

## Translation and Critical Discourse Analysis: Contribution of Applying CDA in Analysis of Translated Texts

**Shabnam Karimian Sichani**

Department of English, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

**Bahram Hadian \***

Department of English, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

### Abstract

The present study tries to look at how critical discourse analysis might be beneficial in the investigation of ideological and discursive issues in translation and also to illustrate how ideologies lead to significant and maybe effective mediation in translated texts. For the sake of this study “coming up for air” written by George Orwell (1939) as well as two translations were selected. One of them is translated by Rooshanfekr (1390), TT1, and the other by Saeednia (1372), TT2. As the Chi-Square test indicated, there were no significant differences between the two translation’s adopted strategies in order to render aforementioned syntactic structures.

**Keywords:** critical discourse analysis, translation, ideology, systemic functional grammar, syntactic structures

### INTRODUCTION

Translation has a crucial role in human life. It is used to convey the culture and literature from one nation to another (AlNakhalah, 2013). According to Rahimi and Sahragard (2006), one of the ways to lead readers to a more conscious thinking is the implementation of critical reading through critical discourse analysis (CDA). Van Dijk (1997) argues that recent studies in the field of translation and critical discourse studies have been indicated that formal change in any given text would certainly cause specific ideological outcomes. As Widdowson (2000) puts it, CDA is the uncovering of implicit ideologies in texts. It unveils the underlying ideological prejudices and therefore the exercise of power in texts. To illuminate the techniques and processes employed, it must be asserted that power relationships, ideologies and identities are created and naturalized by the manipulative styles of language. Salemi (2007) believed that language and translation are two of the most challenging areas of ideological influence. In 1981, Lefevere referred to the influence of ideology in translation and used the

concept of “lexical refraction” as the ideological manipulation in translation (Mansourabadi & Karimnia, 2013, p. 2).

Translation Studies is an academic discipline that studies the theory and practice of translation. It is, by nature, a multilingual but also interdisciplinary field of study since establishes relationships with linguistics, cultural studies, philosophy, and the information sciences. Moreover, what Translation Studies and CDA have in common is the interest in human communicative activity in socio-cultural settings, especially the interest in texts and discourses as products of this activity.

In this respect, Fairclough (1995) describes the aim of CDA as making “the ideological loading of particular ways of using language and the relations of power which underlie them more visible” (p. 258). In the case of translation, according to Schaffner (2004), textual features, ideological contexts, and underlying relations of power apply both to the source text and culture and to the target text and culture.

Fairclough’s (1989) linguistic orientation is that of systemic functional grammar of Halliday (1973). But he does not limit discourse analysis to the study of texts and specific discursive practices. He emphasizes a text as the product of a process in which discourse is closely related to social structures in its production and interpretation. He critically examines specific situations where relations of power, dominance and inequality are instantiated in discourse.

Fairclough’s model describes the process and the end-products of meaning-making, i.e. it is a description of a cognitive process on how people invest and interpret meanings in texts within a variety of social contexts. In sum, texts have causal effects upon and contribute to changes in people, actions, social relations and the material world (Fairclough, 2003). In his research, Fairclough attempts to uncover ideological and power patterns in texts. Furthermore, he is the only CDA scholar who defines the relationship between power and language (social power and ideology) in his research (Fairclough 1989). Fairclough provides a tripartite framework for the analysis of text and discourse: 1) the linguistic description of the formal properties of the text; 2) the interpretation of the relationship between the discursive processes/interaction and the text, where text is the end product of a process of text production and as a resource in the process of text interpretation and lastly, 3) the explanation of the relationship between discourse and social and cultural reality.

The term ‘ideology’ has been always accompanied by its political connotation. As the dictionary definition suggests, it is “a system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The ideological considerations of translation seem to be much more evident in literary texts since on the one hand, they reveal the ideological stance of the translator and on the other hand, they indicate how translational strategies applied by the translator can help keeping the literary beauty of the original text.

