An Analytical Study of The Deforming Tendencies in The English Translation of Manto's *Toba Tek Singh by* Khalid Hasan

Shahzad Khan
BS English, Department of English Literature and Linguistics, University of Malakand, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
Email: drshahzadkhan.pk@gmail.com

Ramla Ahmad
M.Phil. English, Department of English Literature and Linguistics, Northern University Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Hazrat Abbas
Lecturer in English, Riphah International University Malakand Campus.
Email: hazrat.abbas@riphah.edu.pk

Abstract

The current study examines the changes that occurred due to the translation of the original text (ST) of the short story *Toba Tek Singh* (written by Manto. This short story was originally written in Urdu by Manto (1956) primarily focusing on the aftermaths that occurred after the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. When this masterpiece was translated by Khalid Hasan from Urdu into English in 1987, certain changes or deteriorations occurred. The present study focuses on cultural, linguistic, and numerous contextual deteriorations in the translated work of Khalid Hasan. It also examines the approach in which the originality lost its essence and the deterioration in the meaning. The study utilizes the qualitative method of research by mainly applying Antonie Berman's Deforming Tendencies as the main theoretical framework for the analysis of the text. According to Berman, when a translator translates the text into another language many changes take place which dent the beauty of the original text (ST). The main objective of the study is to analyze the deforming tendencies and cultural shifts in the translated text (ST).

Introduction

Translation is a sophisticated procedure that involves replacing text from one language with its equivalent in another. While it is widely assumed that multilingual people may easily become translators or interpreters, the truth is more complicated. Effective translation

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necessitates not just proficiency in numerous languages, but also a thorough comprehension of their cultural backgrounds and grammatical structures. Linguistic equivalency at the word level does not ensure a proper translation of the full text, claims Sharma (2001). To translate something really, one must immerse oneself in the environment, perspective, and cultural quirks of the original speakers or writers and communicate their ideas in a way that the target language audience would understand. The vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural contexts of the source and target languages must all be carefully examined throughout this process (Amjad et al., 2021; Ramzan et al., 2023). According to Raina (2007), a good translation entails more than just switching words around; it also entails understanding the content of the original text and properly translating it into the target language with the least amount of meaning loss or distortion.

To accurately translate a text's content from its source into a target language, translation is a challenging intellectual undertaking that involves the transfer of meaning from one linguistic discourse to another (Foster, 1958). There has been a great deal of scholarly interest in the topic of translation studies, which has resulted in the founding of encyclopedic resources, international organizations like the European Translation Studies Community, and specialized periodicals (Bassnett, 2002). The increasing number of translation programs offered worldwide highlights the need for qualified translators and their increasing prominence on a global scale.

Saadat Hasan Manto was an inventive Urdu author best known for his depiction of the human psyche. He wrote many short stories mainly focusing on the inner side of humans. His famous short story *Toba Tek Singh* was published in 1956 in the context of the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan. Bishan Singh is the main character in the story who is a prisoner in Lahore's mental asylum. Manto uses the asylum as the main setting of the story to portray the follies and identity loss that emerged after the partition. The story of *Toba Tek Singh* remains a powerful depiction of the issues that arose after the partition of the country.

The current research focuses on the issue of deforming tendencies described by Berman that are present in Manto's *Toba Tek Singh*'s English version translated by Khalid Hasan in 1987. Furthermore, the study also focuses on the cultural, linguistics, and meaning shifts that occurred due to translation by applying Berman's tendencies as a theoretical framework

Literature Review:

Over the past several years, there has been a steady increase in the art, science, and ancient practice of translation. A barrier between two languages, civilizations, and cultures has been established by the translation profession. Translators have long been vital members of society. Modern languages and the national identities that surround them have progressed and expanded thanks in part to the efforts of medieval translators (Ahmad et al., 2022; Ramzan & Alahmadi, 2024). The contextual meanings found in many ancient scripts would be impossible for us to understand and appreciate without the contributions provided by linguists throughout the history of translation (Lebert, 2019). The transfer of messages from one language to another is the subject of translation studies. Linguists have yet to reach an agreement on what makes a competent translation. However, the efficacy with which the message is conveyed from the source to the destination is a crucial component in determining translation quality (Naveed, 2018).

