1 تعدیلهای معنائی در ترجمهٔ داستانهای کوتاه 1 اختیار یا اجبار

چکیده

حین ترجمه یک متن، مترجمان جهت حفظ معنای متن اصلی و ارائه معادلهایی قابل در ک و طبیعی در متن ترجمه، به انواع تعدیلها روی می آورند. مطالعهٔ توصیفی حاضر با هدف بررسی تعدیلهای معنایی از دیدگاه نایدا و تیبر که در ترجمهٔ سه داستان کوتاه دوشس و جواهرفروش، دکان تخته شده و شرطبندی به کار رفته اند، صورت گرفت. یافتههای حاصل از تحلیل محتوا در این پژوهش نشان داد بر خلاف پنداشت معمول مبتنی بر کثرت کاربرد تکنیک بسط نسبت به تقلیل، اکثر تعدیلهای معنایی مورد مطالعه، مربوط به تکنیک تقلیل بود. در این میان، تقلیل عبارات قالبی و معادل توصیفی به ترتیب، به عنوان غالب ترین تکنیکهای تقلیل و بسط مورد استفاده مترجم، شناخته شدند. با توجه به اصل مهم ترجمه مبنی بر ارائه دقیق ترین معادل طبیعی، انتخاب مرجح مترجم از انواع تکنیک تقلیل موجه مینماید، چراکه امکان برقراری تعادل پویا را ضمن فرایند ترجمه فراهم نموده است.

واژههای راهنما: بسط، تعادل یویا، تعدیلهای معنایی، تقلیل

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Semantic Adjustments in the Renditions of Short Stories: Option or Compulsion?

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Abstract

While translating, translators may resort to adjustments to preserve the meaning of the source text (ST) intact and to produce natural and comprehensible renditions in the target text (TT). Drawing on Nida and Taber's (2003) framework, this descriptive study aims to examine the adjustments to meaning in the translations of three short stories, including *The Duchess and the Jeweller*, *The Closed Shop, and The Bet.* The results of content analysis of the STs and TTs suggested that most of the semantic adjustments concerned reduction, as opposed to the common assumption on the preponderance of expansion over reduction. Meanwhile, reduction of formula and descriptive substitute served as the most frequently applied reduction and expansion techniques by the translator. Regarding the central principle of producing the closest natural equivalent, the translator's preferred option of reduction techniques, seems justifiable as it has paved the way to render a dynamic equivalence in the translation.

Keywords: Semantic Adjustment, Expansion, Reduction, Dynamic equivalence

1. Introduction

The dispute over preservation of either meaning or form tends to pose a serious challenge to every translator making translation a demanding task. Notwithstanding that style is quite significant, especially in rendering literary texts, disregard of meaning gives rise to an unintelligible translation. This is all the more

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so considering the fact that literary texts "may demand extra reading or listening effort by audiences" as "they are characterized by heteroglossia, depicting different voices with different viewpoints" (Jones, 2020, p. 294). Hence, their translations are interlinked with dilemmas, if not untranslatability.

As translatability is a relative concept, the translator's careful consideration for both form and meaning, which are mostly intertwined in literary translation, necessitates the employment of different types of adjustments during the process of translation. Regarding the conflict over form and meaning in translating literary texts, Manafi Anari (2014) suggests a translator has to give priority to transferring the ST meaning through the linguistic aspects of the target language (TL), in the closest equivalents concerning the ST style. Rather than seeking to convey the linguistic features of the ST which cause meaning deviations, the translator should focus on reproducing the message understood by it.

Nida and Taber (2003) propose semantic and structural adjustments to settle the dispute over form and meaning. Under semantic adjustments, the two categories of expansion and reduction are identified; "reductions are not so numerous as the expansions, nor are they so frequent. However, it is just as important to employ the proper reductions as it is to introduce the proper expansions" (p. 168). Nida and Taber (2003) suggest this is because they are both employed to render the most precise appropriate equivalents. Thus, they consider semantic shifts necessary to make dynamic equivalents which exert the same influence on the target readership likewise on the original readership (as cited in Yari & Zandian, 2022).

