A Pragmatic Analysis of the Process of Explicitation in Simultaneous Interpretation

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1. Introduction

Simultaneous decoding and encoding of information in source and target languages comprise the two major components of the simultaneous interpretation as an interactional process. The interpreter is simultaneously involved in decoding of information in the source language and encoding of information in the target language (Chesterman, 2016; Gile, 2018). Parallel corpora are derived from two languages, including source texts and their translations (Zuffery, 2017).

Explicitation, as a general tendency or one of the universals of translation, is a strategy in which the implicit information of the source text is made explicit in the process of translation (Blum-Kulka 1986; Dimitrova, 2005). The bases of explanations originates from comparative analysis of parallel texts in source and target languages. What is the rationale behind the studies in explicitation? It is maintained that explicitation is a universal property in translation, revealing its crucial role, significance, and status in translation. Findings obtained from empirical studies can consequently be supposed to be generalizable to other language-related studies.

Explicitations in translation are initiated by demands of the communicative conditions and situations. Moreover, due to the anticipated differences and variations appearing in culture and world knowledge, translators foresee some problems for the target language reader to comprehend the text. Therefore, they use explicitation as a strategy to solve those anticipated problems and facilitate the understanding of the target text for the reader (Chesterman 2016; Klaudy 1998).

The analysis and investigation of the system of decoding and encoding in process of simultaneous interpretation is generally carried out in the framework of metadiscourse and interpreter's discursive activities. According to Hyland (2005), in metadiscourse and discursive practices, the investigator tries to study and analyze the processes of production and comprehension of discourse based on social context and social situations. The analysis of these metadiscourse and discursive practice revealed that all these activities involve modification and change on behalf of the speaker/writer and audience. According to Dass and Taboada (2017) and Egg (2010), the analysis of parallel corpora revealed that the themes and issues of modification, substitution, and manipulation generally are directed to coherence relations in discourse. As a result, investigators resorted to the integration of

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translation studies and discourse investigations (Crible et al, 2019). Consequently, such an integration would result in a new methodology in discourse studies and suggest new models for analysis.

The present paper tries to analyze the conditions, causes, and basis of different types of explicitation in the process of monitoring discourse based on analyzing translation of discourse markers (DMs) in simultaneous interpretation through translation spotting to design a model. In pragmatic investigations, researchers try to analyze the natural processing and use of language within the framework of social communicative settings (Yule, 2011). Discourse monitoring is among the basic issues in human communication and has crucial consequences in people's social life. In the process of production, configuration, structuration, and comprehension of discourse, speaker/writer and audience apply discourse markers to create coherence in discourse based on grammatical elements, semantics, and pragmatics. DMs are the most frequent, creative, practical, and influential variables in the process of creation, analysis, and understanding of discourse (Fraser, 2006; Mohammadi, 2015). DMs are applied to improve and support the coherence of text, substantiate the activation of people's mind and language in the process of creation and interpretation of discourse, and prepare the ground for coherence and relevance in discourse. Achieving the above-mentioned objectives and aims depends on the precise, appropriate, professional, and creative application of DMs (Aijmer, 2002; Anderson, 2001; Schiffrine, 1987). There are different research positions and assumptions about the translation of DMs and Furku (2014) believes that the most straightforward translation strategy for discourse markers is omission. The present research tries to investigate translation strategies of DMs in simultaneous interpretation based on the following questions:

1. To what extent is explicitation applied in the process of translating DMs in simultaneous interpretation?
2. What are the different manifestations and strategies of explicitation in translating DMs in the process of discourse creation in simultaneous interpretation?

2. Materials and methods

The present paper tries to analyze the conditions, causes, and basis of different types of explicitation in the process of monitoring discourse based on analyzing translation of DMs in simultaneous interpretation through translation spotting. This study is based on Coherence Theory. This theory assumes that texts process coherence, which is achieved through various categories of coherence relations. Understanding these relations is essential for comprehending texts (Schiffrin, 2006; Redeker, 1999). To analyze discourse relations, the discourse markers inventory designed by Mohammadi and Dehghan (2020) was employed. This inventory, developed based on the Coherence Theory, classifies discourse relations into four types: inference, elaboration, contrast, and temporal sequence.

To assess the reliability and credibility of the study, two raters were asked to examine the parallel corpora. The first rater, a linguist specializing in DM analysis, and the second rater, a TEFL expert with expertise in translation and discourse analysis, independently evaluated the parallel corpora. The researcher initially identified and categorized the relevant instances, which were then presented to the raters for their evaluation.

The corpus consisted of three lectures delivered by Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2020. These lectures, totaling

35,000 words, were accompanied by their simultaneous interpretation broadcasted on press TV, the Iranian English TV channel. The lectures were selected randomly.

The procedures consisted of several steps. First, the simultaneous interpretations of the lectures were recorded from the Iranian English TV channel. Then, the Persian texts were downloaded from khamenei.ir. Next, the instances of translations of DMs were classified based on Mohammadi and Dehghan's (2020) inventory. Subsequently, the strategies applied for DMs translation were spotted and analyzed in the parallel corpora. Then 25% of the spotted instances of the strategies applied in translation of DMs were presented to the raters for their evaluation and approval.

3. Results and discussion

The findings indicated that the interpreter resorted to explicitation in about 80% of the cases. This is a high rate and should serve as an awareness-raising indicator for curriculum developers, educationalists, and researchers in the multidisciplinary field of translation and translation studies. Moreover, the analysis of the pragmatic behaviors of the interpreter resulted in a triangular model and framework of strategies for rendering DMs from Persian into English, consisting of addition, modification, and omission. Addition ranked first, accounting for 43% of the strategies applied. All four DM categories – elaborative, contrastive, inferential, and temporal - were affected. Both modification and omission were applied in 18% of the cases. Furthermore, the research considered the scientific and pedagogical implications for translation and research.