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### A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF EXPLICITATION TECHNIQUES IN PAKISTANI NOVELS: A CORPUS LINGUISTIC APPROACH

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Because explicitation is a translation universal and a significant aspect of translated text, the Explicitation Hypothesis (Blum-Kulka, 1986) states that translations are often more redundant than the original language text. The study's overarching purpose is to demonstrate the distinctive approach taken by Pakistani translators by examining four different kinds of explicitation in Urdu-English literary translations: obligatory explicitation, optional explicitation, pragmatic explicitation, and translation-inherent explicitation. The purpose of this study is to investigate the various explicitation approaches endorsed by Pápai (2004). The Urdu book 'Pir-e-Kamil' and its English translation by the same Pakistani author, Umera Ahmad, served as the primary sources for this article. This data for the study might be found on the internet. The data from both Urdu and English texts were tagged with the use of the web-based CLAWS tagger, and then a parallel corpus analysis was performed using Ant Conc. 3.4.4.0. Analysis of the data through transformations like replacement and addition revealed an increase in the frequency with which explicitation occurs at both the part-of-speech and syntactic levels. The authors of the study wrap off by discussing Klaudy's (1993) categorization of explicitation as either mandatory or voluntary. They also spoke about how Pakistani translators have put explicitation on the TT by introducing additional nouns, determiners, adjectives, and verbs to assist the reader understand out what the tale is about and become engaged in it. There are significant caveats to this study, such as the researcher's dependence on Pakistani Urdu writers who have also published their works in English. This research has

potential applications in future studies of implicitation and explicitation, and in providing an explanation for the distinctive manner in which translators' genders manifest themselves in their work.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Baker (1993) claims that explicitation is a ubiquitous phenomenon in the field of translation studies, making it a hallmark of the final translated product. The explicitation theory, introduced by Blum-Kulka (1986), holds that, despite growing disparities in textual and linguistic systems, there is nevertheless an observable transfer of explicitness from the source language to the target language text. An additional theory put out by Blum-Kulka (1986) was that "explicitation is a universal element essential to the process of the language mediation." It's possible, however, that the translation will include both the universal explicitation that is intrinsic to the translation process and the language-pair-specific explicitation that is not. Klaudy (2008), who introduced the four types of explicitation in the translation studies, argues for this position. These types are mandatory explicitation, discretionary explicitation, pragmatic explicitation, and translation-inherent explicitation.

## **RESEARCH PURPOSE**

The purpose of the research is to study the explicitation types proposed by Klaudy (1993) i.e., obligatory explicitation, optional explicitation, pragmatic explicitation and translation-inherent explicitation (mainly focus on Obligatory, optional and pragmatic explicitation) in Urdu-English translations of literary text, to represent the distinct translator style of Pakistani translators.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the research is to apply the range of explicitation strategies supported by Pápai (2004) at syntactic level specifically.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Q: What are the most frequently used parts of speech in the target language text?

Q: Which type of explicitation is used most commonly?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The Genesis account of the Tower of Babel suggests that all humans once spoke a common language. However, from a theological standpoint, the idea of a single language was unpalatable because it would make humans more powerful than God wants them to be. God thus endowed mankind with an array of linguistic abilities. Unfortunately, this is only a fiction, and the linguistic roots of every language can be traced back to certain places and times.

According to Douglas Robinson's (1997) definition, the history of translation centres on the contrast between literal (word-for-word) translation and free (meaningful) translation. A fresh discussion that has endured for centuries was initiated when Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 B.C.E. ) pointed out that one should not translate word for word, or verbatim. Scholar Peter (1988), after Cicero, said that the major difficulty in translating a book was deciding whether to interpret it literally or freely (word to word or sense to sense). Horace, John Dryden, Ezra Pound, Percy Bysshe Shelley, St. Augustine, Novalis, St. Jerome, Pliny, etc. are

just a few of the great minds that have contributed to the art of translation. Transducere, from whence we get the term translation, meaning "to convey" in Latin. Nida (1996) provides a more comprehensive definition:

