

## **A Study of Change of Tenses in the Process of Translation from English into Persian**

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### **Abstract**

The present study has made an attempt to define the concept of proper grammatical structure such as tense system from different viewpoints in translation studies and to offer an analysis of language and tense in the process of translation. The present paper discusses the character of tense in English in contrast to Persian. In order to address this issue, an English novel "The Sound and the Fury" by "William Faulkner" (1929) and its Persian equivalent "Khashm va Hayahoo" by "Bahman Shohrehvar" (1383) were taken into consideration to collate more information in relation to verb tenses of both languages. The purposes of this study were to be considered as follows: a) the tense of sentence is changed in the process of translation from English into Persian; and b) the change of tenses of sentences in the process of translation from English into Persian results in change of their meanings. Therefore, the data analysis revealed that there would be significant differences between tenses in English and Persian. The analysis of the collected data also indicated that (60%) of the English tenses and (55%) of the Persian tenses were translated into Simple past tense.

**Keywords:** translation; tense; tense and time

### **Introduction**

At first, there would be a brief discussion about translation and tense system in languages especially English and Persian, then the changes of meaning in this process have been regarded. The research questions are formulated as follows:

1. Is the tense of sentences changed in the process of translation from English into Persian?
2. Does the change of tenses of sentences in the process of translation from English into Persian result in change of their meanings?

Translation is a complex dichotomous and cumulative process that involves of a host of activities upon other disciplines relating to language, writing, linguistics and culture. This multi-disciplinary process suggests that three major activities run concomitantly (Darwish, 2003):

- 1) Transfer of data from the source language to the target language;
- 2) Synchro-analysis of text and translation and research of subject-matter; and
- 3) Continuous self-development and learning;

Translation is often regarded as a project for transferring meaning from one language to another. Translation is a form of inter lingual communication that involves a Source language and a Target language (Aiswarya, 2015).

## **Review of Related Literature**

### ***Background***

Some experts in the field of translation (Lubis & Mono, 2007) believe that translation is a project that transfers messages from one language to another. And some others note translation is an art which needs enough knowledge of both source and target languages. Translating is a process of transferring both the lexical meanings and the cultural meanings of source language into target language. If only the linguistic meanings of the source text are transferred into the target text and the cultural meanings are disregarded, the translation only will be acceptable linguistically but will be unacceptable culturally. This translation will be poor and unacceptable as a whole.

Translation is a process that transfers a text from one language to another one. It is believed that a text is not only a paper, a poem, or a story, but it can be a single exchange of greetings or single sentences inserted in a clear nonverbal context. The translation is not just to use a bilingual dictionary in order to translate a word in a known context from one language into another language; in addition, this procedure is to understand a full text of source language to transfer the meaning of first language text to another one (Cited in Alinezhad Rad, 2013).

Speakers of every language use all the means available in their language to convey their meaning. Because of the variety of such means in different languages, when translating a text from one language to another, it may not be possible to use the same capacities available in the source language. One of the structures which have been a cause of dispute among different grammarians and linguistics is Tense. Tabatabaei (2011) believes, it is of more challenge when translating a text from English language to another one (Hajizadeh, 2013).

In English, tense is expressed by morphological changes to verb forms, however in other languages tense and aspect may be reflected by overt morphology instead. Often times though, tense and aspect are conflated and it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Due to the close relationship between tense and aspect, in this paper, tense refers to morphological changes made to the verb, whereas aspect refers to lexical changes that do not alter the verb form (Alloway & Corley, 2004).

Languages are capable of expressing events happening in different times. Many languages, referred to as 'tense languages', build a number of time distinctions into their grammars. Thus, tense is said to be the 'grammaticalization' of time. One important thing which should be clarified is the essential difference between time and tense; tense is a grammatical category, whereas time is an extra-linguistic universal concept. This has resulted in the fact that there is no one-to-one correspondence between time and tense, within a certain language, on the one hand, and between different languages, on the other. The recognition of the time-tense dichotomy plays a crucial role in language learning and translation. This article aims to shed light on differences between time and tense, especially in English and Persian, for the purpose of facilitating teaching English to Iranian EFL learners (Jabbari, 2013).

Tense and aspect are grammatical categories in a large number of languages. The form of the verb in languages which expresses these categories, usually indicates two main types of information: time relations and aspectual differences. Time relations have to do with locating an event in time. The usual distinction is between past, present, and future. Aspectual differences have to do with the temporal distribution of an event, for instance its completion or non-completion, continuation, or momentariness. In some languages, the tense and aspect system, or parts of it, may be highly developed, with several fine distinctions in temporal location or distribution. Although the main use of the grammatical categories of tense and aspect is to indicate time and aspectual relations, they do not necessarily perform the same function in all languages (Baker, 2011, cited in Alinezhad Rad, 2013).