Damaskinidis (2006) applied a CDA-based methodology to investigate any ideological shifts between the English source text and its Greek translation. The analysis of the ST

(source text) and TT (target text) has shown how a CDA-based approach can throw light not only on the way culturally approved patterns reflect society's priorities and preoccupations but also on the way they influence them. The comparative analysis of this study has provided an interesting example of how a culture associated with English language, namely EU and its official working language, has influenced the translator's attitudes and motivations in his/her attempt to decode various ideological patterns.

Another study in this field was done by Khajeh & Khanmohamadi (2009). In their article entitled "Transmission of Ideology through Translation" investigated effect of ideology on linguistic features in Persian translations of Chomsky's "Media Control" and they uncovered the ideologies which are hidden in the source text and the target texts. They concluded, "There is relationship between socio-cultural and ideological constraints of the translator and the potential translation strategies s/he adapts while reproducing the text." (Khajeh&khanmohammad, 2009).

Besides Fairclough's model, Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is also taken into account and it says that we perform functions through language, i.e. what we intend to do with a piece of language. Clearly, speakers have reasons for saying something and for saying it in the way they do. As a result, speakers have to make choices. SFL sets out to investigate what the range of relevant choices are, both in the kinds of meanings that we might want to express (or functions that we might want to perform) and in the kinds of wording that we use to express these meanings, and to match these two sets of choices.

Fairclough is considered to have contributed to the field of CDA most significantly. His model may be the core section of the entire field of CDA, because he was the first to create a theoretical framework, which provided guidelines for future CDA research. Besides that, Hallidayan model met the goals of the present study. Therefore, this study was conducted within this framework as well as Fairclough's one. At first, the researcher began analyzing the source text and extracted samples in order to compare them with their corresponding translations. The analysis was carried out within the three functions or meanings of Hallidayan model of language (ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning).

The present study tries to look at how critical discourse analysis might be beneficial in the investigation of ideological and discursive issues in translation and also to illustrate how ideologies lead to significant and maybe effective mediation in translated texts. For the sake of this study "coming up for air" written by George Orwell (1939) as well as two translations were selected. One of them is translated by Rooshanfekr (1390), TT1, and the other by Saeednia(1372), TT2. Since texts not only reflect ideological and political stances, but also produce ideological effects, this study aims at indicating the way that reality expressed in the source text is transformed when translated to its target text and answering the following question of the study:

Are there any significant differences between two translations and the source text regarding the ideological choices?

## METHODOLOGY

To indicate the exact nature of discursive strategies utilized by the writer and the translators, and to compare the discursive characteristics and underlying ideologies of the intended text, the researcher studied the whole source book and extracted some instances with their translations and analyzed them according to the parameters defined by the selected framework. It should be noted that among different grammatical elements, the researcher investigated the passive structure, cleft & pseudo-cleft and preposed structures.

Following grammatical structures were chosen and analyzed:

- Active and passive voices
- Preposing
- Cleft and pseudo cleft structures

To this end the researcher extracted about 119 sentences with passive voice from "*Coming Up for Air*" written by *Georg Orwell* (the source book) and the corresponding translations, one by *Roshanfekar* (1390) (TT1) and the other by *Saeednia*(1372) (TT2) were found and compared. Considering Fairclough (2003) suggestions, first structural analysis of the context, and secondly interactional analysis, which focuses on linguistic features such as: agents, time, tense, modality, and syntax.

- a. Passive: Considering Fairclough (2001) suggestions first of all structural analysis of the context, and secondly interactional analysis, which focuses on linguistic features such as: agents, time, tense, modality, and syntax. To this end the researcher categorized the passive element in five categories and tried to analyze them by taking Systemic Functional theory into account.
- b. Preposing: In this study along with two other focused elements, preposing structures were extracted from the source book, corresponding translations in TT1 and TT2 were examined and later compared in charts and tables in order to find out, what the dominant strategies are.
- c. Cleft and Pseudo-cleft structures: In this research, the aim of the researcher was to compare the translated versions according to specific grammatical structures by taking Halliday Systemic functional linguistics into account. In order to analyze this structure the aforementioned procedures were done. the researcher extracted several sample sentences from the source book. The comparison was done between TT1, TT2 and ST.

