A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF TECHNIQUES USED BY ILECHUKWU DANIEL AND DIM LUCY IN TRANSLATING *'BEHIND THE CLOUD' AUTHORED* BY IFEOMA OKOYE

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Abstract
This study undertakes a critical analysis of the techniques employed in translating Ifeoma Okoye's novel, 'Behind the Cloud,' (N'Azu Urukpuru) from English to Igbo language. For the purpose of this study, twenty strategic terms are carefully extracted from the novel and analyzed to provide insight into the topic. Using a descriptive and analytical approach, this research examines the translation techniques utilized in rendering cultural references and literary devices in the source text. The study reveals that the translator employed a range of techniques, including loaning, calque, adaptation, naturalization, transposition, modulation, equivalence, literal translation, amplification, compensation, particularization, generalization, reduction, substitution, etc. However, the research identifies instances of cultural, and linguistics loss, highlighting the challenges of translating culturally bound texts. The findings of this study contribute to the ongoing discussion on translation techniques, particularly in the context of African languages and literature. Ultimately, this research sheds light on the complexities of literary translation and the importance of preserving cultural and linguistic diversities in the translation process.

1.0 Introduction

Translation as a means of facilitating communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries, has become an essential tool in today's globalized word. The translation of literary works, in particular poses unique challenges due to the complex interplay of language, culture, and aesthetics involved. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the translation of African literary works, reflecting a desire to promote cultural exchange and understanding between African and the rest of the world.

One of such works is Ifeoma Okoye's novel published in 1982, The novel tells the story of Ije Apia, a well-educated and intelligent Nigerian woman who is struggling to conceive a child. She and her husband, Dozie are a happy couple, but their inability to have a child becomes a significant issue in their relationship.

The novel explores societal pressures and expectations placed on women in Nigerian culture, particularly when it comes to child bearing. Ije faces criticisms and judgment from her community, including her mother-in-law, who suggest that she visits a herbalist to solve her fertility issues.
As the story unfolds, Ije's husband Dozie, becomes increasingly successful in his architectural practice, but their marital issues persists. The novel takes a dramatic turn when Ije discovers that Dozie has impregnated another woman, leading to a complex exploration of relationships, infertility, and societal expectations.

Through Ije's story, Okoye sheds light on the challenges faced by women in Nigerian society, particularly, those struggling with infertility. The novel offers a thought-provoking commentary on the cultural and social norms that govern women in Nigeria.

The novel explores the themes of identity, culture and social change in contemporary Nigeria. As a literary work that embodies the complexities of Nigerian culture and society, *‘Behind the Cloud’* presents a fascinating case study for examining the techniques used in translating literary works from English to Igbo language.

2.0   Background

The Igbo language, spoken by approximately 30 million people in Nigeria and beyond, is such a rich and expressive language with a vibrant literary tradition. Despite its importance, however, the Igbo language has faced significant challenges in terms of language documentation, standardization and translation. In recent years, efforts have been made to promote the translation of literary works into Igbo, with a view to preserving and promoting Igbo language and culture.

Against this backdrop, this study aims to critically analyze the techniques used by the authors in translating *‘Behind the Cloud’* from English to Igbo.’ By examining the translation techniques employed in rendering cultural references and literary devices in the source text, this research seeks to contribute to our understanding of the complexities of literary translation and the importance of preserving cultural and linguistic diversity in the translation process.

2.1   Literature Review

The translation of literary works from one language to another has a subject of interest in translation studies for decades. Scholars such as Jokobson (1959), Nida (1964) and Venutis (1955) have written extensively on the theoretical frameworks and practical strategies involved in literary translation.

In the context of African languages, scholars such as Zabus (1991), bandia (2008), Kourouma (2010) have examined the challenges and complexities of translating literary works from European languages into African languages. These studies have highlighted the need for translators to be sensitive to the cultural and linguistic subtleties of the source and target languages.