The current study helps the translators to translate a text as natural as possible because if they know under what conditions it is mandatory to change the tense in the process of translation; consequently, they will produce the appearance that seems original. Therefore, the following hypotheses are formulated:

- 1) There will be significant change of tenses from English to Persian in the process of translation from English into Persian.
- 2) The change of tenses of sentences in the process of translation from English into Persian results in change of their meanings.

## **Methodology**

### ***Materials***

This is a comparative study concerning change of tenses in an English novel titled: "The Sound and the Fury" by "William Faulkner" (1929) and its Persian equivalent "Khashm va Hayahoo" by "Bahman Shoe'lehvar" (1383). These books have been randomly selected.

### ***Procedures***

During this research an English novel and its Persian equivalence were randomly selected. The data collection process took three months to be completed and all the sentences and clauses in English to be considered and compared with its equivalence, Persian, in the target language, to identify the change of tenses in the translation process. This analysis totally was led to 3193 clauses and sentences in these books. Totally 40 pages out of the English novel as a good sample have been carefully analyzed. To make sure that all selected sentences and clauses have been followed the tense system to analyze the changes of tenses in the process of translation. The change of tenses in the sentences from English into Persian has been analyzed completely.

## **Results and Discussion**

In the contrastive analysis of tenses in English and Persian which would happen in the translation process, the following data of the findings in regard to the frequency of tenses has been considered. As mentioned above, this paper was an attempt to study the change of tenses in translation from English into Persian. Firstly, the researcher has studied the book carefully and then the verb tenses were excluded from these books. Totally 40 pages, in English, were identified to be compared with its equivalence in the target language, Persian. In brief, this research has comprised 3193 units of the found data in which 1925 sentences as (Simple past tense) make about 60% of the analyzed data in English and 1695 sentences as (Maziye sadeh) make about 55% of the analyzed data in Persian with highest frequencies. The findings of the data of the analytical verb structure i.e. tense are being regarded (see table 1).

**Table 1. Change of tense (simple past) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Simple past		Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	1925	Translated into Persian as	Maziye sadeh	1695	1925
			Maziye estemrari	139	
			Maziye naghli	21	
			Mozare'e eltezami	36	
			Mozare'e ekhbari	12	
			Maziye baeed	19	
			Fe'ele amri	1	
			Mozare'e sadeh	1	
			Maziye eltezami	1	

As shown in table 1, out of the total number of selected sentences (3193), Simple past tense (1925) make about 60% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Maziye sadeh/53%, Maziye estemrari/4.35%, Maziye naghli/0.65%, Mozare'e eltezami/1.13 %, Mozare'e ekhbari/0.38 %, Maziye baeed/0.60%, Fe'ele amri/0.031%, Mozare'e sadeh/0.031%, and finally Maziye eltezami/0.031%.

**Table 2. Change of tense (Simple present) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Simple present		Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	822	Translated into Persian as	Maziye sadeh	35	822
			Maziye estemrari	1	
			Maziye naghli	20	
			Mozare'e eltezami	247	
			Mozare'e ekhbari	410	
			Maziye baeed	1	
			Fe'ele amri	59	
			Mozare'e sadeh	46	

		Mozare'e mostamar	3	
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As shown in table 2, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Simple present tense (822) make about 25% of the analyzed data, are used to illustrate the frequency of the analytical verb structure, i.e. tense that exist in the analysed texts, which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Maziye sadeh/1.97%, Maziye estemrari/0.031 %, Maziye naghli/0.63%, Mozare'e eltezami/7.74%, Mozare'e ekhbari/12.84%, Maziye baed/0.031 %, Fe'ele amri/1.85%, Mozare'e sadeh/1.44%, and finally Mozare'e mostamar/0.094 %.

**Table 3. Change of tense (Present continuous) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Present continuous		Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	75	Translated into Persian as	Mozar'e ekhbari	46	75
			Mozare'e mostamar	19	
			Mozare'e eltezami	7	
			Maziye naghli	2	
			Maziye sadeh	1	

As shown in table 3, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Present continuous tense (75) make 2.35% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Mozare'e ekhbari/1.44%, Mozare'e mostamar/0.60%, Mozare'e eltezami/0.22%, Maziye naghli/0.063%, and finally Maziye sadeh/0.031%.