In order to answer the research question, the following procedures were followed:

- Studying the theoretical background of Critical discourse analysis and relevant review of literature.
- Studying the source book "*Coming up for air*" and its two translated versions in order to find appropriate examples regarding the research questions.

After the data were collected from the source and target books, data analysis which was the categorizing the samples according to the applied strategies was performed by the researcher. To this end, particular statistical procedures were followed.

First as it was mentioned, in order to investigate the differences between the source text and their translations, classification schemes, ideological contested structures and meaning relations of the book as well as their grammatical differences must be analyzed. To analyze the data, descriptive and inferential statistical procedure were used. For the descriptive part, the researcher utilized percentage and to find out whether there were any significant differences, Chi-square test was used.

## RESULTS

To find out whether there are any significant differences, chi-Square test was used. The results of the statistical analysis revealed that by calculating the Chi-square test between the source and translated texts on three discursive strategies, i.e. preposing, cleft & pseudo-cleft, passive at grammatical level, there are no significant ideological differences between two translations and the source text regarding ideological choices. However the second translator has used the target language natural structures more frequently in translation of passive structures but in rendering pseudo-cleft, cleft structures and preposing both translators have adopted similar strategies. Moreover, the analysis of the data revealed that, on one hand, the translator should transfer the same metafunctions of source text to the target text and on the other hand they should use the natural structures. It is noteworthy to keep the structure of the source text in the target text; on the other hand it is necessary to make some appropriate alterations because of the differences between the two languages.

**Table 1.** The Comparison of ST & TT1 Considering the Discursive Strategies

	value	df	Asymp.sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.163	17	0.887
Likelihood Ratio	4.174	17	0.887
Linear-by-linear Association	0.762	1	0.343
N of Valid Cases	1098		

As Table 1 indicates, the result of Chi-Square in ST and TT1 is 4.163(sig 0.887) considering the above discursive strategies, there are no significant differences between TT1 and ST. It means both translators have adopted similar strategies to render the structures.

**Table 2.** The Comparison of TT2 & ST Considering the Discursive Strategies

	value	df	Asymp.sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.104	17	1.000
Likelihood Ratio	3.109	17	1.000
Linear-by-linear Association	1.009	1	0.306
N of Valid Cases	1217		

As shown in table 2, the Results of Chi-Square between ST and TT2 is 3.104 (sig.0.000), considering the above discursive strategies, there is no significant difference between TT2 and ST.

According to the results revealed in table 1 and table 2 that there were no ideological differences between the source and target texts.

**Table 3.** The Comparison of Two Translations Considering the Discursive Strategies

	value	df	Asymp.sig (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.625	17	1.000
Likelihood Ratio	.626	17	1.000
Linear-by-linear Association	.006	1	0.921
N of Valid Cases	1032		

In order to see if there are any significant differences between differences and similarities of two translations, Chi-Square procedure was done (Table 3). The results showed a Chi-Square value of 0.625 (sig.1.000). This indicates that there is no significant difference between differences and similarities of discursive strategies of the source book and two translations. That means the similarities are much more than differences and the writer and translators employed the same discursive strategies.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

As the Chi-Square test indicated, there were no significant differences between the two translation's adopted strategies in order to render aforementioned syntactic structures. According to Fairclough's (1989) there are certain underlying assumptions behind certain selections of discourse. These assumptions are never value-free and innocent; rather they are ideologically driven and motivated. By studying the forms of the language, we can discover the social processes and also the specific ideology embedded in them. This leads to the exploration of power relations that exist in the society or community. He believes in a "hidden agenda".

There are also other studies dealing with information structure in Persian from different points of view such as Rezai (2003), which studied the information structure

of simple sentences within the framework of Role and Reference Grammar, and also Modarresi (2007), which studied Persian information structure within Lambrecht's framework, and Amini (2010), which compared Persian information structure with that of English with implications for translation. Amini (2010) investigated the marked structures in two translations of a novel. His research results revealed that translators used different structures in order to render the marked structures like passive voice. The translator who used natural structures of the target text was more faithful to the target reader than the other translator.

