Cognitive Linguistic Approach in Translation Studies

Discussions:
The song in the Japanese source text uses no personal pronouns. The first verse ‘I am a mate aru’ (‘subjective’) expresses semantic ambiguity but also a possibility of multiple interpretations based on conceptual alternatives.

The prominence of ‘Let us walk’ (‘objective’) is because the conceptualiser construes him/herself inclusive of the event with the conceptualiser outside the event. ‘I walk’ is relatively objective, because it is a monological style and the conceptualiser construes him/herself as the speaker.

Four students construed ‘Let us walk’ and two of them keep their construals as ‘inclusive We’ mode, but the other two shifted their construals into ‘monological’ mode, which was the same construal as the other 13 students.

The significance of One Yoko’s translation is explainable, not as the literal but in the cognitive linguistic approach. Firstly, she expressed a unique perspective in her construal ‘exclusive You’ mode, which has never been taken before. Secondly, she dramatically shifted her objective construal into her subjective construal (‘inclusive We’ mode). That is, the aesthetic effects of her work are not motivated by regular construals.

Concluding Remarks:
This case study demonstrates that the zero-encoding of the grammatical subject in Japanese can be reanalysed in terms of ‘subjectivity’ and ‘construal alternatives’ in multiple translations, instead of finding various types of equivalences used in a standard model of Translation Studies.

Previous research of Translation Studies has used a linguistic approach to analyse a relationship between a source text and a target text. Therefore, the main field of translation analyses are often considered as applied linguistics or contrastive literature.

However, the analysis of translation also has a potential for examining various linguistic hypotheses and concepts. As a future direction, this case study demonstrates that Translation Analysis is not just for teaching language but can also be used for teaching linguistics.

References:

Yone, Yoko. 2014. ‘Beyond the clouds, try as we might’. Translated by Ana Rojo and Iraide Ibarretxe-Anutuñano.

Acknowledgement:
Funding support from the School of Humanities, Massey University and the students in the course 252017, Massey University.

Ethics Approval:
From Human Ethics Northern Committee in Massey University, NOE 16/11 Sukiyaki project: an analysis of students’ approaches to translations.

The contrastive analysis of multiple translations: Sukiyaki song from Japanese to English

Nakamura, J

2016-11-21