Specifically, in the context of Igbo language, and literature, scholars such as Emenajo (2014), Oguejiofor (2015), and Uzoezie (2018) have explored the challenges of translating Igbo literary works into English. These studies have demonstrated the importance of preserving the Igbo language and culture through translation.

However, there is a dearth of research on the translation of literary works from English into Igbo. This study aims to fill this gap by critically analyzing the techniques used in translating Ifeoma Okoye's novel *‘Behind the Cloud’* from English to Igbo.

In terms of translation techniques, scholars such as Newmark (1988), Baker (1992), and Hatim and Monday (2004) and Ilechukwu (2024) have identified various strategies used by translators, including loaning, calque, adaptation, naturalization, transposition, modulation, equivalence, transposition, literal translation, amplification, compensation, particularization, generalization, reduction, substitution, transdefinition, etc. These strategies will be applied in this study to analyze the techniques used in translating Ifeoma Okoye's novel *‘Behind the Cloud’* from English to Igbo.

Overall, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on literary translation, particularly in the context of African languages. By examining the techniques used in translating *‘Behind the Cloud’* from English to Igbo, this study seeks to shed light on the complexities of literary translation and the importance of preserving cultural and linguistic diversity in the translation process.

3.0   Review of Translation Techniques

According to Ilechukwu, D.I. (2024), a successful translation relies on special strategies, which are similarly emphasized by Vinay & Darbelnet (1958), Ezeuko (1997), Molina & Albir (2002) and Dim (2024).

i. Loaning

This is seen as borrowing or lifting words from one language into another without the word being translated or modified, loaning could involve expression and not words alone. One outstanding rule with Igbo is that the orthography and phonology of the language must be used in writing the word borrowed (Ezeuko, 1997).

Examples:

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
1	Doctor	Dọkịta
2	Ball	Bọọl
3	Tie	Taị

ii. Calquing

This is the process of copying or initiating the structure of a foreign language term in coining an equivalent indigenous term or another word. This process consists of the construction of a structure of a sentence in a word-to-word manner without any lexical item being left out.

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
4	Good Morning	Ụtụtụ Ọma
5	Wild animal	Anụ ọhịa

iii. Naturalization

This is the act of borrowing word and using the orthography of the target language (TL) in writing them according to the sound of the language. It is otherwise known as Igbonization.

Example:

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
6	Astrology	Astrọlọji
7	Geology	Jiọlọji

iv. Adaptation

This is the process of copying or borrowing a word in the indigenous orthography, although the sound may not correspond. Adaptation is somehow close to naturalization.

Example:

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
8	Ball	Bọọlụ
9	Oxygen	Osijin

v. Transposition

This involves changing the position of two or more items. It is a change in grammatical category. In translation, transposition refers to a translation technique by which a particular part of speech (grammatical category) in the source language is replaced by another in the target language without altering the meaning of the source language sentence.

Example:

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
10	He is **always** there	Ọ **na-anọkarị** ebe ahụ
11	Okeke spoke **ill** of her	Okeke kwuru **arụ** banyere ya

vi. Modulation

This is the act of changing the view point of the message. It can either be obligatory or optional. For instance, in Igbo, euphemism may be used instead of writing the actual words/expressions.
Example:

S/N	IGBO	IGBO
12	Ọ bụ ajọ mmadụ	Afọ tara ya mmiri
13	Ọ naghị eri eri	Nkita anaghị eri nsị ya

vii. Equivalence

Equivalence is depicting a relationship of equal value. It implies to idiomatic expressions, proverbs, etc. Here, you do not have the same style but you have something that can or is similar in arriving at the same meaning.
Example:

S/N	ENGLISH	IGBO
14	A stitch in time saves nine	E mee ngwangwa e meghara odachi
15	You shall reap whatever you sow	Ihe onye metara ọ were isi ya buru

viii. Discursive creation

To establish a temporary equivalence that is totally unpredictable out of context. Example: Nneka bụ nnọọ mbe'- Nneka is a fox. Fox plays an English cultural role that tortoise plays in the Igbo cultural role as being mischievous.

