GRAMMATICAL PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATING PONNEELAN'S '*NITHIYAMANATHU*' FROM TAMIL TO ENGLISH

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Abstract

The grammatical design of the language is a significant piece of its general framework, no less significant, truth is told, than its dictionary. The components of the grammatical design, for example, attach types of emphasis and inference, syntactic examples, word request, and so forth, serve to convey implications which are generally alluded to as "grammatical" or "primary" implications, as unmistakable from lexical implications. The delivery of these implications during the process of translation is a significant problem identifying with the overall problem of translation comparability which should be considered final. Grammatical types of different languages without a doubt, very only occasionally correspond completely regarding the extent of their importance and capacity. As a rule, there is just incomplete comparability that is the grammatical implications communicated by grammatical structures, however apparently indistinguishable, of two different languages agree just in a piece of their importance and differ in different pieces of similar meanings.

KEYWORDS: Grammar, translation, syntax, semantic, source language, target language, sentences, morphology

INTRODUCTION

Translation as a term is generally connected with the activity or interaction of delivering the content of a source language word, word-gathering, or sentence in the objective language or with the consequence of the cycle of delivering. The significance of interpreting in the cutting-edge society has for quite some time been perceived. For all intents and purposes, not a solitary contact at the worldwide level or even between any two foreign people communicating in different languages can be set up or kept up with without the assistance of translators.

The responsibility of a translator is to deliver the message of the first in the fullest manner so that to have the option to accomplish primary similitude of the source and target messages. If the syntactic comparability is missing, we notice a change. In satisfying this undertaking he/she faces various problems, for example, equivocalness, grammatical problems, lexical differences between languages, and much more.

Grammar is organized into two main dimensions. One is morphology and the other is syntax. Morphology means a scientific study of forms and structure. It covers the structure of words, the way in which the form of a word changes to indicate specific contrast in the grammatical system. For instance, most nouns in English have two forms, a singular form and a plural form- car/cars, student/students, child/children. Syntax means a set of rules that governs how words are combined to form phrases and sentences. It covers the grammatical structure of groups, clauses and sentences. Choices in language can be expressed grammatically or lexically. It depends on the type and range of linguistic resources available in the Target Language.

TRANSLITERATIONS

Transliteration is the process of adapting the graphological form of the borrowed terms or source language terms into the target languages without violating phonological and graphological rules and conventions of the target language. It is a process of modifying the phonological and graphological shape of the borrowed words so as to use them effectively in the target language, particularly while writing science texts in the target language.

Nouns are naming words. Every language has its own set of nouns and the list is open ended i.e. newer nouns one added to the older ones with the changing times. A Noun is the name of a person place or thing. A thing includes a quality (fear) a material (gold), a collection (herd, army), a state (adherence) and an action (cheat, mock, movement). A proper noun is the name of a particular person or thing, i.e. a name used for an individual person or place, river, or mountain etc.: Mary, Rahul, Godavari, India, and Everest. A common noun refers to any and every person or thing of the same kind or class, not to a particular person or thing: cow, dog, girl, boy, man, woman. A collective noun is the name of a collection, group of people, or things of the same kind: class, team, government jury, federation. A material noun is the name of a material, substance, or ingredient things are made of. They can be articles of food or drink as well: iron, copper, steel, gold, coal, silver, rice, wheat, milk, water, tea, sugar. : A material noun is a type of common noun but a distinction is made between the two. A common noun is usually a countable noun but a material noun is an uncountable noun. An abstract noun is the name of a quality, state, or concept: beauty, sweetness, childhood, love.

NOUN

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*Semmariaadu*	6	Sheep
2	*Mappillai*	91	Bride groom
3	*Ponjathi*	97	Wife
4	*Kilavi*	108	Old lady

From the examples mentioned above, it is evident that English and Tamil languages differ in their patterns of nouns and noun formation. While translating a noun from the Source Language to the Target Language, the single unit nouns in the Source Language become two in the Target Language. This change is made for the benefit of the Target Language readers to have a proper understanding of the Source Language noun.

