The Translation of Novels

Suyunov Alijon

Lecturers at Silk Road International university of tourism and cultural heritage

Abstract: Translating a novel is more difficult than translating academic texts. Novel translators (Genetic factor) usually have problems in translating figurative languages (metaphors, similes, personifications, etc.) and idiomatic expressions because they should reproduce in the target language (TL) the closest natural equivalence of the source language (ST) message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style accepted socio-culturally.

Key words: Novels, Translating, books. Technique, methods.

Introduction

The exportation of modern novel from European languages to other literatures has long been the object of study and has been, most recently, evoked in discussions of World Literature. The introduction of modern novel into the Persian literary system through translation occurred about the turn of the twentieth century. The genre was unprecedented in Persian and the concept of adabiyat was specific to its literary tradition. As a result, the genre had to negotiate its position with literary and cultural norms to legitimize itself in the literary system. This negotiation was partly formal, i.e., accepted forms of literary expression, and partly conceptual, i.e., what the literary should express. The present paper focuses on the channels that introduced the genre into the literary system: first, explicit and implicit norms that regulated the transfer of the genre into Persian are outlined; then, the implications of form, literariness, and genre in inter-cultural transfer are discussed to elaborate on how the incoming novelistic discourse was appropriated. In the end, in view of the way the novelistic was transplanted into the Persian literary system, a number of hypotheses about the location of the novelistic in the Persian literary system are developed.

The translation of the novel into Persian is not an exception to the rule: the modern novel was unprecedented in the Persian literary system before the European influence. The primary impact of the novel on Persian literature was that it legitimized prose as a literary and artistic medium in a literary tradition where the dominant means of literary production was verse. On the other hand, preexisting literary conceptions, the main focus of the present paper, conditioned the importation of the genre into Persian and transformed the concept of the novel in specific ways.

I cannot yet address the transitions of the novel or translation in the modern history of Persian literature for two reasons: given the long history of both an adequate and detailed analysis demands more space than a single paper. It is also important to understand the initial role of translation and the ensuing conceptions of the genre by examining how it was introduced into the literary system. Only after primary hypotheses about the genre's transplantation are formed is it possible to trace and register the genre's developments and changing cultural significations throughout the century of reproductions that followed initial importation. As

a result, I propose to explore the transfer from a different perspective and in the light of translation theory to focus on the channels through which the genre was imported into Persian.

An additional factor in determining which set of norms will prevail in the act of translation is the position of the language from/into which translation is happening in the international network of languages. if a language is in a central position, more texts are translated from this language than into it; as a result, it will be easier for this language to impose its norms on the translated material. In contrast, a peripheral language which, for various reasons, relies on translation to a greater extent than a central language cannot easily impose its norms on translated materials.

In moments of crisis, it is in fact natural for translation to ignore the target system's authorities: since the importation happens because of the insufficiency of local norms, translation has to realign and readjust the target system according to its own norms. This is not necessarily a negative impact: for instance, besides legitimizing prose as a literary vehicle which emancipated imagination from poetic constrictions in literary production, translation contributed to a substantial simplification of Persian prose. Nonetheless, since exporting systems are in most cases more powerful, they can oblige "given populations to adapt themselves to the idiom and the rules of visitors". In such circumstances, translation can come to act "as part of the 'technology of colonial domination'". In other words, various cultural systems' experience of and relationship with translation depend on how adequate their institutions and stable they themselves are when the importation occurs.

Since the main purpose that energized translations from European languages was progress with the primary intention of compensating for a technological and political "backwardness" by borrowing from Europe, it was inevitable that "the base ideology of translation was an ideology of reformation and revolution". Thus conditioned, the choice of works depended on individual translators' assumption that his (and less likely her) selected work was educational, more informative or provided a better comprehension of the advanced world. As a consequence, what guided the choice of literary works were sporadic individual decisions instead of deliberate institutional ones.

Under the urgency of translating from European languages to fulfill the goals of the ideology of progress, there is no evidence that early translations intended, as their primary goal, to introduce the novel into the Persian literary system. By implication, the transfer of the genre was not informed by its history or by its contextual significations because knowledge of what the novel was or meant in the European context, what the socioeconomic and cultural presuppositions of realism were and how they affected the organization of society or the formulation of the literary did not appear as part of translational concerns.

Conclusion

In order to explain the reception of the novel in Persian during the second half of the nineteenth century, I outlined the explicit causes and ideologies of translation as well as the implicit literary norms which most probably left their mark on the importation of the modern novel into Persian. This genre, and specifically the realistic novel, is by many accounts the literary form of a bourgeois individualized society where written communication is possible. Its transfer under pressure for modernization and aspiration for the status of Europe into a society that hardly shared any of these features meant that the novel had to change so much as to fit predetermined literary notions.

References:

1. Ahmadzadeh, H. (2003). Nation and novel: A study of Persian and Kurdish narrative discourse. Uppsala: Uppsala University Press.
2. Aryanpour, Y. (1381/2002a). Az Saba ta Nima [from Saba to Nima] (Vols. 1-2). Tehran: Zavvar Press.
3. Aryanpour, Y. (1381/2002b). Az Nima ta ruzegar-e ma [from Nima to our time]. Tehran: Zavvar Press. Azadibougar, O. (2010). Translation historiography in the modern world: Translation and modernization in Persian. Target: International Journal of Translation Studies, 22(2), 298-329.
4. Azarang, A., & Dehbashi, A. (1377/1998). Nashr va farhang: selseleh gofteguha darbareh nashr va farhang, goftegu ba Abdolrrahim Jafari [publishing and culture: series of interviews on publishing and culture, interview with Abdolrrahim Jafari]. Bukhara,1(4), 238-267.
5. Azarang, A. (1379/2001). Nashr va farhang: selseleh gofteguha darbareh nashr va farhang, goftegu ba Mahmud Baqeri [publishing and culture: series of interviews on publishing and culture, interview with Mahmud Baqeri]. Bukhara, 3(12), 67-90.
6. Balay, C. (1386/2006). La genese du roman persan modern. (M. Ghavimi & N. Khattat, Trans). Tehran: Institut Francais de Recherche en Iran and Editions Mo'in. Brownlie, S. (2003). Investigating explanations of translational phenomena. Target: International Journal of Translation Studies, 15(1), 111-152. Butler, J. (2009). Frames of war: When is li