Translating a text is composed of reproducing in the receptor language the closest, natural identical of the source-language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. But this comparatively simple statement needs more careful assessment of certain contradictory elements. (p. 1)

Another scholar Mary Snell-Horby (1998) illustrates the idea as process of interaction and its complexity between author, the translator and reader, in a following quotation:

Translation is a compound-complex act of communication in which the source language—author (SL), the reader as a translator and the translator as target language—author (TL) and the TL-reader communicate or interact. The translator begins from a current frame i.e. the text and its linguistic elements; this was constructed by an author who produce from his own collection of partly prototypical scenes. Based on the frames of the text, the translator-reader builds up his own scenes depending on his level of experience and knowledge of the concerned material. (p. 65)

Translation theory aims at discovering, classifying, and employing the widespread principles of translation process with relation to its major problems. Translation theories can be classified historically into three main classes:

1. Translation theories based on source-oriented techniques and approaches,
2. Linguistic translation theories,
3. Recent translation theories.

What a translator should and should not do has been the subject of several theoretical frameworks since the second century B.C., all of which have developed under source-oriented methods. Both formal and semantic proximity to the original text were considered. Specifically, it is the responsibility of the translator to faithfully render the original text in the translated version.

One of the first hypotheses in the field of translation studies was put out by Etienne Dolet (1509). As part of the source-oriented philosophy, he outlined five guidelines for translators to follow.

1. The translator must fully comprehend the sense and meaning of the author's writing; however, the translator is at freedom to elucidate the anonymities.
2. The translator must have an adequate knowledge of both source language and target language.
3. The translator should refrain from word-to-word renderings.
4. The translator must use forms of speech commonly.

5. The translator must use appropriate words to produce the correct form and tone,

As Chapman, the renowned translator of Homer, rephrased these principles as:

1. Avoid word-to-word translation
2. Try to reach the spirit of the genuine text
3. Avoid over translations of the text

Alexander Tytler, after two centuries, released *The Principles of Translation*, a comprehensive examination of the translation process in English.

1. The translation must include a complete record of the notion of the original text.
2. The style and writing of the translated text should be same as of the original text.

Matthew Arnold argues that a translator's main attention and effort should be placed on the text in the original language. It is the job of the translator to transport the reader of the translated content back to the original language. St. Jerome's suggestions on how to translate the text provide yet another illustration of source-oriented thinking. According to Jerome, "Bible translations must retain the original form of the source text since God's words must not be messed with," however in secular writings, "the translator should strive to translate the meaning of the source text into target text." (p. 1)

In contrast, the extraordinary history of language translation ideas dates back to the 19th century and spans around half a century. At the time, the study of translation was integrated within the larger area of linguistics, where it was treated more like a subfield than a separate academic department. Therefore, rather than being filed under translation studies, these ideas were filed under linguistic studies. Information theory, which describes language in terms of a "code," was widely accepted at the time as a foundation for the study of translation as a type of linguistic communication. During the process of translation, speakers or writers encode the information they want to convey, and their intended audience members decode it by using the same code. Since the sender and the receiver don't speak the same code (language), translation is a special instance of transmission in which the information is recoded by the translator. Since there is no one-to-one correspondence between the signs of other coding systems, maintaining the original text's information is the primary challenge of translating. Most of these theories focused on the process rather than the end result; they were source-oriented, synchronic, or normative theories. Translation studies emerged as a distinct academic field in the latter three decades of the 20th century. The American poet and translator James Holmes coined the name "translation studies" (TS) to describe a new academic discipline. The relevance theory, the Skopos theory, and the target-orient theory were the three most common hypotheses. *The Name and Nature of Translation Studies*, written by James Holmes, provides a theoretical framework that

