

Primary Interjection Translation: A Case Study of “Shopaholic and Sister”

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Abstract

The research aims to investigate translation strategies of primary interjection. The study is based on *Shopaholic & Sister* written by Sophie Kinsella and its Thai- translated version by Ploy Chariyaves entitled *Sao Nak Shop Pa-ta (Pee) Sao Poo Klead Kan Shop*. In conducting the research, all primary interjections were collected along with citing pages and lines; then they were compared with the translated version. The findings showed that the translator employed the following strategies; translating-into-primary interjection, translating-into-secondary interjection, transliteration, translating -into -address term, translating-into -other functional utterance, and omission.

1 Introduction

Once parts of speech are taken into account, it seems interjection is not much considered like other aspects. Correspondingly, Ameka (1992) has entitled his article read “Interjection; yet neglected parts of speech.” In the article, he has clearly explained how interjections are eluded.

In translation sphere, in spite of having less importance, translators cannot avoid to interpret them since they can convey the feeling and expression of speakers. Those translators try hard to find suitable words and make a decision in which word should be fit the target language. It is found intriguing to see how the translators select those words.

In actual fact, translators employ variants of strategy to render interjections from one language into another language in favor of grabbing readers’ attention.

Concerning *Shopaholic & Sister* is notoriously well-received from readers around the world, and its Thai- translated version earns warm praise from Thai readers.

Focusing on how interjections from original version of the novel are translated into Thai is considered to be provocative.

2 Review Literature

Interjections

Academics and scholars have different points of view on interjections whether either they are grammatical or they are words.

According one of the ideas, Cuenca (2006) has mentioned that “interjections are generally defined as a peculiar word class, apparently peripheral to language and similar to non linguistic items such as gestures and vocal paralinguistic devices” (p.20).

In addition, Baker (2005) has defined interjections as “idiomatic since they are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and, in the case of idioms, often carry meaning which cannot be deduced from their individual components” (p.63).

Anyway, Jovanović (2004) compiled lexicographers' definition of interjections as, in reference to grammar, “a natural ejaculation expressive of some feeling or emotion, used or viewed as a Part of Speech” (p.18).

Primary and Secondary Interjections

Generally, in agreement with Ameka (1992), he also primarily divided interjections into two separate groups including primary and secondary interjections. The following is definitions and descriptions he given on primary interjections.

Primary interjections are little words or non-words which in terms of their distribution can constitute an utterance by themselves and do not normally enter into construction with other word classes, for example, *Ouch!, Wow!, Gee!, Oho!, Oops!*, etc. (p.105).

Respecting another type of interjections, he defined meaning of secondary interjection as follow.

Secondary interjections are those words which have an independent semantic value but which can be used conventionally as utterances by themselves to express a mental attitude or state. They thus refer to mental acts too. Under secondary interjections fall such alarm calls and attention getters as help, fire, careful and swear and taboo words such as damn, hell, heavens, Christ! and other emotively used words such as shame, bother, drats, etc. (p.111).

Translation Strategies

Actually, several strategies were recommended by academics and experts in the field of translation.

Owing to her suggestion that interjections are idiomatic, Baker (1992) also proposed the strategies for idiom translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and form, an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, paraphrase and omission.

Tepakkarapong (1997) has suggested that translators should initially examine how interjection in the target language can be used in order to avoid errors.

Whenever interjections are concerned with cultural aspect, Pinmanee (2012) has advised to consider means of addressing, text referring to another culture, transliteration, literal translation and equivalent of meaning and idiom.

According to a dissertation entitled *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix and Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* conducted by Boonterm (2008), there are 11 strategies used for translation including 1) translating-into-primary interjection, 2) translating-into-secondary interjection, 3) translating -into-interjection phrase, 4) transliterate, 5) translating-into-address term, 6) translating-into-final particle, 7) translating -into-conjunctive-utterance, 8) translating-into-interrogative utterance, 9) translating-into-other functional utterance, 10) amplification, and 11) reduction.

Shopaholic & Sister

Shopaholic & Sister is written by a British writer, Sophie Kinsella. It came third among a series of *Shopaholic* in which categorized a Chic lit genre.

To mesmerize the Chic lit, a leading character, Becky Bloomwood, portrays an ordinary woman who spends working life and seeks for “Mr. Right” in the meantime. The climax is, as a financial journalist, she is addicted to shopping.

The protagonist who might be considered obsessive about shopping has made worldwide readers got stuck on her paradox.

With respect to this episode, she has to face with a half-sister who, contrarily, hates shopping. The problem is not she has ever been an only daughter through her lifetime, but because of the extremely different lifestyle, the consequences are both whimsical and delight.

Similarly, for Thai version entitled *Sao Nak Shop Pa-ta (Pee) Sao Poo Klead Kan Shop* translated by Ploy Chariyaves, a journalist and concept designer, it got warm attention from readers. Shortly after the translated version was released, it became a raving best-seller.

