

**THE TRANSLATION OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN KAZI
NAZRUL ISLAM'S POEMS**

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**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
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KUALA LUMPUR**

2014

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

**FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

2014

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

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THE TRANSLATION OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM'S POEMS

ABSTRACT

Translating poems are more challenging than translating academic texts. Translators usually face problems in translating figurative language as they have to make a balance between the target language (TL) and the source language (SL) in order to preserve the meaning when translating to the TL so that it is accepted socio-culturally by the TL readers.

This study investigates the translation of figurative language (similes, metaphors, metonymy, synecdoche, allusions, personifications and hyperboles) in thirty selected Bengali poems by Kazi Nazrul Islam, the national poet of Bangladesh, from Bengali to English. The aims of this research are to investigate the types of figurative language used by the poet, to determine the strategies used by the translator in translating the figurative language, and to recommend better translation strategies for the figurative language that has not been translated appropriately in the TL. In conducting the study, the researcher has used an eclectic procedure as the theoretical framework of study comprising the translation strategies proposed by Newmark (1988) to translate similes and metaphors, Larson's (1998) strategies to translate metonymy and synecdoche, Leppihelme's (1997) strategies to translate allusions and Baker's (2011) strategies to translate personifications and hyperboles.

A total of 371 instances of figurative language were found in these thirty poems, where metaphors were the most frequently used i.e. 152 instances (40.97%). This was followed by personifications with a total of 62 instances (16.71%), allusions 58 instances (15.63%), metonymy 55 instances (14.82 %), similes 18 instances (4.85%), and hyperboles 14 instances (3.77%) and synecdoche 12 instances (3.23%).

It was further revealed that several strategies suggested by Newmark, Larson, Baker and Leppihalme were applied and while translating, attempts were made to retain the same image in the target language. Another new strategy that was found was the strategy of omission in translating metonymy and synecdoche which was not mentioned by Larson. The findings from this study may offer good guidelines and insights for future translators in choosing suitable strategies for translating figurative language accurately in poems.

TERJEMAHAN BAHASA KIASAN DALAM PUISI KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM

ABSTRAK

Penterjemahan puisi adalah lebih mencabar daripada menterjemahkan teks-teks akademik. Penterjemah biasanya menghadapi masalah dalam menterjemahkan bahasa kiasan kerana mereka perlu membuat keseimbangan antara bahasa sasaran (TL) dan bahasa sumber (SL) bagi memelihara erti apabila menterjemah ke TL supaya ia diterima oleh pembaca dalam bahasa sasaran (TL) dari aspek sosio-budaya.

Kajian ini menganalisis terjemahan bahasa kiasan (perumpamaan, metafora, metonimi, synecdoche, alusi, personifikasi dan hyperbole) dalam tiga puluh puisi Bengali yang dipilih dari puisi-puisi tulisan Kazi Nazrul Islam, penyair negara Bangladesh, dari Bengali ke Bahasa Inggeris. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menyiasat jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan oleh penyair, untuk memastikan strategi yang digunakan oleh penterjemah dalam menterjemahkan bahasa kiasan, dan mencadangkan strategi terjemahan yang lebih baik untuk bahasa kiasan yang tidak diterjemahkan sewajarnya dalam TL. Dalam menjalankan kajian ini, penyelidik telah menggunakan prosedur eklektik sebagai rangka kerja teori pengajian yang terdiri daripada strategi terjemahan yang dicadangkan oleh Newmark (1988) untuk menterjemahkan perumpamaan dan metafora, strategi Larson (1998) untuk menterjemahkan metonimi dan synecdoche, strategi Leppihelme (1997) untuk menterjemahkan alusi dan strategi Baker (2011) untuk menterjemahkan personifikasi dan hyperbole.

Sebanyak 371 kes bahasa kiasan yang ditemui dalam tiga puluh puisi, di mana metafora adalah yang paling kerap digunakan iaitu 152 kes (40.97%). Ini diikuti oleh personifikasi dengan sejumlah 62 kes (16.71%), alusi 58 kes (15.63%), metonimi 55 kes (14.82%), perumpamaan 18 kes (4.85%), hyperbole 14 kes (3.77%) dan synecdoche 12 kes (3.23%).

Terdedah juga beberapa strategi yang dicadangkan oleh Newmark, Larson, Baker dan Leppihalme telah diaplikasikan, dan semasa penterjemahan, percubaan telah dibuat untuk mengekalkan imej yang sama dalam bahasa sasaran. Satu lagi strategi baru yang ditemui adalah strategi peninggalan (*omission*) untuk menterjemahkan metonomi dan synecdoche yang tidak disebut oleh Larson. Hasil kajian ini boleh menawarkan garis panduan yang baik dan pemikirannya untuk penterjemah masa depan dalam memilih strategi yang sesuai untuk menterjemahkan bahasa kiasan dalam puisi.dengan tepatnya.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Allah SWT for his divine help and guidance to me for completing my MESL dissertation entitled “The Translation of Figurative Language in Kazi Nazrul Islam’s Poems”.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge my immense gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Kulwindr Kaur a/p Gurdial Singh, for her generous support during the whole process of this research. She has been extremely instrumental in motivating me. I would not have been able to complete my dissertation without her able guidance and supervision. I am truly thankful to her for her steadfast integrity and selfless dedication to my academic development.

Thirdly, I would also like to thank my parents who have always been my constant source of inspiration. It was their support and encouragement that constantly pushed me to complete my dissertation successfully.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my husband, siblings, and in-laws for their continuous support and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to thank my son, Shayeed Athir Karim (Shawqi), who sacrificed a lot during the whole process of my research. Even though I failed to take good care of him and fulfill my motherly duties fully, he always accepted all these with a smile which kept me motivated to complete my dissertation successfully.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	Representation
BT	Back Translation
KNI	KaziNazrul Islam
SL	Source Language
ST	Source Text
TL	Target Language
Translit.	Transliteration
TT	Target Text

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