recognises and unites several facets of TS. In his book, he uses a hierarchical organisation system to classify his topics as either (a) "Applied" or (b) "Pure," with "Pure" further subdivided into "Theoretical" and "Descriptive" and "Descriptive" further subdivided into "Process-oriented," "Product-oriented," and "Function-oriented" approaches. Descriptive translation studies seek to determine the significant aspects of translating and translation, where translation refers to the process that ultimately causes the creation of the translated output. As I've already said, there are three primary categories of descriptive translation studies: process-oriented, product-oriented, and function-oriented. The purpose of the process-oriented approach is related to the function that a translation has in the pragmatic situation of the target language, the focus of the product-oriented approach is on describing individual translations, and the focus of the function-oriented approach is on revealing the ideational processes that take place in the mind of the translator while translating the text.

Practical experience with the translation and organisation of the Bible informed Eugene Nida's theory of translation (1940). Nida aspires to bring the translation into the modern age by using the most up-to-date linguistic research. Nida's more methodical approach, inspired by Chomsky, draws on theoretical concepts and terminology from semantics, pragmatics, and syntax (1957). The concept of equivalency was a central issue in the field of translation studies in the 1970s and earlier. Equivalence, as stated by Mona Baker in her seminal textbook *In Other Words*, is always relative since it depends on a wide range of linguistic and sociocultural aspects (e.g., word, phrase, sentence, grammar, text, semantics, pragmatics, discourse, etc). (Baker 1992).

Corpus linguistics and translation studies: implications and applications was written by Mona Baker and published in 1993. Baker predicted the emergence of enormous original and translated text corpora, as well as corpus-driven technique, which would allow researchers to reveal translation's status as a mediated communicative act (Baker, 1993). A research gap concerning the creation and analysis of parallel corpora, bilingual or multilingual or monolingual comparative corpora, was further expanded a few years later in corpora in translation studies: a review and some advice for future study. It marked the start of what would eventually become known as Corpus-Based Translation Studies (CTS), a new theoretical paradigm that relies on a set of established techniques and approaches to the study of translation (2000). Using translated texts as case studies in language usage, corpus-based translation studies represent a relatively recent area of inquiry within the field of translation studies. In contrast, translated texts are often excluded from reference corpora because of the common misconception that they are written in an artificial language (Baker 1999). Comparative linguistic research on the connection between texts written in one language and those written in another has shown that translations are a beneficial tool. Significant interest lies in parallel corpora because of their use in analysing the connection between the original and translated texts.

Explicitation, according to Baker (1996), is a translation universal, or a distinguishing property of translated texts. This idea refers back to Blum-

explicitation Kulka's theory, which states that there is, despite growing linguistic and textual disparities, a visible cohesion in the explicitness of writings translated from the source language to the target language (Blum-Kulka 1986) Since explicitation is a universal trait inherent in the process of language mediation, Blum-Kulka presented her Explicitation Hypothesis, which states that translations are often more redundant than the original language text (Blum-Kulka 1986). The alternative theory put out by House (2004) explains the linguistic and aesthetic distinctions between the source language text and the target language text, and so challenges the accepted position of explicitation as a universal trait.

The two positions were often viewed as mutually absolute but in actual, the two views were reconcilable: there is no prior reason to suppose that there is mere a single type of explicitation. This is the point challenged by King Klaudy (2008), who explains four types of explicitation in translation.

1. Obligatory explicitation occur, due to the grammatical differences between source language and target language text, when translator is compelled to spell these differences explicitly which are implicit in the source language text
2. Optional explicitation is the result of differences in text-building strategies and stylistic preference i.e. such explicitation is optional when grammatically correct sentences are constructed without its practical application in the target language.
3. Pragmatic explicitation occur due to the differences in the cultural and world knowledge that is shared by the members of source language community and target language community.
4. Translation-inherent explicitation can be ascribed to the nature of the translation process itself.