Hence, this study sets out to examine the semantic adjustments employed in the translations of three short stories, i.e., *The Duchess and the Jeweller* (Woolf, 1938/2003), *The Closed Shop* (Maugham, 1956/2003), and *The Bet* (Chekov, 1889/2003) to see whether expansions or reductions occur more frequently in the TTs and to examine compatibility of the results with Nida and Taber's (2003)

viewpoint. Also, it aimed to investigate which subcomponents of the semantic adjustments tend to be most frequently applied in the TTs.

2. Literature Review

The use of different types of adjustment in translation serves to be a quite controversial research topic which enjoys wide application specially regarding religious and literary texts whose legibility is significant. However, just few studies have so far focused on the topic either descriptively or empirically.

Emphasizing the tendency of some translators to make different changes in the STs, Masboogh and Delshad (2015) investigated and compared the structural adjustments in Eqlidi's (2008) and Tasuji's (2011) translations of *One Thousand and One Nights*. They approached the structural modifications in the translations concerning such dimensions as the verbal syntactic constructs, the style, the eloquence, and the phonetics. Their findings served to clarify the approach taken by the translators to adjusting the structures of sentences. Moreover, their research demonstrated that Eqlidi (2008) addressed the structural adjustments meagerly and his rendition proved to be less readable compared to Tasuji's (2011) translation.

Sudana and Yadnya (2021) examined the semantic adjustments applied in the translation of an English Memorandum of Understanding into Indonesian. The data collection method of their descriptive study was observation employing the close reading along with note-taking techniques, and its theoretical framework was Nida's (1991) theory. The findings indicated that semantic adjustments could bridge the linguistic gap between the ST and TT, providing the translator with the opportunity to convey the ST message into the TT comprehensibly. Hence, they concluded that semantic adjustments tended to be unavoidable in transferring the Memorandum of Understanding which served as the data source of their inquiry making the translation natural and readable enough.

In their descriptive study, Yari and Zandian (2022) examined the use of adjustments to form and meaning in three translations of Az Zariyat surah. The results showed that most of the adjustments dealt with semantic adjustments, among which, lexical expansions served as the most typical type. Moreover, reductions as another subcategory of semantic adjustments, and structural adjustments were applied to a lesser extent compared to other modifications. Thus, translators almost preferred to adhere to the ST, as closely as possible trying to reduce the ST vagueness by describing the ambiguities. They believed that such inclination could be justified by the sensitivity involved in rendering the Quranic verses. While the present study scrutinized the adjustments made in translating the literary texts, their work concerned the use of adjustments in different translations of one of the most sensitive types of religious texts, i.e., the Holy Quran.

3. Theoretical Framework

This study is based on Nida and Taber's (2003) taxonomy of semantic adjustments, mainly categorized into expansions and reductions, which encompass several subcomponents.

3.1. Semantic Adjustments

3.1.1. Expansions

Nida and Taber (2003) suggest expansions incorporate syntactic and lexical types (Figure 1). In the following subsections, each of these two subcategories along with their subcomponents are presented in detail.

Lexical expansions

Based on Nida and Taber (2003), lexical expansions come in three forms: "(1) classifiers, (2) descriptive equivalence, and (3) semantic restructuring" (p. 166). Classifiers are usually employed when a borrowed word needs "some semantic redundancy" in the TT to become more comprehensible concerning its function. Once the TT's "word length is changed, and words are expanded, descriptive

equivalence occurs." Besides, semantic restructuring becomes necessary in the TT when some ST statements are so condensed that their significance may be misunderstood without expansion.

Syntactic expansions

According to Nida and Taber (2003), the most appropriate expansions considering the syntactic structure of the TL include: "1) identification of the participants in events, 2) identification of objects or events with abstracts, 3) more explicit indication of relationals, and 4) filling out of ellipses" (p. 166–167). Regarding the first type, different agents serving as contributors to the sentence are illuminated. Depending on occasion, the second subcomponent might seem plain or more complicated. Also, Nida and Taber (2003) suggest that relationals in one language tend to necessitate a more explicit manifestation in another. Finally, although ellipsis is employed in every language, its patterns diverge markedly between different languages.