**Table 4. Change of tense (Simple future) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Simple future		Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	190	Translated into Persian as	Mozare'e ekhbari	145	190
			Mozare'e mostamar	1	
			Maziye eltezami	34	
			Maziye naghli	2	

			Maziye sadeh	4	
			Fe'ele amri	4	

As shown in table 4, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Simple future tense (190) make about 5.95% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Mozare'e ekhbari/4.54%, Mozare'e mostamar/0.031 %, Maziye eltezami/1.065%, Maziye naghli/0.063%, Maziye sadeh/0.13%, and finally Fe'ele amri/0.13%.

**Table 5. Change of tense (Future in the past) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Future in the past	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	23		Mozare'e ekhbari	8	23
			Maziye sadeh	7	
			Mozare'e eltezami	5	
			Maziye estemrari	3	

As shown in table 5, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Future in the past tense (23) make about 0.72% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Mozare'e ekhbari/0.25%, Maziye sadeh/0.22%, Mozare'e eltezami/0.16%, and finally Maziye estemrari/0.094.

**Table 6. Change of tense (Present perfect) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Present perfect	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	44		Mozare'e ekhbari	3	44
			Maziye sadeh	15	
			Maziye eltezami	1	
			Maziye naghli	25	

As shown in table 6, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Present perfect tense (44) make about 1.38% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Mozare'e ekhbari/0.094%, Maziye sadeh/0.47%, Maziye eltezami/0.031%, and Maziye naghli/0.78%.

**Table 7. Change of tense (Past continuous) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Past continuous	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	105		Maziye estemrari	41	105
			Maziye mostamar	52	
			Maziye naghli	9	
			Mozare'e ekhbari	1	
			Maziye sadeh	2	

As shown in table 7, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Past continuous tense (107) make about 3.29% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Maziye estemrari/1.28%, Maziye mostamar/1.63%, Maziye naghli/0.28%, Mozare'e ekhbari/0.031%, Maziye sadeh/0.063%.

**Table 8. Change of tense (Past perfect) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Past perfect	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	4		Maziye sadeh	1	4
			Maziye baed	3	

As shown in table 8, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Past perfect tense (4) make about 0.125% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Maziye sadeh/0.031%, and Maziye baed/0.094%.

**Table 9. Change of tense (Future perfect in the past) in the process of translation from English into Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

Tense	Future perfect in the past	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
Frequency	3		Mozare'e eltezami	1	3
			Maziye eltezami	1	



			Maziye sadeh	1	
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As shown in table 9, out of a total number of selected sentences (3193), Future perfect in the past tense (3) make about 0.094% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Mozare'e eltezami/0.031%, Maziye eltezami/0.031%, and Maziye sadeh/0.031%.

**Table 10. Change of tense (Present perfect continuous) in the process of translation from English into**

Tense	Present perfect continuous	Translated into Persian as	Tense	Frequency	Total
			Maziye naghli	1	2
Frequency	2		Maziye sadeh	1	

### **Persian in the English book "The sound and the Fury"**

As shown in table 10, out of the total number of selected sentences (3193), Present perfect continuous tense (2) make about 0.063% of the analyzed data which have changed into other tenses in Persian as follows: Maziye naghli/0.031%, and Maziye sadeh/0.031%.

### **Conclusion**

In a quantitative study carried out on the frequency of the use of tenses in the English book "The Sound and the Fury", (Simple past tense) made about 60% of the analyzed data and also according to its Persian equivalent "Khashm va Hayahoo", (Maziye sadeh) made about 55% of the analyzed data. It undoubtedly gave a same result in the tenses from English into Persian in the process of translation. This result suggested the high frequency of Simple past tense in both languages. This analysis also employed the correspondence between tenses in English and Persian because there would be some changes in the meaning of the verbs from English into Persian the translation process. And therefore, the change of tenses in this process was taken clearly into consideration.

Today, equivalence is the central issue in translation and it is undoubtedly one of the most problematic and controversial areas in the field of translation theory in the sense that one finds more than one definition, each one reflects a different perspective and a theoretical basis in which scholars seek the same goal. It is clear that from the grammatical point of view languages may differ from one another to a greater degree or lesser degree, therefore, the translators may face many problems not finding a suitable equivalent in the process of translation.

As indicated in above tables, the Persian translator was more concerned over the meaning and appropriateness than form of the sentences from English into Persian in the translation process. That is, she/he preferred the naturalness of the language over accuracy. In other words, the form was criticized for naturalness and clarity. There was a significant change of tense in translating from English into Persian, the conclusion that the researcher might arrive at.

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