Looking back in time, several researchers have attempted to explain the methodological issues with explicitation, while others have just been able to identify them. The explicitation theory proposed by Blum-Kulka continues to divide academic opinion. vers (1998) found and counted a number of explicating shifts in English to Norwegian and Norwegian to English translations, including everything from the addition of a conjunctive to the replacement of an unusual collocation by a common one. His work is frequently cited in studies on the explicitation translation universal. After determining the difference between mandatory and discretionary explicitation, vers decided to include them both. Her study's findings, showing a significant discrepancy between English and Norwegian translations and a greater frequency of changes in the former compared to the latter, did not come as much of a surprise. Verifiers conclude that Blum-Explicitation Kulka's Hypothesis is supported, and that verification was more prevalent in English–Norwegian translations than Norwegian–English translations, without identifying the imbalance, which was caused by inter-mixed optional explicitation. As a result, it was hard to explain how the explicitation hypothesis, a universal characteristic inherent in

the process of language mediation (Blum-Kulka, 1986), may find greater evidence in one direction than the other, given the growing disparities between the linguistic and textual systems. According to her hypothesis, no alterations were found that belonged to the translation's intrinsic approach. Consequently, the Explicitation Hypothesis cannot be supported by her findings.

Like *vers* (1998) and Pápai (2004), she incorporates all the explicitation categories when she met her frequency counts, but only translation-inherent explicitation as stated by Blum-Kulka is of major relevance. Based on her research, Pápai (2004) concluded that explicitation is a universal feature of the translated texts and provided support for the Blum-Kulka hypothesis by finding higher frequencies of explicitness and its related features in English-Hungarian translation than in non-translated Hungarian-English translations.

The research by Konalová (2007) into explicitating and implicitating alterations in grammar is another example of a study with methodological issues. In order to compare the occurring levels of explicitness with those of non-translated texts in both languages, she estimated these changes in the corpus of German-Czech and Czech-German translations. While the author did find a greater rate of explicitness in the Czech-German translations compared to the original German texts, no apparent explicitation orientations were reported in the examination of the other direction of translation (Konalová, 2007).

Using the Blum-Kulka Explicitation theory, Baumgarten, Meyer, and zçetin (2008) analysed the use of parenthetical statements in a corpus of English to German translations. They began by comparing the various uses of parentheticals in German and English literature in order to determine the probable differences in style between the two languages. After identifying 284 instances of explicitation using translation analysis, they culled the data. After eliminating all but five examples of explicitation, Baumgarten, Meyer, and zçetin concluded that explicitation is not an inherent part of the translation process but rather is activated by the communicative and stylistic conventions and norms of the target language community (Baumgarten, Meyer, & zçetin, 2008).

In his study, Viktor Becher (2010) examined prior corpus-based investigations of the Explicitation Hypothesis of Blum-Kulka and concluded that their mixed findings were the consequence of methodological flaws. In the translation research, he attempted to offer a rigorous presentation of the Explicitation Hypothesis. This article discussed recent studies on explicitation that have made an effort to sidestep these methodological pitfalls. A corpus of English and German popular science magazine articles was analysed to determine the frequency with which explanations were provided. The research set out to put Blum-Explicitation Kulka's Hypothesis to the test by looking at how the use of deictic adverbs changed from English to German when no equivalent term existed in the original text.

Edina Robin (2014) investigated whether or whether translators make changes to their writings as a consequence of explicitation and implicitation. Revisors' primary mission was to enhance the quality of translated materials by fixing

inconsistencies and reworking translators' discretionary transfer procedures while also carrying out explicitation and implicitation. Extracts from the draught Hungarian translation of current English books and their revised Hungarian translations were compared and contrasted throughout the study, with the primary basis being King Klaudy's (2003) classification of the transfer activities. According to the study's findings, revisers do engage in explicitation and implicitation, modifying the translators' operations and carrying them out independently, and the phenomenon that was thought to be unique to translation was actually an element of the editorial process present throughout both stages.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### *Data Collection*

The data was collected from the novel—a genre of literature, particularly Pakistani novel 'Pir-e-Kamil' written by Pakistani writer and translator 'Umera Ahmad', both in Urdu language as the original or the ST and the English language translation as the TT. The researcher manually collected the data from online source both Urdu as ST novel and English as TT—translated version and selected first twenty-five paragraphs to analyse.