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The topic of translation strategies has been the subject of extensive research. However, the definitions put forward by different theorists represent viewpoints and ideas. Theorists concur that when a difficulty arises and the literal translation is not effective, translators employ techniques. As a result, several academics have investigated and documented numerous translation techniques from various angles (Owji, 2013). Translators employ a variety of translation tactics, such as deforming tendencies and domestication vs. foreignization. The two commonly employed techniques in translation studies foreignization and domestication offer crucial insights into how translation functions in language and culture. L. Venuti, an Italian scholar, used the expressions, as did Eugene Nida, an American translation theorist (Munday, 2001).

Crystal (2003) defines translation as the process of communicating and transferring the meanings of the original or source text through equivalents in the target language. According to Hatim and Mason (2014), a text's social surroundings may be more significant in translation than its content. Translation, therefore, occurs within a sociocultural framework. The act of translation is explained in great detail by the concepts that follow regarding the practice.

Translation is defined by Lawrence Venuti (2012) as the process by which the chain of signifiers that constitutes the source-language text is replaced by a chain of signifiers in the target language which the translator provides on the strength of an interpretation. According to Mona Baker (2018), translation is a "cultural activity par excellence" and, by acting as a bridge between many cultures, translators are essential to cross-cultural communication. Translation is a technique of transferring the elements of culture in which the essence of the cultural norms must be preserved by the translator while translating the original text. The role of a translator is beyond anything. The translator must translate the cultural elements, linguistic elements, and idiomatic and humorous expressions accurately to keep the essence flourishing (House, 2014).

According to Hermans (2014), the job of translators is not to be only bilingual but must be bicultural to produce the target text in such a way that shows similarities with the source text. According to Pym (2014), the translated work needs to be acceptable, coherent, and appropriate to present the target culture effectively. A translator has to understand the unique balance between target text (TT) and source text (ST). In the same perspective, Sofer (2006) presented his viewpoint on art translation, pointing out that with the addition of language skills, a translator must be fully conscious of both cultures and their significance.

Many translators reconstruct the source text throughout the translation process, believing their version to be more accurate and sufficient. According to Bush (2008), a published translation of a literary work is comparable to the fruit that results from the translators' intense creative labor. According to Nida (1969), translation primarily consists of reproducing the message in the target language while taking the corresponding meanings and grammatical structures of the original language into account.

Antoine Berman, a well-known French intellectual, introduced the idea of deforming tendencies as another translation technique and method. He claims that the textual deformation technique, which prevents the foreign text from being seen as foreign, causes all translations to be slightly distorted (Kashifa, 2018). According to Berman, all foreignness, or the source text's foreignness, should remain in the target text. He feels that the form conveys

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meaning and that there should be no changes made to the target content to make it better. He claims that a writer's style may be altered by additions or deletions. He proposes twelve tendencies that cause a translation to distort. He contends that the process of translating itself has these distorted inclinations. Although they are largely necessary, their number has to be decreased consciously. The current study examines how several deforming tendencies were employed in Khalid Hasan's English translation of Sadat Hasan Manto's short story *Toba Tek Singh*.

Research Methodology
A translator uses a variety of techniques during the translation process to successfully transfer the meanings from the source language into the target text. The 2000 essay *Translation and the Trials* of the Foreign by Antoine Berman serves as the theoretical foundation for this research project. Twelve deforming tendencies are identified by this theory, which clarifies the difficulties in converting poetry source texts into target writings. The qualitative mode of study has been employed by the researchers. The researchers have employed these tendencies as a method of textual analysis to examine Khalid Hasan's English translation of Saadat Hasan Manto's short story *Toba Tek Singh*. The languages of both source text (ST) and target text (TT) are analyzed from the perspectives of the theoretical framework. The researchers have selected important lines and sentences related to the theory and have then analyzed them respectively. The lines were first read by applying close reading techniques then note note-taking method was used to judge the proficiency and linguistics levels of the text.