PRONOUN

The category of person relates to the notion of participant roles. It is systematically defined through a closed system of pronouns which may be organized along a variety of dimensions. The common distinction is that between the first person "I/we- *naan/naankal'* which includes the speaker; the second person, the person / persons addressed" you- *nii/niinkal* and the third person, persons other than the speaker and addressed he/she/it/they – *avan/aval/atu/ avarkal*. For example:

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S. No.	Source Language	Page No.(SL)	Target Language
1	*naan* saganum	62	**I** want to die
2	*nanum* athaithaan soldren sir	70	**I also** said the same sir
3	*ninga* ninaipathu thappu sir	70	**You** think wrong sir
4	*ninga* sapidala thana?	58	**You** didn't eat food, did you?

In the examples mentioned, "*nan*" is translated into the Target Language as I.

ninga as "you" in the TL.

Pro means 'for' or 'acting as.' A pronoun is used as a substitute for a noun or a noun phrase. In other words, it has all the characteristics of a noun: it can function as a subject/object/complement in a sentence. A pronoun is used to avoid the repetition of nouns or noun phrases.

- ➤ They (*avarkal)*
- ➤ You (*ninkal)*

are the modes of address, which can be used to express familiarity or difference in a similar way. For example:

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	**Aviya** mattum illadi	99	**She** was not alone

VERB

A verb is a word or phrase indicating an action, event or state. No sentences are generally complete without the use of verb.

1. She teaches us English. - action
2. The accident happened at night. - event
3. He is in poor health. - state

The verb is the most important part of a sentence. It is obligatory even in the shortest of sentences:

1. Stop!
2. They left.
3. The stock markets fell.

The researcher has translated some of the verbs found in the source language into English. They are listed below:

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*kilaviyin mugam vembi kumbivitathu*	4	**The face of the old woman turned pale**
2	*vekka thaninji salasalapu mella mella adanguthu*	57	**The heat alleviates and the rustle calms down gradually**
3	*kulanthai thirumbavum athey mathiri than eera uthatai kuvithu sollitru*	46	**The child again uttered the word the same way with her wet lips**
4	*aval siripai maraipatharkaga marupuram thirumbinaal*	73	**She turns to the other side to cover her laughter**
5	*vilakoli erichalutichi*	123	**The light from lamp irritates him**
6	*avan mukathai sulikiran*	69	**He frowns**

AUXILIARY VERB

An auxiliary verb helps the main verb of the sentence by adding tense, mood, voice, or modality to the main verb. Auxiliary verbs cannot stand alone in sentences; they have to be connected to a main verb to make sense. The main emphasis in the auxiliary verb construction lies in the auxiliary verbs.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*ramalingathuku magaa kovam*	5	**Ramalingam has become furious**
2	*en pullaingalai kondru potiye*	22	**You have killed my kids**
3	*avan methuvaga thirumbi pogiran*	75	**He is going back slowly**
4	*unga chella maga athina kurumbu pandra*	42	**Your beloved daughter is so naughty**

In the examples given above, the source text auxiliary construction constitutes an auxiliary verb and a main verb. Hence in the translations „has", „will" and „may" are the auxiliaries used in the target text.

TYPES OF AUXILIARY VERBS

On the basis of their inflectional behaviour, auxiliary verbs in Tamil may be classified into two types, *viz.* primary auxiliary verbs and modal auxiliary verbs.

Forms like *arul, accu, iyalum, iru, etu, oli, kattu, kutam, kol, cey, takum, tallu, tolai, ner, patu, panne, peru, po, potu, mathu, mutiyum, varu, vity, ventum, vai etc.* occur as auxiliary verbs.

PRIMARY AUXILIARY VERBS

The forms of **Be, Do** and **Have** are the primary auxiliary Verbs. They can be used both as Main Verbs (Principal Verbs) and Auxiliary verbs (Helping Verbs). They change their forms according to the number and person of the subject. Auxiliary verbs which are inflected for tense, number and gender are called primary auxiliary verbs. These primary auxiliary verbs generally denote the meanings such as cause, reverence, perfection, excess, contempt, demonstration, progress, reflexive, passive, impatience, accidental, riddance, trial, definiteness, habitualness, confirmation *etc.* For example,

S. No.	Source Language	Page No.(SL)	Target Language
1	*yen ipadi enaya mayakuthu?*	37	**Why does it entice me?**
2	*avaluku orey vedikai*	75	**She has lot of fun**
3	*ningalam manusangala?*	22	**Are you humans?**

The highlighted words in the above examples function as auxiliaries in the source text. They are translated by making use of the auxiliaries such as „should", "can", "could and „has" in the target text and its lexical meaning is retained without any distortion.