3 Research Methodology

To carry the research, an original version of *Shopaholic & Sister* written by Sophie Kinsella and its Thai- translated version by Ploy Chariyaves entitled *Sao Nak Shop Pa-ta (Pee) Sao Poo Klead Kan Shop* were selected to study.

Due to the different definitions of interjections, the researcher exploited the definition given by Ameka (1992) to collect the data. Also, the strategies proposed by Boonterm (2008) will be used to analyze for primary interjections in the translated version.

In terms of data collection, all primary interjections in the original version were collected along with their pages and lines, and were then compared with the translated version.

4 Results

After clustering around the primary interjections in the original version, it is found that there are 362 interjections which have been shown in the table 1.

Table 1: Primary Interjections Found in Original Version

Primary Interjection	Number
oh	189
er	104
wow	13
ah	8
ooh	8
um	8
ow	4
ha	3
mmm	3
au-huh	2
boo	2
eh	2
hmm	2
oy	2
aha	1
ahem	1
ay-up	1
ha-ha	1
mmm-hmm	1
ohhhh	1
ouch	1
ouuuch	1
oww	1
shh	1
ta-daah	1
yaaay	1

According to Table 1, although there are just slightly different between certain pairs of word, *oh* - *ohhh* and *ouch* –*ouuuch*, for instance, the researcher still defines them as separate words. By reason of just adding more letters, they somehow transmit more excessive feeling or expression. The most

frequently founded words are *oh* followed by *er*, 189 and 104 respectively. And, other words were found scattering.

Subsequently, the compiled interjections were compared to the translated version. It is discovered that there are 6 translation strategies applied for translation. The example will be explained in form of source text citing page and line number followed by target text along with its transliteration.

Translating-into-primary interjection

Example 1

“Focus on your breathing,” Chandra is saying.

Oh, right. Yes. Breathing.

Breath in... breath out. ... (7:4)

“มีสมาธิ กำหนดลมหายใจไว้” จันทรากำลังสอน (“*Mee sa ma ti kam nod lom hai jai wai*” *Jantra kam lang sorn.*)

โอ้ จริง ไช้ หายใจ (*Oh jing chai hai jai*)

กรี๊ด เล็บฉันดูเปรี้ยวเกินไป... (*Kreed leb chan do preaw kay mak...*)

Example 2

Ow.

Ouuuch.

God, my head is in agony. Oww. And my ankle’s throbbing, and I feel like...(334:1-3)

อู๊ย (*Auy*)

โอ๊ยยยยยยยย (*Oyyyyyyyy*)

พระเจ้าช่วย เจ็บหัวจัง อูยยย ข้อเท้าก็เจ็บ ยิ่งกับว่าจะป่วย (*Phra jao chua.y Jeb hua jang auyyy kor tao kor jeb yang kab wa jah puay*)

From Example 1 *oh* has been translated to *oh* in target language, and likewise Example 2, *ow*, *ouuuch*, and *oww* have been translated to *auy*, *oyyyyyy*, and *auyyy* respectively.

Moreover, that translator imitates doubling alphabets to stress extremely painful feeling. Also, *auy*, *oyyyyyy*, and *auyyy* are primary injections found in Thai.

Translating-into-secondary interjection

Example 3

For a moment I can’t speak.

“Nothing,” I whisper at last.

“Oh, Becky.” Luke sighs and puts his arm round me. (161:30)

ฉันพูดไม่ออกไปครู่ ในที่สุดก็กระซิบว่า “ไม่ได้ชื่อเลยคะ” (*Chan pood mai ok pai kru. Nai tee sud kor krasib wa “mai dai sue loey kah.”*)

“โอ้ เบ็คกี้” ลูคถอนหายใจและโอบฉัน “คุณไม่สนุกเลยใช่ไหม” (“*Toe Becky*” *Luke torn hai jai lae ob chan. “Khun mai sanook leoy chai mai.”*)

Example 4

“So, Mr. Brandon’s not ill?” he’s saying.

Oh no.

I retreat behind a door a door and it shut. What do I do now? (245:14)

“ตกลง คุณแบรินดอนไม่ได้ป่วยหรือครับ” (“*Tok long khun Brandon mai dai puay rue krab.*”)

หวอ ฉันถอยจากหลบหลังประตูและปิดประตู หัวใจเต้นโครมคราม ทำไงต่อดีเนี่ย (*Wain chan toy chak lob lang pra tu lae pid pra tu. Hau jai ten krom kram. Tam ngai tor dee nia.*)

According to Example 3 and 4, *oh* has been changed to *toe* and *oh* again has been changed to *wain*. *Toe* is derived from *put toe* which means *Buddha* whereas *wain* might be equivalent to *Holy shit*. Both *toe* and *wain* are considered to be secondary interjections in the target language.