### **RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

In this study, the researcher has used corpus as a tool to investigate the frequency of parts of speech. For this, the online English Parts of Speech Tagger was used to tag the target language text data and the Urdu language Parts of Speech tagger to tag the source text data. After tagging the data, the researcher made a parallel corpus of both the ST and TT and used the Antconc. Software to find the frequency and differences in the target language text at the level of parts of speech.

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

In this study, the researcher has analysed the data to find the explicitation of both the types i.e., obligatory and optional explicitation. Firstly, the researcher has manually divided the data and made a parallel corpus of first twenty-five paragraphs of the novel's both ST and TT. In the manual study, the researcher simply highlighted the points and provide the justification where the explicitation (obligatory and optional) was taking place in the target language text. To avoid misconceptions and errors, the researcher again analysed the parallel corpus of source text and target language text by using the AntConc. Software to find out the frequency of mostly used parts of speech in the target language text.

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Klaudy (1993) gave the classifications of explicitation to ensure the language mediation. In this study, those classifications have two shifts i.e., substitution and addition. Substitution means where the text in target text language is translated either word to word translation or sense to sense translation. Thus, obligatory and optional explicitation were found on these two shifts at firstly sentence or phrase level and later at parts of speech level both in tagged and untagged data. The translator author in the translated text adopts a very common



style of translation. Most of the target language (English) text was translated in word to word or literal translation, one can say highly substituted. The vocabulary used by the translator was of common use, and at some points the idiomatic phrase was also used. This depicted the style of Pakistani translator author as customary not very professional like other writers or translators, but the source text is a fine collection of the literary piece. Though, the translator style of translating the text is not magnificent, but it's common and easy language is understandable and readable even by a common reader.

## RESULTS

**Table 1:** Frequency of Parts of Speech Practiced in the Novel

Parts of Speech Practiced	Frequency
Noun	41
Pronoun	24
Verb	64
Adverb	27
Conjunction	16
Preposition	26
Adjective	18
Determiner/ Article	38

The study, centered on the analysis of parts of speech used in a specific novel, resulted in revealing certain linguistic preferences and tendencies of the author. The results shown in Table 1 highlight verbs as the most frequently used part of speech with 64 occurrences, suggesting that the novel was characterized by significant action and dynamic descriptions. Nouns followed with 41 instances, indicating a rich variety of entities and subjects within the narrative. Determiners or articles were also common, seen 38 times, providing context and specificity to the nouns used. The use of adverbs and prepositions were almost equally frequent at 27 and 26 instances, respectively, showcasing the author's skill in nuanced descriptions and relational expressions. Meanwhile, pronouns were used 24 times, indicating a moderate level of subject substitution in the text. The novel featured fewer instances of conjunctions and adjectives, with frequencies of 16 and 18 respectively, pointing towards a possibly direct, simple sentence structure and less emphasis on detailed attribute descriptions. Overall, the frequency distribution of the parts of speech used provides valuable insights into the author's stylistic choices and narrative techniques.

## DISCUSSION

Explicitation highly occurred as an obligatory explicitation, because obligatory explicitation can only found at syntactic level of a language and translator explicit the target text language according to the rules prescribed by that target language. Optional explicitation was also observable in the T.T language at parts of speech level, most commonly at noun, adverb, adjective, determiner,

adjective, conjunction. The researcher firstly manually highlighted the text and provide justification of the explicitation.