PHRASAL VERBS

A combination of verb and one or more adverbial or prepositional particles, as *catch on, take off, bring up*, or *put up with*, functioning as a single semantic unit and often having an idiomatic meaning that could not be predicted from the meanings of the individual parts. Adverbial particles look like prepositions. They usually have the same

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form as that of the prepositions and these particles have the same meaning as their corresponding prepositions.

In other words, the same word behaves both as an adverbial particle and as a preposition. The context determines what it is. The important adverbial particles are about, above, across, along, around, among, before, behind, below, between, by, down, in, off, on, out, over, round, through, under, up towards, downwards, upwards, inside, outside *etc*. These words are used as prepositions also.

Phrasal verbs are phrases consisting of verb and an adverbial particle. The phrase has the function of the verb and therefore it is called a verb phrase or a phrasal verb. These two words together make a compound verb and express a single idea.

The researcher has translated a number of phrasal verbs used by the Source Language author. The following examples are from the Source Language to the Target Language.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*bussa vittu kiley irankukiran kandesan*	24	Kandesan **gets off** from the bus.
2	*athirnthey ponen*	9	I was **taken aback**.
3	*irandu perumey anniki orey mathiri paavada satta potrunthanga*	122	Both of them **put on** the same type of skirt and shirt that day.

ADJECTIVAL CONSTRUCTIONS

In Tamil, an adjective and a noun constitute the adjectival construction. Adjectives in the adjectival constructions do not show any concord with the nouns which they qualify. Since the main emphasis in the adjectival construction lies in adjectives, the classification and the description of various types of adjectives are made here. On the basis of their structure, adjectives in Tamil are classified into three major types, *viz*, simple, complex and compound adjectives.

SIMPLE ADJECTIVES

Adjectives which are formed of monomorphemic stems are identified as simple adjectives. Forms like a, i, in, e, or, kar, kur, *etc.* may be grouped under simple adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Target Language
1	*vayathana pen*	**Old woman**
2	*ayokiya naye*	**Fraudulent dog**
3	*velli ambukalaga*	**Silver arrows**
4	*alakiya pookal*	**Beautiful flowers**

The researcher has translated some of the adjectives found in the Source Language text into English. They are listed above.

COMPLEX ADJECTIVES

Adjectives consisting of a root and one or more suffixes are called complex adjectives.

Forms like *anta, inta, enta, kariya, cila, ciranta, ciriya, netiya, pala, periya, putiya etc.* may be grouped under complex adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Target Language
1	*mupathainthu paisa*	Thirty five paise
2	*thimirpidtha kolgai*	Arrogant principles
3	*irandu rupai kakitham*	Two rupee note

COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

Adjectives which are formed of two or more stems are called compound adjectives. In Tamil compound adjectives are generally formed by adding the adjectivalizers such as *avath*, *ana*, *ulla*, *utaiya etc.* to the normal stems.

Forms like *alakana*, *alakutaiya*, *arivutaiya*, *anputaiya*, *irantavatu*, *karuppana*, *viramulla*, *vellaiyana etc.* may be grouped under compound adjectives.

Noun + ana:

S. No.	Source Language	Target Language
1	*olliyana udambu*	Lean body
2	*sorasorapana thaadi*	Little grown beard
3	*valukaiyana mandaiyar*	Bald headed man

On the basis of their function, adjectives in Tamil may be classified into five types, *viz*., descriptive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, interrogative adjectives, numeral adjectives and indefinite adjectives.

A descriptive adjective is that which describes the quality of a noun which it qualifies. Forms like *kar*, *per*, *mulu*, *kariya*, *netiya*, *periya*, *putiya*, *alakana*, *karuppana*, *vellaiyana*, *civanta etc.* function as descriptive adjectives.