DATA ANALYSIS
This data analysis is based on two different portions: the first part presents how the deforming tendencies have been explored by the researchers in the selected text of Manto's *Toba Tek* Singh translated by Khalid Hasan in 1987. They have also found how these deforming tendencies affect the target text's attractiveness and structure. The second section explains how the translator translated the messages found in the source text into the target text. The deformation tendencies utilized in the selected text are explained as follows:

Rationalization:
According to Berman (2000), rationalization primarily impacts sentence structure, reducing difficult phrases, substituting abstract concepts with concrete ones in the target language, and altering the order of distinct sentences in the source language. This deforming tendency may be noticed in the target language outlined below:

ST:"پاکستان زندہ باد" ایک مسلمان پاگل نے ایک دن نہاتے نہاتے

کا نعرہ اس زور سے بلند کیا کہ فرش پر پھسل کر گرااور بے ہوش ہو گیا۔

T.T: One Day a Muslim lunatic, while taking his bath, raised the slogan 'Pakistan Zindabad' with such enthusiasm that he lost his footing. P. 12

Rationalization is the first distortion found in the chosen translation. Berman (2000) defines rationalization as a deforming tendency in which the translator rearranges the basic syntactic structures and patterns of the original text to fit a certain thinking sequence. The only punctuation used in the source text (ST) is a full stop; nevertheless, the translator added two

commas to the target text (TT), which altered the original structure. This propensity reorganizes the patterns according to the translator's thinking order, changing the basic syntactic structure of the original text. The TT was expanded as a result of the translator adding an article that was absent from the ST. Although the goal of this extension is to make the text more understandable for readers, it may also distort the source text's original meaning.

Ennoblement:

The tendency for a translation to alter while providing deeper and more eloquent prose than the original is known as ennoblement. Ennoblement can be observed in the following lines:

ST: پاکستان اور ہندوستان کا قصہ شروع ہوا تو اس نے دوسرے پاگلوں سے پوچھنا شروع کیا کہ ٹوبہ ٹیک سنگھ کہاں ہے

TT: Since the start of this India-Pakistan caboodle, he got into the habit of asking fellow inmates. P. 15

In the translation of *Toba Tek Singh*, there is a noticeable departure in the translator's word choice from the original text, especially in the translation of the word " قصہ " as "caboodle" and the phrase " پوچھنا شروع کیا " as "got into the habit." The examples above exemplify the idea of ennoblement, as proposed by Antoine Berman (2000), in which the translator makes an effort to improve or elevate the original text, frequently at the expense of removing its original meaning and cultural context.

The term " قصہ " in the source text, which, as a conventional definition of "story" or "tale," has inherent cultural and historical meanings. Translating it as "caboodle," a slang phrase for a collection or a lot, drastically changes the meaning of the original word and lessens its cultural significance. This decision highlights the ennobling propensity to lessen the authenticity of the original material by substituting more general or domesticated language for culturally distinctive phrases.

Similarly, the translation of '' پوچھنا شروع کیا," which conveys the action of "starting to inquire" or "beginning to ask," into "got into the habit" misrepresents the intent and degree of the original phrase.

Clarification:

In the English translation of Manto's short story, the translator makes extensive use of clarification techniques, which are discussed as the following:

ST: اس کی ایک لڑکی تھی جو ہر مہینے ایک انگلی بڑھتی بڑھتی پندرہ برسوں میں جوان ہو گئی تھی

TT: When he was first confined, he had left an infant daughter behind, now a pretty young girl of fifteen. P.15

Clarification as a practice is exemplified by this translation example. To clarify the meaning for readers of the target language, the translator adds terms like "pretty," "confined," and "infant" that are not present in the source text (ST). The translator aims to improve the narrative's vividness by adding embellishments to the description of the daughter, calling her a "pretty young girl of fifteen." Antoine Berman, however, would criticize this strategy, claiming that these kinds of explanations frequently result in notable syntactical differences

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between the source and target texts. Because the original text omits these qualifiers, readers interpret the story in the context of their own cultures. Defining attributes such as age and attractiveness invites personal readings that may depart from the author's original meaning and change the emotional impact of the story. Berman's assessment highlights the subtleties and complexity inherent in translating practice, underscoring the difficulty of striking a balance between integrity to the source language and making the narrative accessible to new audiences.

Qualitative Impoverishment:
When a word is translated for modification and it loses its richness in the source text (ST), then the issue of qualitative impoverishment arises. Following is the example from the text:

ST: حوالے کر دیا جائے

TT: Should be sent to India.