3.1.2. Reductions

"In order to achieve dynamic equivalence in the target language, the translator may need to shorten some expressions during the translation process" (Yari & Zandian, 2022, p. 9). According to Nida and Taber (2003), reductions which tend to be a less frequent subcategory of semantic adjustments, might be legitimate or illegitimate likewise expansions, including seven subcategories (p. 168):

- 1. Simplification of doublets: terms carrying the same meaning are lessened to one term;
- 2. Reduction of repetitions: deletion of repeated words;
- 3. Omission of specification of participants: when the number of times a participant is stated as the subject or object of various sentences is reduced;
- 4. Loss of conjunctions: reducing hypotactic constructions to paratactic forms;
- 5. Reduction of formulas: turning an established phrase into a condensed one.

- 6. Using ellipses that are larger than those normally used: Languages vary in terms of their range of possibilities in this regard.
- 7. Simplification of highly repetitious style: reducing some parts of the structures which tend to be redundant.

Figure 1 and Table 1 show expansion and reduction along with their subcomponents which may take place during translation:

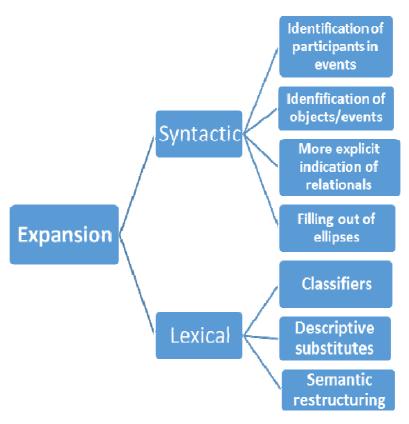


Figure 1. Various kinds of expansions (Adopted from Nida and Taber (2003))

Table 1. Various kinds of reductions (Adopted from Nida and Taber (2003))

Simplification of doublets
 Reduction of repetitions
 Omission of specification of participants
 Loss of conjunctions
 Reduction of formulas
 Using ellipses that are larger than those normally used
 Simplification of highly repetitious style

4. Methodology

The current study aimed to examine semantic adjustments in the translations of three short stories, including The Duchess and the Jeweller (Woolf, 1938/2003), The Closed Shop (Maugham, 1956/2003), and The Bet (Chekov, 1889/2003). This descriptive study analyzed the data obtained as various textual pairs regarding Nida and Taber's (2003) classification of semantic adjustments, i.e., expansions and reductions to identify which was applied more by the translator along with its particular subcomponent.

To study the semantic adjustments made in the renditions, the present study drew on The Closed Shop (1956), The Duchess and the Jeweller (1938), and The Bet (1889) whose Persian translations were undertaken by Mokhtari in his book (2003). The fact that three English short stories along with their Persian translations were quite dynamic regarding their prose narration made their selection justifiable enough to collect the relevant data. Furthermore, compared to some existing short stories, these STs and their corresponding TTs enjoyed a reasonable length considering the focus of the current study, i.e., studying the semantic adjustments used in the translations. The fact that the chosen short stories varied markedly considering their central themes was another reason for their purposive selection. Thematically, the STs could provoke strong emotions among their readers, given their significant literary aspects and their main themes (Federici, 2022; Janis, 2021). Hence, the need for adjusting the translations to exert an almost identical impact on the respective readers seems undeniable. The researcher's motivation for choosing Mokhtari's (2003) translations was also to examine the translator's renditions in terms of various expansions or reductions which tended to be noteworthy among his employed techniques.

This study was conducted in several distinct phases during which, the unit of analysis was sentence. The adopted procedures are as follows:

Reading and analyzing the constituent sentences in the STs and comparing them with their corresponding segments in the TTs. 2. Spotting the underlying expansions and reductions employed by the translator while rendering the TTs. In this phase, meticulous attention was devoted to both subcategories of expansion, i.e., lexical and syntactic types, and reduction incorporating their subcomponents (see Figure 1 and Table 1). After identifying the semantic adjustments, including mainly the two categories of expansion and reduction, their subcategories were subsequently located. 3. Presenting the most representative examples drawn from the examined cases through a set of distinctive tables and providing detailed discussions concerning each table.

