation: Grandma's lunch menu never missed the mark, not with ever-tasty

minced basil-and-chili chicken with a fried egg or boiled eggs, rich

brown because they'd soaked up overnight; or crispy fried "son-in-

law" eggs; or smooth and creamy steamed egg custard; or quail

eggs dipped in batter and fried.

Target language: Grandma's lunch menu never missed the mark, not with ever-tasty

minced basil-and-chili chicken with a fried egg ***on top*** or boiled

eggs, rich brown because they'd soaked up ***the aniseed gravy***

overnight; or crispy fried "son-in-law" eggs with their ***sweet-and-***

sour tamarind sauce; or smooth and creamy steamed egg

custard; or quail eggs dipped in batter and fried.

In this example, the translator explained the position of a fried egg by adding "on top",

the ingredient of rich brown boiled eggs by adding "the aniseed gravy", and the flavor and

ingredient crispy fried "son-in-law" eggs by adding "sweet-and-sour tamarind".

Example 14

Source language: ต้องดูให้ดีว่าเป็นบัวผัน ไม่ใช่บัวเผื่อนที่รสเฝื่อนขม ดอกสีเหลืองจัด

Back translation: You had to look carefully to make sure that you had the pun, not

the peuan with their dry bitter taste.

Target language: You had to look carefully to make sure that you had the pun **_lilies_**,

not the peuan **_lilies_** with their dry bitter taste.

In this example, the translator explained the meaning of pun and peuan by adding "lilies" in the English version.

6. Discussion

Although parallel corpus compilation spends much time, the author agrees to the previous study that parallel corpus is useful tool for translation studies. The researchers can use concordancing tool for searching desirable terms or structures easily. Supposed that the author decide to search addition in the target language, the author can type "translation by addition" in the search box. After that, the results containing both source language and target language will occur on the screen.

In the author's point of view, addition is important for translation from Thai into English. In terms of the cultural transfer, the translators can use this technique as linguistic space when they decide to give more information in the target language. It helps the readers in other communities understand Thai culture easily.

In terms of the further studies, it would be done on the similarities and differences of grammatical translation strategies from Thai into English, including collocation, passive voice, reduplicative, serial verb, addition, omission, and adjustment, between fiction and non-fiction. In addition, it should be compared cultural aspects in translation strategies from Thai into English between fiction and non-fiction. Besides, it should be focused on the similarities and differences of Thai identity between English translated versions of fiction and non-fiction.

7. Conclusion

This study aimed to analyse linguistic markers, and cultural transfer of additions found in translation strategies from Thai into English. Both Thai and English versions of The Happiness of Kati were the sampling of this study. The results of the study showed that linguistic markers indicating additions contained punctuations –comma, parenthesis, and dash

– and lexical markers, including grammatical words – conjunctions and prepositions – and content words – cultural terms and character names. Furthermore, many types of addition were used for transferring Thai cultures from Thai to English such as the explanation of background of the characters, scenes, jokes, and cultural terms including ceremonies, places, foods, and living things. Parallel corpus is useful tool for translation studies. In terms of intercultural communication, addition is important technique which helps the readers in other communities understand Thai culture easily. The further studies should be done on the similarities and differences of grammatical translation strategies from Thai into English, cultural transfer, and Thai identity between fiction and non-fiction.

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