

Adaptation as a Domestication Strategy in Translation of Dramatic Texts; with special reference to the Sinhalese Translation of Anton Chekhov's "The Proposal"

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Abstract

It is an unanimously accepted fact that the success of a translation depends upon the capacity of the translator to portray the vibe and the sense suggested by the source author. In relation to the Sri Lankan context, translation of culture-specific terms in a Russian dramatic text from English to Sinhalese is a challenge faced by the translator. In minimizing the strangeness of the translation through domestication, translators use adaptation as a strategy to make the translation culturally applicable and appropriate. The literary works selected for the study were, the Russian drama "The Proposal" by Anton Chekhov and its' adapted Sinhalese version *Mañgul prastāva* by U.A. Gunasekara. The purpose of this study was to investigate how the strategy of adaptation has been used by the translator in domesticating the translation. The present study employed a descriptive, qualitative research methodology. For the purpose of collecting data, the taxonomy presented by Behtash and Firoozkookhi (2009) was applied; the culture-specific terms and their target language equivalents were identified. Then an in-depth textual analysis was conducted to show how the translator has familiarized the target text in a reader-oriented manner. Accordingly, it was identified that the translator has used the strategy of adaptation to domesticate culture specific terms by employing the categories such as toponyms, anthroponyms, measuring system, dialect, costume and clothes, and form of entertainment while giving more prominence to Sinhalese colloquial expressions. In conclusion, it can be noted that, when familiarizing a text that belongs to a culture that is more foreignized contradictory to the target culture, adaptation becomes an essential strategy in reaching out to a wider audience.

Keywords: Adaptation; Culture-specific terms; Domestication; Dramatic Text; Translation

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