ST: ایک دن

TT: Actual date

The text here has shown some significant issues of translation. The text when read comprehensively has some main issues of qualitative impoverishment. In the text of the short story, the phrase, " حوالے کر دیا جائے " is mistranslated as "should be sent to India" in the TT from the ST. The beauty and meaning of the word "sent" are not conveyed by the word " حوالے کر دیا

جائے." Similarly, " ایک دن " is transformed inaccurately as "actual date," showing a complete deviation from the original meaning. These misinterpretations of the text. These translation decisions result in a target text that is distorted and fails to capture the genuine spirit of the original work. These errors compromise the original text's syntactic and semantic integrity in addition to confusing the intended audience. These problems draw attention to the difficulties presented by language and cultural disparities, which might jeopardize the authenticity and depth of the source material while it is being translated.

The Destruction of the Linguistic Pattern:
According to Berman, the translator employs numerous translation strategies such as rationalization, enlargement, and explanation, which destroy the structures and pattern of the source text even though the target text is linguistically homogeneous. The systematicity of the original language has been disrupted, resulting in a loss of consistency in meaning. The following lines show how the linguistic pattern was demolished.

ST: جب اس تبادلے کی خبر پہنچی تو بڑی دلچسپ چہ میگوئیاں ہونے لگیں

TT: This profound observation was received with visible faction. P.1

Expansion:
Berman felt that any translation was longer than the source text, but that such extension in translation was inappropriate. He feels that such inclusion results in over-translation, which adds nothing to the target text while destroying its quality (Vemenhnani, 2018). The expansion took place as follows:

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ST: ‏".‏"ہمیں تو وہاں کی بولی نہیں آتی"

TT: "We even don't know the language they speak in that country". (Hassan, 1987, p. 1)
Another deforming tendency identified in this piece of translation is expansion, as noted by Berman (2000). The translator has expanded the TT compared to the ST by adding extra words not present in the original text. This was ostensibly done to make the target text clearer for readers. For instance, the translator included "that country," which does not exist in the source text. According to Berman, such an expansion not only dilutes the original meaning but also disrupts the inherent syntactic and semantic structure of the source text. This deforming tendency of expansion distorts the authenticity and integrity of the source material, leading to a linguistic patterning of destruction. By inserting unnecessary context, the translator undermines the fidelity of the translation, compromising the richness and nuance of the original work.

Destruction of Underlying Networks of Signification:

ST: ‏"ان میں سے ایک نے کٹا دیا ہے۔۔۔اور دوسری کے کٹی ہوئی تھی"

TT: Both of them gave birth to calves. (Hassan, 1987, p. 4)
In the context of the original text (ST), some specific terms like " کٹا " and " کٹی " are used to differentiate between "bull calf" and "heifer calf" respectively, both carrying their original symbolism and meaning. On the contrary, in the context of the target text (TT), these two separate terms are indiscriminately transformed as "calves," collapsing the differences anticipated in the ST. This type of translation as described by Berman, not only deteriorates the meaning of the text but also This mistranslation, as highlighted by Berman (2000), not only dilutes the semantic richness but also disrupts the unique networks of signification present in the source text (ST). The reduction of " کٹا " and " کٹی " to general terms fades the cultural and symbolic significance of a generic term and undermines their cultural specificity and symbolic significance, disguising the connotations they express.

Findings, Recommendations, and Conclusion
Findings
The analysis of Khalid Hasan's translation of Saadat Hasan Manto's *Toba Tek Singh* explores the findings that are based on the twelve deforming tendencies proposed by Antonie Berman, primarily focusing on rationalization, ennoblement, clarification, qualitative impoverishment, destruction of the linguistic pattern, expansion, and destruction of underlying networks of signification.
The current research has explored the issues of rationalization where the translator has used a complex structure of sentences and added different punctuations absent in the original text. By exploring the tendency of ennoblement, it has been found that the translator has replaced culturally bound terms in their way, leading to the deterioration of the text. Clarification has been found in the text where this tendency has resulted in the loss of originality in conveying the meaning. The tendency of qualitative impoverishment has made the source text less attractive and semantically weaker. The destruction of the linguistic pattern in the target text (TT) has created a lack of coherence and made the translation less systematic. Expansion, as another tendency, has been observed by the researchers, where both the syntactic and semantic structures of the original text (ST) and the over-translation have diluted the

intended meaning. The last tendency identified by the researcher was the destruction of the underlying network of signification. In the current research, terms were found that were used involuntarily by the translator, which were either less meaningful or had less similar meaning in the context of the translation.