5. Results

The following distinctive tables show the results of the analysis of the data collected from the translations of three short stories, i.e., *The Duchess and the Jeweller* (Woolf, 1938/2003), *The Closed Shop* (Maugham, 1956/2003), and *The Bet* (Chekov, 1889/2003). As indicated in Figure 1 and Table 1, expansion and reduction together with their subcomponents occur in the translation process to fulfil the requirement of rendering natural equivalents. The results of the study are provided considering various subcategories of semantic adjustments, i.e., expansion and reduction through content analysis. For each short story, two distinct tables are presented: one includes different instances of expansions applied in the translations of the ST segments and the other shows various examples of reductions. Hence, in general, the data is presented in six separate tables. Among the results of examining *The Bet* and its translation, Table 2 and the subsequent tables show the most representative examples of the gathered data.

Table 2. Expansions used in the translation of The Bet

ετ π

Most of the data from Table 2 reflect the use of descriptive equivalence as the second subcategory of lexical expansion. In examples (1), (4), and (5), descriptive substitutes have been employed to describe specific terms with further words to resolve any obscurity by breaking them down using extra words. In example (2), the word «سال» has been filled in the TT to make it more intelligible. In Example (3), semantic restructuring has made the meaning of the condensed phrase 'quite indiscriminately' rephrased as «عرجه پیش آید خوش آید» in the TT so that despite the lack of literal correspondence between the ST and TT, the essence of the message is not misrepresented. Table 3 indicates the results of analyzing *The Bet* and its translation regarding different reductions employed.

(Descriptive equivalence) (۱۶س). پناه برده بود. (س۱۶ وود. هوای بد به جایی پناه برده بود.

Table 3. Reductions used in the translation of The Bet

ST	π
Type of reduction	
1. The banker was suddenly carried away by excitement. (p. 2)	
(Using more extensive ellipses)	بانکدار از جا در رفت. (ص. ۱۰)
2. "If you mean that in earnest" (p. 2) (Simplification of doublets)	«گر جدی می گوئید » (ص. ۸)

3. "Don't forget either, **you** unhappy **man**, that voluntary confinement is **a great deal** harder than compulsory. (p. 2)

(Using more extensive ellipses)

4. "Om my part it was the caprice of a pampered man, and on his part greed for the money." (p. 2)

تلون مزاج مردی خور ده و طمع محض او برای پول باعث این ماجرا شد. (ص ۱۰) (Omission of specification of participants

5. **By the terms of** the agreement. (p. 3) (Reduction of formula)

طبق قرارداد (ص. ۱۲)

6. He would spend hours writing, **and** in the morning tear up all that he had written. (p. 3) (Loss of conjunction) (۱۲ .صدت ها مي نوشت، صبح همه اش را پاره مي کرد. (ص. ۱۲)

7. If I do pay him, it is all over with me. (p. 4)

(Omission of specification of participants)

اگر بیردازم همه چیز برایم تمام شده است. (ص. ۱۴)

As seen, majority of the reductions in Table 3 concern omitting specification of the participants and using more extensive ellipses. In examples (4) and (7), the number of times a participant is expressed as the subject of different sentences is decreased to fewer cases without creating any distortions to the ST. Instances (1) and (3) show the use of ellipses, which tend to be more than those cases commonly employed. In example (2), the two words 'mean' and 'earnest' bearing almost the same meanings are diminished to جدى گفتن». The established phrase 'By the terms of' in (5), is modified to a more condensed equivalent, i.e., «طبق». Also, the hypotactic construction in (6) is reduced to a paratactic form due to loss of the conjunction 'the'. Table 4 depicts the instances of expansion in the translation of The Closed Shop.

Table 4. Expansions used in the translation of The Closed Shop

ST	π
Type of expansion	
1. His heart went out to her. (p. 1)	
(Descriptive equivalence)	این جوان هم صد دل عاشق آن زن شد. (ص. ۴۰)
2. The attorneys retired. (p. 1)	
(Semantic restructuring)	وکلا و قضات به شور نشستند. (ص. ۴۰)
3 at the cost of a month's golf. (p. 3)	
(Filling out of ellipses)	به خاطر یک ماه م حرومیت از بازی گلف. (ص. ۴۴)

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4. 'I don't,' cried Madame Coralie. 'I blame the women.' (p. 7)

(Filling out of ellipses)

5. 'Oh, Maria Santisima, that it should come to this. (p.7)

(Filling out of ellipses)

(ص.
4
ک مریم مقدس، هیچ فکرش را نمی کردم که کار به این جا بکشد.»