The results of the statistical analysis revealed that there are no significant differences between differences and similarities of two translations; Chi-Square procedure was done (Table 3). The results showed a Chi-Square value of 0.625 (sig.1.000). This indicates that there is no significant difference between differences and similarities of discursive strategies of the source book and two translations.

Fairclough's (1989) analysis has gone beyond the "whatness" of the text description towards the "how" and "whyness" of the text interpretation and explanation. There are certain underlying assumptions behind certain selections of discourse. These assumptions are never value-free and innocent; rather they are ideologically driven and motivated. By studying the forms of the language, we can discover the social processes and also the specific ideology embedded in them.

The pedagogical implications of this study is that the translators necessarily need to be aware of the ideological backgrounds of the writers as well as underlying layers of texts in order to be able to translate a message properly from the source to the target language. Critical analysis of the texts attempts to create a sensitivity and consciousness about the implicitly left, invisible section, misinformation, manipulation, and misinterpretation practiced by some writers, speakers and Translators.

Since CDA propagates the idea that enhancement of critical thinking is conducive to a society in which justice and equality are materialized and power is distributed fairly among people. This mental ability makes readers and listeners perceptive to judgmental prejudiced discourse and prompts them to act against injustice and incommensurate distribution of power.

Future studies can be carried out to extract more samples of marked thematic constructions and conduct the same research. Concerned researchers may also choose to analyze other modes of meaning such as interpersonal, ideational meta-functions in different genre.

## REFERENCES

- Al-Nakhalah, A. M. (2013). *Investigating the Difficulties and Problems Faced by the English Language Students of Al Quds Open University in Legal Translation Process*. International Journal of English Language & Translational Studies, 1(3), 166-185. Retrieved from <http://www.eltsjournal.org>

- Amini, R. (2010). *A Study of Semantic Changes and Information Structure and Marked Structures in the Translation process*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. University of Tarbiyat Modares.
- Damaskinidis, G. (2006). *MA studies on translation*. Retrieved from: <http://europa.eu.int/com/employmentsocial/elm/summit/en/papers/guide.htm>.
- Fairclough, N. (1989). *Language and power*. New York: Longman.
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: The critical study of language*. New York: Longman.
- Fairclough, N. (2003). *Analysing discourse: Textual analysis for social research*. London: Routledge.
- George Orwell Biography | List of Works, Study Guides & Essays. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2014, from <http://www.gradesaver.com/author/george-orwell>.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (1973c). "The Functional Basis of Language". Basil Bernstein, (ed.) *Class, Codes and Control Vol. 2: Applied Studies towards a Sociology of Language*. London/Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul. pps.ix-xvi, 343-366.
- Khajeh, Z., & Khanmohammad, H. (2009). Transmission of ideology through translation: A critical discourse. *Iranian journal of applied language studies*, 1, 24-42.
- Mansourabadi, F. & Karimnia, A. (2013). The impact of ideology on lexical choices in literary translation: A case study of A Thousand Splendid Suns. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 70(48), 777-786
- Modarresi, B. (2007). *Information Structure and its representation in Persian*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation. University of Tarbiat Modares.
- Orwell, G. (1950). *Coming up for air*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace.
- Rahimi, A., & Sahragard, R. (2006). *A critical discourse analysis of euphemization and derogation on the emails written on the death of the Pope*. *Linguistics Journal*, 1 (2), 29-87.
- Rezai, V. (2003). *A Role and Reference Grammar Analysis of Simple Sentences in Farsi*, (Ph.D. dissertation.) University of Isfahan.
- Salemi, F. (2007). *An ideological approach to novel translation*. Unpublished MA dissertation. IAU, Iran
- Schäffner, C. (2004). Political discourse analysis from the point of view of translation studies. *Journal of Language and Politics*, 3, 120.
- Van Dijk, A.T. (1997a). *Discourse as structure and process of discourse studies: A multidisciplinary introduction*. Volume I. SAGE Publications, London.
- Widdowson, H.G. (2000). *Linguistics*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

تنفس در هوای تازه، زهره روشنفکر، انتشارات مجید، ۱۳۹۰

هوای تازه، گلرخ سعیدنیا، انتشارات هرم، چاپ اول، ۱۳۷۲