Conclusion:

The conclusion of this research on the deforming tendencies in the English translation of Manto's *Toba Tek Singh* by Khalid Hasan highlights the challenges and transformations that occur during the translation process. This study has examined the shifts and distortions that took place in the translated text, particularly focusing on cultural, linguistic, and contextual elements. The findings align with Antoine Berman's theory of deforming tendencies, highlighting the complexities of preserving the original essence of a literary work during translation.

Throughout the analysis, it became evident that Khalid Hasan's translation involved several deforming tendencies as identified by Berman. Rationalization, one of the key tendencies, was prominent in the translation, where sentence structures were altered, and additional punctuation was introduced, resulting in a reorganization of the original syntax. This not only changed the flow and rhythm of the text but also influenced the reader's interpretation of the narrative. While rationalization aimed to make the text more comprehensible for the target audience, it inadvertently compromised the authenticity of the original work.

Ennoblement, another significant tendency observed in the translation, involved the elevation of the language and the replacement of culturally bound terms with more generalized expressions. This tendency diluted the cultural richness of the original text, leading to a loss of the unique flavor that Manto's writing inherently possesses. The use of terms such as "caboodle" instead of "قصہ" and the transformation of "پوچھنا شروع کیا" into "got into the habit" are clear examples of how the translation diverged from the original's cultural context, thus diminishing its impact.

Clarification, while often employed to enhance the reader's understanding, also introduced elements that were absent in the source text. By adding descriptors such as "pretty" and "infant" to describe the daughter, the translation inadvertently shifted the narrative's focus and altered the emotional tone of the original story. This tendency, although intended to make the text more accessible, resulted in a significant deviation from Manto's intent, highlighting the challenges of balancing clarity with fidelity in translation.

Qualitative impoverishment was another deforming tendency that emerged in the analysis. This tendency was evident in the mistranslation of key phrases, where the richness and depth of the original language were lost. The translation of "حوالے کردیا جائے" as "should be sent to India" exemplifies how the nuances of the original text were flattened in the translation, leading to a less impactful and meaningful rendition.

The destruction of the linguistic pattern was also a notable issue in the translation. Berman's theory emphasizes the importance of maintaining the systematicity of the original language, and the analysis revealed that this was compromised in the target text. The alteration of linguistic structures disrupted the coherence of the narrative, making the translation less systematic and more fragmented.

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Expansion, another deforming tendency, was evident in the translation's lengthier rendition of certain phrases. The addition of unnecessary context, as seen in the translation of "ہمیں تو وہاں کی بولی نہیں آتی" into "We even don't know the language they speak in that country," not only extended the text unnecessarily but also diluted the original meaning. This tendency of over-translation undermined the integrity of the source text, leading to a less precise and more generalized version of the narrative.

Finally, the destruction of underlying networks of signification was identified as a critical issue in the translation. The analysis revealed that certain culturally and symbolically significant terms in the original text were reduced to more generic expressions in the translation. This loss of cultural specificity and symbolic richness further weakened the translation's ability to convey the depth and complexity of Manto's work.

In conclusion, this study highlights the balance that translators must strike between preserving the original essence of a text and making it accessible to a new audience. Khalid Hasan's translation of *Toba Tek Singh* is a testament to the challenges inherent in literary translation, where cultural, linguistic, and contextual elements must be carefully navigated to maintain the integrity of the original work. The findings of this research underscore the importance of awareness and sensitivity to the deforming tendencies that can arise during the translation process, as these can significantly impact the final product. Ultimately, this study contributes to the broader discourse on translation studies, emphasizing the need for translators to carefully consider the implications of their choices in preserving the authenticity and cultural richness of the source text.

Recommendations for Future Research:

Translation and Identity: Future research can shape the cultural and national identity depicted in literature. This can be done by selecting narratives from different cultures as the main framework to conduct the study. Reader Reception Studies: This study can also be accomplished by applying qualitative methods such as focus groups, questionnaires, individual and group interviews to ask them about their responses to the study of the related work. This can help in the efficacy of translation approaches. Influence of Cultural Contexts: This study is of much importance and can have a significant on the readers. This comparative study can help readers judge the translators and their work from different languages and then analyze their levels of translations separately. This will point out the issues and tendencies faced by the translators.

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