



THE CONTEXT

Quarterly e-journal of English Studies

International, Indexed & Peer Reviewed / Refereed Journal

Publication details and instructions for authors:

www.thecontext.in

IMPACT FACTOR 4.67

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Heterogeneity of Culture in Literature

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ABSTRACT

The definition of “culture” as given in the Concise Oxford Dictionary varies from descriptions of the “Arts” to plant and bacteria cultivation and includes a wide range of intermediary aspects. More specifically concerned with language and translation, culture as “the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression,” thus acknowledging that each language group has its own culturally specific features, operationally language as a component or feature of culture. In language is part of a culture imply the impossibility to translate, translating the source language (SL) into a suitable form of target language (TL) is part of the translator’s role in transcultural communication. Today, the world gets increasingly interconnected through globalization. In this process, confrontation of cultures is an inevitable event which leads to the cross-cultural communication.

Keywords: *culture, heterogeneity, transcultural, etc.*

FULL PAPER

Notion of Culture:

The terms culture originally meant the cultivation of the soul or mind; culture includes behavior such as courtship or child rearing practices material things such as tools, clothing and shelter, institutions and beliefs. Culture is the sum total of the ways of living built up by a group and passed on from one generation to another. Culture is a complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, customs and many other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.

The notion of culture is essential to considering the implications for translation and, despite the differences in opinion as to whether language is part of culture or not, the two notions appear to be inseparable. Discussing the problems of correspondence in translation, it is an essential to give equal importance to both linguistic and cultural differences between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL), the “differences between cultures may cause more severe complications for the translator than do differences in language structure.” It is further explained that parallels in culture often provide a common understanding despite significant formal shifts in the translation. The cultural implications for translation are thus of significant importance as well as lexical concerns. Linguistics theories conclusion states that “no language can exist unless it is steeped in the context of culture; and no culture can exist which does not have at its center, the structure of natural language” Linguistics underlines the importance of this double consideration when translating by stating that language is “the heart within the body of culture,” the survival of both aspects being interdependent.

Culture through the languages:

We came to agree on the existence of the so-called ‘cultural universals’ that enhance communication, change of ideas in order to achieve progress in all life domains. Change of ideas, concentration of mutual efforts in different directions, communication among different peoples in different ways, all these are a constant necessity of spiritual and material life. Not only cultural acts are achieved by means of continuity process alone, but also being discontinuous can be as creative at certain times. Yet, this breach is to be performed to existent models and not to a state of nothingness.

Difficulties arising out of differences of cultures constitute the most serious problems for translators and have produced the most far-reaching misunderstanding among readers. Culture itself has its own limitation in transferring the source text into target text. Each society or group of people based on their historical background, local situations, and religion with their specific language, construct their own culture which is respected, performed and accepted along with its limitations. Limitation in translation is one of the specific features of culture, not necessarily imposed from outside world. Behaviors which are acceptable will vary from location to location.

Nowadays, the major problem in translation is being certainly influenced by different cultural norms in the source language and target influenced by different cultural norms in the source language and target language. The translator's responsibility is to choose the norms that take priority over others. It depends on translator's decision if the cultural norms of the source language, target language, or a combination of both are essential to be considered. Each language has its own culture and religion. Each society propagates its own specific culture through translation. Culture translation helps to know the variety of worship of different cultures. For e.g. Muslim pray in Masque, Christian in Church, Jewish in Synagogue or celebrating "Christmas Day" has been expanded.

Cultural borrowing is one of the advantages that transfer ideas, customs, and social behaviors from another culture. By an adequate translation readers or audience of target language culture will acquire a lot of useful benefits for e.g. hospitality; way of greeting and saying hello when they meet each other in Iran would be extend in the world through translation. The other e.g. is table manner of some nations that reflect how that nation's culture is.

Culture is no material phenomenon; it does not consist of things, people, behavior, or emotions. It is rather an organization of these things. It is the form of things that people have in mind, their model of perceiving and dealing with their circumstances. Culture is the total life way of people, the social legacy the individual acquires from his group. Therefore, people who share a culture but speak different languages, will have different world views. Still, languages is rooted in culture and culture is reflected and passed on by language from one generation to the next.

Culture And Habits:

Indian culture develops within our growth. Indian culture would be a part of our life way. Since translation transfers the culture, unconsciously behind this culture, we get familiar with the Indian cultures and people's habits of different regions. For example, "Bhaubeej" as in Indian culture shows that people respect sisters. So, this special day has become a habit for all countries in different geographical regions. Also, daily habits such as using the Internet have become so common globally so using this is inevitable almost for all.

Conclusion:

Culture is not material phenomenon; it does not consist of things, people, behavior, or emotions. It is rather an organization of these things. It is the form of things that people have in mind, their model of perceiving and dealing with their circumstances. Culture is the total life way of people, the social legacy the individual acquires from his group. Culture is vital in forming civilization. In other words, culture is more likely to be essence and basis of civilization. Civilization is more extended than culture as the former one relates to the vast majority of people beyond the borders, but generally culture belongs to a specific group of people limited inside the borders. Knowledge, beliefs perspectives transfer through language and culture. Culture links the past, present and future together.

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