ix. Generalization

To use a more general or neutral term. It is in opposition to particularization. Example: Igbo - Bọsụ - public transport

x. Particularization

To use a more concrete or precise term in the target text. It is opposition to generalization. Example: Ụgbọ elu- Air transportation

xi. Reduction

To reduce or suppress a source text information in the target text. Example: Igbo - Omume nke ime ebere' – Just and equitable treatment.

xii. Substitution

To change the paralinguistic element like gesture, intonation into words. It is used above all in interpretation. For example, an act of putting your hand on your heart is translated as 'thank you'

xiii. Variation

Changes textual tone, style, social dialect, geographical dialect etc, to introduce or change dialectal indicators for characters when translating for the theater, changes in tone when adapting novels for children etc.

4.0   Analysis of Techniques Used in Translating Selected Terms in *'Behind the Cloud'* By Ifeoma Okoye

This section delves into the intricacies of translating Igbo language in the novel, 'Behind the Cloud.' Through a meticulous examination of the translation techniques employed in the novel, this analysis aims to oncover the complexities of conveying cultural subleties and linguistics specificities from the source language to the target language. By focusing on the selected excerpts from the novel, this section explores how the translator navigated the challenges of linguistic transfer, and evalute the effectiveness of the translation techniques used.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Financial support   Nkwado ego

On page 6 of the novel under review, the phrase 'financial support' is translated as 'nkwado ego.' In the Igbo language, the concept of finance encompasses all matters related to money, while support is understood as 'nkwado.' Consequently, within the context of the novel's dialogue, support is accurately translated as 'nkwado ego,' utilizing the technique of equivalence to ensure precise cultural and linguistic representation.'

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Consulting room   Ọnụ ụlọ ahụm onye ọrịa

On page 6 of the novel under review, the phrase 'consulting room' is skillfully translated as 'ọnụ ụlọ ahụm onye ọrịa.' In the Igbo language, 'consulting is succinctly conveyed as 'ịkpọtụrụ mmadụ,' while 'room' is literally rendered as 'ọnụ ụlọ.' However, within the context of the novel's dialogue, the phrase is thoughtfully translated as 'ọnụ ụlọ ahụm onye ọrịa,' employing the technique of adaptation to effectively capture the intended meaning.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Young lady   Obere nwaada

As noted on page 6 of the reviewed novel, the phrase young lady is skillfully translated as 'obere nwaada.' In the target language, the noun 'young' denote 'nwa,' while 'lady is seen as 'nwagboghọbịa.' However, to align with the contextual subleties' of the dialogue, the phrase 'young lady' is adeptly rendered as 'obere nwaada,' employing the technique of compensation and adaptation to ensure a precise and culturally sensitive translation.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Dark skin   Oji ya

On page 7 of the novel under examination, the source language term 'dark' is rendered as 'oji' in the target language, while skin is denoted by 'ahụ.' However, within the context of the novel, 'Behind the Cloud,' the phrase is skillfully translated as 'oji ya,' employing the technique of reduction. This technique is utilized due to the fact that the word 'skin' is implicitly conveyed, thereby eliminating the need for its explicit mention in the target langua[[[ge.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Accident   Ime ntụmadụ

As seen on page 7 of the novel being reviewed, the term 'accident' is skillfully translated into the target language as 'ime ntụmadụ.' While the literal equivalent of 'accident' in Igbo is 'ihe mberede,' the translator has astutely rendered it as 'ime ntụmadụ' in consideration of the dialogues context. This nuanced translation demonstrates the technique of adaptation, where the translator has sensitively adjusted the language to convey the intended meaning and cultural conotation, thereby ensuring a more accurate and context-specific transaltion.'

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Fibroid   Faịbụrọịdị

As seen on page 7 of the novel being reviewed, the term 'fibroid' from the source language (English) has been seamlessly naturalized into the target language (Igbo) as 'faịbụrọịdị.' Notably, the translation of this term does not adhere to a sound-to-sound correspondence between the source language and the target language, thereby necessitating the application of naturalization as the translation technique. The approach enables the incorporation of the term into the target language, facilitating effortless comprehension and usage within the Igbo linguistics and cultural context.'