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES

S. No.	Source Language	Target Language
1	*periya kankal*	Big eyes
2	*urithiyana udambu*	Strong body
3	*makilchiyana mukam*	Happy face
4	*melliya kural*	Stern voice

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

Demonstrative adjectives are those which point out the person or thing which they qualify.

Forms like a, i, anta, inta *etc.* function as demonstrative adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*antha athai peruthan enakum*	126	I too have **that** aunt's name.
2	*ithu avalathu vithi!*	127	**This** is her fate.
3	*udambellam athu avanuku paravum*	123	It spreads **his whole** body.

INTERROGATIVE ADJECTIVES

An interrogative adjective is that which qualifies a noun while introducing a question. Forms like *e*, *enna*, *enta*, *evvalavu*, *etc.* function as interrogative adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*intha paravaiga pola anum pennum samama vala palaga intha manusa peravi innum ethanayiram jenmam edukanum?*	17	**How many** thousand years will the human beings take to as male and female equal like these birds?
2	*ethina aalu yethurathu?*	7	**How many** persons will you make aboard?
3	*allinathu athayama?*	7	**How much** ever has been collected, is it profitable?
4	*evvalavu valanthuruku?*	19	**How much** have they grown?

NUMERAL ADJECTIVES

A numeral adjective is that which denotes the definite number of persons or things which it qualifies. Forms like *or*, *mu*, *irantu*, *onram*, *munru*, *nankavatu etc.* function as numeral adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Target Language
1	*irandarai mani neram*	Two and half hours
2	*nanku vayathu payaluku*	Four years old boy
3	*kuda oru pathu varusam*	More than ten years
4	*irandu mathama*	For the past two months

INDEFINITE ADJECTIVES

An indefinite adjective is that which denotes the indefinite number of persons or things which it qualifies. Forms like *cila*, *pala*, *niraiya etc.* function as indefinite adjectives.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*niraya pillaigal*	89	Many children
2	*niraya natkal*	35	Many days
3	*niraya alunga*	7	Many persons
4	*intha malai nerathula*	26	During this rainy time

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence**.** They act to connect the people, objects, time and locations of a sentence. Prepositions are usually short words, and

they are normally placed directly in front of nouns. The purpose of the hooking is to mark the relation of the noun, pronoun or word group with another word or word group. The most frequently used prepositions are: at, by, for, from, in, of, on, to and with. Prepositions are called empty words or structural words. They must be studied in relation to other words and not in isolation.

The following are the examples of effectively used prepositions in the Source Language text and the translations of the sentences in the Target Language:

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*thaniya thotanam thangamayitaam*	102	**He touched the water and it turned to gold**
2	*onganula mulikirathey pavam*	95	**It is sinful to look your face**
3	*mothalali sarvarai muraikiran*	31	**The owner stares at the server**

TAG QUESTIONS

A question tag is a very short clause at the end of a statement which changes the statement into a question. For example, in 'She said half price, didn't she?', the words 'didn't she' are a question tag. The pattern of the question tag is:

Positive statement takes auxiliary + n't +pronoun.

Negative statement takes auxiliary + pronoun.

A tag question contains only the pronoun. The following are question tags that are translated from Source Language to Target Language by the researcher. In the Target Language the tag questions are translated as a question itself as it is in the Source Language.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*on kolanthaikaga on vayithula itha kuda katiyirukalla, athu polathan*	36	It's like what you have built in your stomach, **isn't it?**
2	*enaku pethi poranthurakalla*	38	A grand daughter has been born to me, **hasn't she?**
3	*sinnanjiru ee, erumbula irunthu andakolangal vara apadithan*	39	Starting from tiny ant and flies to galaxy, **isn't it?**

In the examples mentioned above, the sentences in the source text ask for confirmation and possibility on the part of the listeners. Those sentences are not question tags in the source text; they stress the ideas of the speakers regarding a decision. Hence, in order to bring out the same effect in the translation the translator transposed the given examples into question tags. In the Target Language question tags are used when confirmation is expected from the listeners.