The data listed in Table 4 indicates filling out of ellipses is used more than other types of expansion. When the words are to be implied within the text, ellipsis may occur to prevent their repetition, without creating serious comprehension problems. However, sometimes translators may decide to insert into the place to abstain from the reader' slightest miscomprehension. Examples (3), (4), and (5) show filling out of ellipses has made the TT more intelligible to the readership through inserting the phrases «أميح فكرش را نمى كردم», and «أن ها تقصير دارند», محروميت از , and (5), the ST meaning has been described more in the TT while in (2), semantic restructuring has expanded the ST's condensed statement as « وكلا و ». Table 5 lists different examples of reduction in the translation of The Closed Shop.

Table 5. Reductions used in the translation of The Closed Shop

ST T

Type of expansion

1. In the plaza in front of the cathedral that was not without dignity. (p. 2)

(Reduction of formula)

2. It was not long before the happy news spread here and there. (p. 2)

(Reduction of formula)

3. Acrimonious discussions that are so wearing to the nerves. (p. 2)

(Loss of conjunction)

4. In a very little while, there was not a lawyer in it who did not own a Ford car. (p. 3)

(Simplification of doublet)

5. She had had enough of it. (p. 4) (Reduction of formula)

طاقتش طاق شد. (ص. ۴۷)

6. "It is on business that we have come to see you." (p. 6)

(Omission of specification of participants)

«به خاطر کاری خدمت رسیدیم.» (ص. ۵۰)

7. 'Caramba!' Cried the president, and with that stood on a sudden quite still. (p. 9)

(Reduction of formula)

رئيس جمهور فرياد زذ: «آفرين! و **دفعتا ايستاد**.» (ص. ۵۶)

In examples (1), (2), (5), and (7) of Table 5, reduction of formulas serves as the type of reduction applied in which the ST's established phrases have been adjusted to some condensed expressions in the TT. Example (3) shows loss of the conjunction 'that'. Table 6 shows different instances of expansion in the translation of The Duchess and the Jeweller.

Table 6. Expansions used in the translation of The Duchess and the Jeweller

ST	ST	
Type of expansion		
1. Oh, many years ago now! (p.2)		
(Descriptive equivalence)	اوه حالا سال ها از آن تاریخ گذشته بود. (ص. ۶۲)	
2. And he had a villa at Richmond, over	ooking the river. (p.2)	
(Classifier)	بعد لژ اختصاصی و ویلائی در ریچموند که مشرف بر رودخانه بود. (ص. ۶۲)	
3. As usual, he strode through the shop v	without speaking. (p.3)	
(Descriptive equivalence)	طبق معمول، بدون این که حرفی بزند شلنگ انداز وارد مغازه شد. (ص۶۴)	
4. The hand moved on. (p.4)		
(Descriptive equivalence)	عقربه به حر <i>کت خ</i> ود ادامه می داد. (ص. ۶۶)	
5."From the Appleby cinture" (p.6)		
(Filling out ellipses)	«این مروارید متعلق به کمربند اپل بایAppleby است.» (ص. ۷۰)	

Most of the data in Table 6, including instances (1), (3), and (4), show descriptive substitutes employed to turn the intended meaning more understandable to the receiving readership. As another subcategory of lexical expansions, a classifier has been used in example (2) to render the word 'villa', which supplies the readers with information on "the categorization of a word to clarify its purpose or structure." It mostly concerns "unfamiliar or culturally specific words" needing clarification (Yari &

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Zandian, 2022, p. 11–12). Filling out of ellipses serves as another type of syntactic expansion as applied by the translator in example (5), i.e., «اين مرواريد متعلق به... است.». Table 7 shows different instances of reduction applied in translating *The Duchess and the Jeweller*.