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Business   Ọrụ

On page 7 of the novel under examination, the term 'business' in the source language (English) undergoes a nuanced transformation in the target language. While 'business' is typically rendered as 'ọzụzụ ahịa' in Igbo, the translator has judiciously opted for ọrụ in this specific context. This deliberate choice demostrates the technique of equivalence, wherein the translator prioritizes conveying the intended meaning and connotation of the source language, rather than adhering to a literal translation.

By doing so, the translator skillfully captures the subleties' of the novel's discussion showcasing a thoughtful and context-sensitive approach to translation.'

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
Hope	Okwukwe

In the novel under review, a notable translation shift occurs on page 10, the term 'hope' in the source language (English) undergoes a nuanced transformation in the target language. While 'hope' is typically rendered as 'olileanya' in Igbo, the translator has judiciously opted for 'ọrụ' in this instance because a poignant prayer is uttered by an expectant mother, who, with unwavering faith, beseeches God for the precious gift of children.' This deliberate choice demostrates the technique of equivalence, wherein the translator prioritizes conveying the intended meaning and connotation of the source language, rather than adhering to a literal translation. By doing so, the translator skillfully captures the subleties' of the novel's discussion showcasing a thoughtful and context-sensitive approach to translation.'

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
Maid	Nwaneku

In the novel under examination, on page 10, the author employs the term 'maid' in the source language, which finds its corresponding equivalent in the target language (Igbo) as 'nwaneku.' This exemplifies the application of equivalence technique, where the author seeks to convey the same meaning and connotation as the source langauge, thereby ensuring a precise and contexually appropriate translation.

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
Insurance	Ịnshọrans

As seen on page 10 of the novel being reviewed, the term 'insurance' from the source language (English) has been seamlessly borrowed into the target language (Igbo) and called 'ịnshọrans.' Note that the translation of this term adheres to a sound-to-sound correspondence between the source language and the target language, thereby necessitating the application of loaning as the translation technique. The approach enables the incorporation of the term into the target language, facilitating effortless comprehension and usage within the Igbo linguistics and cultural context.'

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
Madam	Madam

As noted on page 20 of the book under review, in English, 'Madam' is a honorific title used in formal contexts, and due to the lack of a direct Igbo equivalent conveying the same level of respect portrayed in the context of discussion, loaning is employed as the translation technique. That is to preserve the original intent of the author and dignity.

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
X-ray	Eksre

X-ray as used on page 20 of the novel being discussed is naturalized in Igbo language. Naturalization is a translation technique that involves adapting a text to conform to the linguistic, cultural and stylistic norms of the target language and audience. It is a kind of loaning. The term 'x-ray' is retained in its original form due to its scientific nature, which demands objective and unambiguous language for clarity. Coining a new Igbo term risks semantic erosion, potentially leading to serious misinterpretation by the target audience.

SL (English)	**TL (Igbo)**
Degree certificate	Asambodo nzere digiri

In the Igbo translation of the novel under discussion, specifically on page 25, 'degree certificate' is rendered as 'asambodo nzere digiri.' This translation employs three strategic techniques for optimal clarity and precision:

a. Naturalization: 'Digiri' seamlessly adapted 'degree' into Igbo.
b. Amplification: Adding nzere enhances the meaning, despite its absence in the source text.
c. Equivalence: 'Asambodo' accurately conveys the concept of 'certificate.'