**Table 2:** Representation of different types of Explicitation

Type of Explicitation	Representation
Optional Explicitation	Bold
Obligatory Explicitation	Bold and underlined

For instance:

(1)

ان کا جھگڑا بچپن سے لے کر اب سے کچھ پہلے تک صرف زبانی کلامی باتوں اور دھمکیوں تک یہی محدود رہتا تھا، مگر اب کچھ عرصے سے وہ دونوں باتھائیلی پر بھی اتر آئے تھے

“**But** their quarrels had been mostly verbal and included threats, but **of late they had become physical.**”

(2)

بیگ کہینتے ہوئے معیز کے ہاتھ کو بری طرح رگڑ آئی۔ معیز بری طرح تلملایا

“**In the process**, he bruised Moiz’s hand, **making him wince with pain.**”

‘Bold’ text represents optional explicitation and ‘bold and underlined’ represents obligatory explicitation at both shifts substitution and addition i.e., obligatory and optional substitution in a text or obligatory and optional addition in a target text. Optional explicitation clearly describes that the translator added the text by choice to create uniformity in the text and to explain it in a good way. Whereas obligatory explicitation describes the compulsion that a translator needs to adopt by considering the rules and regulations of a language. In the TT, obligatory explicitation was highly substituted by the translator to give a full meaning and complete sense by considering the rules of that language.

In the following example (1) and (2), the translator used the conjunction “but” and “in the process” as a phrase, as an optional explicitation, as it was not used by the author in the ST. And in the same sentence, “of late they had become physical” translator used the substituted form of obligatory explicitation and gave the sense-to-sense translation according to the rules of English that is target text language.

Pápai (2004) puts down, specifically, in the case of shifts at lexical and syntactic level. Replacement of a noun into pronoun in a translation also presents a reconstructed substitution and is observed in the corpus mostly.

(3)

”میں نے تم سے کہا تھا نام برامناوگی۔“ جویریہ نے جیسے صفائی پیش کرنے کی کوشش کی مگر امامہ کچھ کہے بغیر اسے دیکھتی رہی۔

“I did tell you that you would be offended,‘Javeria tried **to redeem the situation.** but Imama stared back without a word.”

(4)

معیز حلق کے بل چلاتا ہوا درد سے دور ہو گیا، اس کے دونوں ہاتھ اپنے پیٹ پر تھے

“Moiz was howling with pain, **doubled up and holding on to his stomach.**”

(5)

میں وعدہ کرتی ہوں، میں برانہیں مانوں گی

“I promise I will not mind anything **you say.**”

(6)

"وہ بڑبڑائی۔ " ایک خواہش تو یہ ہے کہ میری زندگی بہت لمبی ہو"

“she mumbled **to herself. \_ Well, one wish is to live long...very long**”

in the example (3) and (4), the text is substituted according to the needs of a translator using English as a target language while translating the text as it's an obligatory. Whereas in example (5) and (6), the use of pronoun “you” and its possessive case “herself” was optionally added by the translator to explicit the target text to profound the clear meaning. Use of verb “say”, adverb “well, very” and adjective “long” at parts of speech level in the target text language be an optional addition explicitation by the translator.

## CONCLUSION

In this research, the researcher has described a comprehensive study of explicitation strategies and classification found in Urdu-English translations of literary text related to the field of literature, particularly Pakistani literature. After analysing and classifying the explicitation strategies, the researcher concluded that the explicitation highly occurs at syntactic level and parts of speech level. The given table in the analysis provides the frequency of parts of speech used in the first twenty paragraphs of translated target text language by the translator author. Only two types of explicitation were observed and the results shown that both obligatory and optional explicitation occurs at both the shifts—substitution and addition. To conclude, this study involves the highly and effective use of explicitation (obligatory and optional) in the target language (English language) text as compared to the source text (Urdu language). Though, the translator style of translating the target text is simple and colloquial and is highly understandable by the reader as the translator was female. As the observable data belongs to literary genre, this study provides a research gap for the successors to investigate the distinctive effect of gender on the translator style.

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