Table 7. Reductions used in the translation of The Duchess and the Jeweller

ST	π
Type of expansion	
1at the top of a house overlooking the Green Park. (p	. 1)
(Reduction of formula)	در بالاخانه ای مشرف بر پارک گرین (ص. ۶۰)
2. Then he unlocked the grating that barred the window.	. (p. 3)
(Loss of conjunction)	بعد نردههای پنجره را باز کرد. (ص. ۴۴)
3. The light from reflectors at the back of the shop struck	upwards. (p. 3)
(Reduction of formula)	نور نورافکنهای عقب مغازه بیرون میزد. (ص. ۶۴)
4rattling the diamonds so that they flashed and blaze	ed . (p. 4)
(Simplification of doublets) (۶۶ ص. ۱۹۶۵)	در حالی که الماسها را به صدا در میآورد و به تلألو میافکند.
5. "Gunpowder enough to blow Mayfair- sky high, high	, high !" (p. 4)
(Reduction of repetitions) (99	آن قدر باروت که بتواند محله می فر را تا آسمان بلند کند (ص.
6. He dodged in and out among the crowds. (p. 4)	
(Reduction of formula)	لابه لای جمعیت گم می شد. (ص. ۶۶)
7. 'Take it and test it !' (p. 7) (Reduction of repetitions/ Loss of conjunction)	«ببرید امتحان کنید.» (ص. ۷۲)

Majority of the instances of Table 7, including (1), (3), and (6) belong to reduction of formulas, appropriately applied in the TT to contract the ST expressions turning them clearer. Examples (2) and (7) show the use of loss of conjunctions, including 'that' along with 'and'. In example (4), the doublet 'flashed and blazed' is simplified to «به تلالو می افکند» in the TT. The repetitions of the words 'high' and 'it' are reduced in examples (5) and (7). Similar to the preceding sets of tables, the results of Table 6 and Table 7 support the fact that the translator has opted to draw on various reductions at a higher extent compared to different expansions at his disposal. Hence, it

seems that the translator has more inclined to employ reductions when confronted with distinct translation problems.

6. Discussion and Conclusion

This study used Nida and Taber's (2003) taxonomy of semantic adjustments to examine expansion and reduction in the translations of three short stories. Analysis of the data of the study showed that the translator opted to apply different types of reduction more than expansion subcategories, which seeks to address the identifiable research gap in examining different types of reduction at work in translation. The findings of this study contrast with Nida and Taber's statement on the preponderance of expansion mostly due to the translators' inclination to make the TT more comprehensible to the readership. However, as "reductions are based on the same fundamental principles of reproducing the closest natural equivalent" (p. 168), their prevalence in the current study tends to be justifiable in terms of rendering a dynamic equivalence in the process of translation. Meanwhile, reduction of formulas and descriptive substitutes served as the most frequently applied reductions and expansions by the translator. In line with the findings of Sudana and Yadnya's (2021) study, the results of this study demonstrated how semantic adjustments could bridge the linguistic gap between the texts under study, making the ST meaning more understandable to the potential readers in the TT.

Whereas most translators may feel obliged to resort to various expansion techniques to make the TT understandable enough, the results of this study indicated that the use of reduction tends to serve as the preferred option to render the nearest equivalent. In terms of legitimacy of both expansion and reduction at a translator's disposal, this frequency of reduction may concern the translator's decision to omit the additional information conveyed in the ST and to contract its constructions, depending on his individual style and creativity. Hence, "as different degrees of a translator's creativity are at play during translation, the ability to keep a balance

between these two translation dimensions, i.e., fidelity and creativity, tends to be individualistic" (Zandian, 2022, p. 72). However, the translators' sticking to the ST rather than employing various adjustments seems justifiable considering their inclination to stay faithful to so sensitive STs as the Holy Quran (Yari & Zandian, 2022).

Despite the contribution of this study to the general knowledge of the semantic adjustments applicable to the translation through comparing their different types and frequency, generalization of the findings to other short stories tends to be unfeasible due to incomprehensiveness of the corpus. Thus, more inclusive studies are required. Additionally, future studies can highlight the relationship between translators' adoption of particular adjustments and other factors involved in the translation process. The findings of this study might have practical implications and potential applications for other fields, including translator training and comparative literature addressing Persian-English vs. English-Persian language pairs.

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