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Side board   Igbe na-adị n'akụkụ

The term 'side board' is translated to Igbo as 'Igbe na-adị n'akụkụ,' employing the technique of 'transdefinition' or 'expanded' translation,' where a single term is rendered into multiple words to ensure semantic equivalence and clarity.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
One split second   Otu ntabi anya

In the novel under review, the author utilizes the phrase 'one split second' on page 22. In translating this phrase into Igbo, the target language, the equivalent expression 'otu ntabi anya' is employed. This demonstrates the application of equivalent technique, where the translators seek to preserve the original meaning and the connotation of the source language, thereby achieving a precise and culturally relevant translation.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Unfaithful   Ịgba n'ezi

On page 23 of the novel in consideration, the author's use of 'unfaithful' is translated into Igbo as 'ịgba n'ezi', demonstrating the modulation technique. This euphemistic translation enables the author to address the sensitive topic of idolatry in a subtle and diplomatic manner.'

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Wedding gown   Uwe mwụda ọcha agbamakwụkwọ

In the translation of the novel under discussion, the phrase 'wedding gown' on page 24 is skillfully rendered into Igbo as 'uwe mwuda ọcha agbamakwụkwọ.' The translation employs a combination of three techniques to achieve optimal clarity and precision:
1. **Amplification:** The addition of 'ọcha' enhances the meaning of the original text, despite its absence in the source text.
2. **Equivalence:** 'Uwe mwụda' effectively conveys the concept of a ceremonial garment.
3. **Transdefition:** The use of multiple words to translate a single phrase exemplifies this technique, ensuring a nuanced and contextually appropriate translation.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Degree certificate   Asambo nzere digirii

In the novel's translation, specifically on page 25, 'degree certificate' is translated to 'asambo nzere digirii.' This translation utilizes three techniques to achieve clarity and precision:
1. **Loaning:** The term 'degree' is borrowed from the source language to prevent semantic loss and ensure accuracy.
2. **Naturalization:** The borrowed term 'degree' is adapted to the Igbo phonological system, resulting in the naturalized form 'digirii.'
3. **Equivalence:** The term 'nzere' serves as a direct equivalent for the English term 'certificate' ensuring a precise translation.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
You remember Uju   I chetara Uju m na-ekwu maka ya

In the novel under review, the author uses the expression 'you remember 'Uju' on page 22. The Igbo translation of this expression here is 'i chetara Uju m na-ekwu maka ya?' While a literal translation would have been, 'i chetara Uju,' the addition of 'm na-ekwu maka ya' provides contextual clarity and ensures that the intended meaning is conveyed accurately in the target language. The technique introduced here is amplification.

SL (English)   **TL (Igbo)**
Hide and seek   Egwu ụmụaka

In the novel under review, the author mentions 'hide and seek' on page 22, a specific childhood game. Although a literal translation would be 'egwu ụmụaka na-ezo achọ onwe ha,' the translator has chosen a more generalized approach to avoid verbosity and ensure a more natural translation. The technique used here is generalization.

4.1   Summary/Conclusion

This study undertook a critical analysis of the techniques used in translating some selected terms in *'Behind the Cloud'* by Ifeoma Okoye from English to Igbo. The analysis revealed that the translator employed a range of techniques, including loaning, calque, adaptation, naturalization, transposition, modulation, equivalence, transposition, literal translation, amplification, compensation, particularization, generalization, reduction, substitution, etc, to render cultural referencesand literary devices in the source text.

The study found that while the translator's use of these techniques was generally effective in conveying the meaning of the source text, there were instances where the translation failed the subleties' and complexities of the original texts. Specifically, the study identified the issues with the translation of cultural reference and literary devices, which sometimes resulted in a loss of meaning, tone or style.

The findings of the study highlights the importance of considering the cultural and linguistics subleties' of the source and target languages when translating literary works. They also underscore the need for translators to be aware of the potential pitfalls of translation, including the loss of meaning, tone, or style and to develope strategies to mitigate these risks.

Overall, this study contibutes to the existing body of knowledge on literary translation, particularly in the context of African languages. This study recommends that future researches focuse on developing more effective strategies for translating literary works from English to Igbo, particularly, in terms of capturing cultural references and literary devices. Additionally, the study suggests that future researches explore the use of technology, such as machine translation, and computer assisted translation tools, to support the translation process and improve the accuracy and quality of translation.

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