

Recontextualisation of Political Discourse: A Case Study of Translation of News Stories

Authors : Hossein Sabouri

Abstract : News stories as one of the branches of political discourse has always been regarded a sensitive and challenging area. Political translators often encounter some struggles that are vitally important when it comes to deal with the political tension between the source culture and the target one. Translating news stories is of prime importance since it has widespread availability and power of defining or even changing the facts. News translation is usually more than straight transfer of source text. Like original text endeavoring to manipulate the readers' minds with imposing their ideologies, translated text seeking to change these ideologies influenced by ideological power. In other words, translation product is not considered more than a recontextualisation of the source text. The present study examines possible criteria for occurring changes in the translation process of news stories based on the ideological and political stance of translator using theories of 'critical discourse analysis' and 'translation and power'. Fairclough investigates the ideological issues in (political) discourse and Tymoczko studies the political and power-related engagement of the translator in the process of translation. Incorporation of Fairclough and Gentzler and Tymoczko's theories paves the way for the researcher to look at the ideological power position of the translator. Data collection and analysis have been accomplished using 17 political-text samples taken from online news agencies which are related to the 'Iran's Nuclear Program'. Based on the findings, recontextualisation is mainly observed in terms of the strategies of 'substitution, omissions, and addition' in the translation process. The results of the study suggest that there is a significant relationship between the translation of political texts and ideologies of target culture.

Keywords : news translation, recontextualisation, ideological power, political discourse

Conference Title : ICIT 2020 : International Conference on Interpreting and Translation

Conference Location : Copenhagen, Denmark

Conference Dates : June 11-12, 2020