VOICES

The active voice describes a sentence where the subject performs the action. For example, in the sentence "Arun complimented Suresh," Arun (the subject) is performing the verb (complimented) and Suresh (the object) is receiving the action. It follows a clear subject + verb + object construct that are easy to read. There are two voices – the active and the passive. The action expressed by the sentence (or the clause) is viewed in two ways.

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The use of passive voice is common in many varieties of written language. It can impose various problems in translation. It depends on the availability of similar structures in the Target Language. It has widespread use in technical and scientific English in particular. It has had a strong influence on similar registers in other languages through translation.

The tendency to translate English passive sentences literally into a variety of Target Language which either have no passive voice as such or which would normally use it with less frequency is often criticized by linguists and by those involved in training translators.

In active clauses, the subject is the agent responsible for performing the action. In passive clauses the subject is the affected entity, and the agent may or may not be specified depending on the contexts.

ACTIVE VOICE

Active voice is the form used when the subject is the actor. A form or set of forms of a verb in which the subject is typically the person or thing performing the action and which can take a direct object.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*ennala ennaya kattupaduthika mudiyala*	41	**I can't control myself.**
2	*veliye manaivi iraikirar*	85	**His wife screams outside.**
3	*aval avarudaiya valukai thalaiyai than selai nuniyal thudaikiral*	93	**She wipes his bald head with the tip of her saree.**
4	*ravum pakalum pulamburanga*	133	**She laments day and night.**

The form of the verb changes in a passive structure to indicate that its subject is the affected entity rather than the agent. Most languages have a variety of mechanisms for constructing agent less clauses.

PASSIVE VOICE

The passive voice is formed by using a form of the auxiliary verb "be" (be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been) followed by the past participle of the main verb. The passive voice represents the subject as acted upon. For example: The book was read by the child. The passive voice is so called because the subject is not active but passive. Transitive verbs only lack the passive. The passive voice is often used in English.

PASSIVIZATION

The process by which active voice is converted into passive voice is called passivization.

It is expressed in a verb phrase consisting of some form of the auxiliary verb plus the main verb. Active voice is changed into passive voice by the addition of some form of the main verb. However, a few intransitive verbs become transitive verbs when they occur as part of a verb - adverb combination and then form a passive.

He drove – cannot be passivized.

He drove the car. (AV)

The car was driven by (him). – (PV)

In the source language, passive voice is formed by the addition of the auxiliary verb pattu or peru to the main verb. The following are some of the examples of passivization.

S. No.	Source Language	Page No. (SL)	Target Language
1	*mokathula innum kuthu vilaliye*	10	The punch hasn't been blown on his face
2	*sembaruthi potharla sathankekuthu*	16	Sound is heard in the hibiscus bush
3	*kalutha, jodiya thedi meya poyiruku*	42	The donkey has been out for grazing in search of its partner
4	*en minatchi arisikaga inneram varaikum kathukitirunthupaley*	49	My Meenakshi, has she been waiting for rice till now
5	*mananoi maruthuvarkitta alachitu ponaan*	64	He was taken her to the psychiatrist
6	*kilavi payanthu ponal*	108	The old lady is scared
7	*santhiyin kankalil nir thathumpukirathu*	6	Shanthi's eyes are filled with tears

CONCLUSION

The grammatical problems offered here (i.e. parts of speech, voices, and etc.,) need much readings on grammar so as the translator can overcome them. Most of these problems, especially grammatical change, are not clear-cut ones. So, they may drag the inexperience translator to mistranslate and, hence, miscommunicate. As regards the stylistic problems discussed here, they should be given attention so that the effect of the SL can be transferred in the TL with the same, or similar, effect intended by the author. It must be clear that a good, easy and simple style has a very important role in making the translation receptors (readers or listeners) accept or reject the translation altogether. Culture differences cause many problems that should be given much attention, if the translation is intended to attain any kind of intelligibility and accuracy. Even if the TL is linguistically correct, cultural mistranslations would distort the whole effort of the translator in case he/she is not concerned with the cultural background where the text under translation was produced. Idioms, proverbs and culture-bound words are among the gravest problems that may cause complete intelligibility if not taken into account. Accordingly, any translation of any text in general and the Ponneelan's *Nithiyamanathu* in particular should be based on anthropological training of the culture into which the text is going to be translated.

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