Transliteration

Example 5

Ha. I'll show them who's the most supportive friend to Suze. (77:9)

อะ ฉันจะแสดงว่าให้เห็นว่าใครกันเป็นเพื่อนที่ช่วยเหลือชูสได้มากที่สุด (Hah. *Chan jah sa-dang hai hen wa krai kan pen puen tee chuay leau Suze dai mak tee sud.*)

Example 6

"For Becky's sister..." says Georgian, "three pounds."

"Wow!" I beam at her. "That's fantastic! Thank you so much Georgiana!" (151:14)

"สำหรับพี่สาวเบ็คกี้..." จอร์เจียนบอก ฉันเห็นเธอหรีตาคำนวณ "สามปอนด์" ("Sam rab pee sao Becky..." *Georgiana bok.*)

Cahn hen ther re eta kam nuan "sam pond.")

ว้าว!" ฉันฉีกยิ้มให้เธอ เจ๋งจริง ๆ ! ขอขอบคุณมากนะคะจอร์เจียนา" ("Wow!" *Chan sheek yim hai ther jeng jing jing.*)

Khon khun mak nah kah Georgiana.")

As regards Example 5 and 6, *ha* and *wow* have been transliterated into *hah* and *wow* respectively.

Translating-into-address term

Example 7

"Do you want to see me do it again?" I say beaming in delight.

"Yaaaaay!" they all scream.

"I don't think so!" comes a bright, (80:1)

"หนูอยากดูฉันแสดงอีกหรือ" ฉันถามพลางปล้มปีติอึยะ ("Noo yak do chan sa-deang eek rerh." *Chan tam plang pluem pi-ti hi haa.*)

"ฮ่ายยยย!" เด็ก ๆ ทุกคนระเบิดเสียงกรี๊ด ("Chaiiii!" *Dek dek took kon ra bred siang kreed.*)

"ฉันว่าอย่าดีกว่า"... ("Chan way a dee kwa" ...)

Example 8

"You're getting on *well*? But ... what about him having a conviction?"

"Ah," says Luke, sounding sheepish. "Nathan explained about that. ... (355:18)

"คุณเข้ากันได้หรือคะ แต่... ความผิดทางอาญาของเขาละคะ" ("Khun kao kan dai dee rue kah. Tae...kwam pid tang ar-ya kong kao lah kah.")

"อ้อ" เสียงลูคเหนียม ๆ "นาธานอธิบายเรื่องนั้นให้ฟัง..." ("Ah" *Siang Luke neam neam. "Nathan a-ti by rueng nan hai fang...*)

The translator translated *yaaaaay* into *chaiiii* and *ah* into *ah*. To go into detail, *chaiiii* refers to *yes* in the target language, it is therefore used to respond negatively. In case of *ah*, *ah* in Thai is uttered to respond unintentionally.

Translating-into-other functional utterance

Example 9

"Like cross-training?"

"Er... kind of." I nod, and take a of biscuit.

There's another little silence, as if everyone's waiting for everyone else to speak.... (139:11)

"อย่างครอสเทรนนิ่งหรือ" ("Yang cross training rerh")

"ก็...ทำนองนั้น" ฉันพยักหน้าแล้วหยิบบิสกิต ("Kor. tam nong nan." *Chan pa yak na leaw yib biscuit.*)

เงียบอีก คล้ายทุกคนรอให้คนอื่นพูด ให้ตายเถอะ (*Ngeab eek. Klai took kon ror hai kon auen pook. Hai tai terh.*)

Example 10

"You're sister. You're family. Finally always pull through for each other." He glances out the window. "Ay-up. They're gathering early today."

I follow his gaze, and see... (292:32)

“คุณเป็นพี่น้องกัน ครอบครัวยุ่เดียวกัน ครอบครัวยุ่ช่วยเหลือกันและกัน เขามองออกไปนอกหน้าต่าง “ต้องเตรียมตัวแล้ว วันนี้พวกลูกค้ามาเร็ว กันจริง”

(“*Khun pen pee nong kan. Krob krua deaw kan. Krob krua mak chuay leau sueng kan lae kan. Kao mong ok pain ok na tang. “Tong tream tua leaw. Wan nee puak luk ka ma rew kan jing.”*)
ฉันมองตามสายตาจิม...(Chan mong taam sai ta Jim...)

In Example 9, *er* has been replaced by *kor* which means also, as well, consequently, etc. in Thai, so its part of speech is conjunction and adverb as well. For ay-up in Example 10, it has been replaced by a sentence *Tong tream tua leaw*. or (*I*) *have to get ready*.

Omission

Example 11

... You could probably buy a whole car ... or a palace, even. But she wouldn't budge. Oh, well. (33:29)

I start walking down the street, ...
...อาจซื้อรถได้ทั้งคัน ... หรือแม้แต่วังทั้งหลัง แต่เธอก็ไม่ยอม Ø อันที่จริง... (*Ard sue rod dai tang kan... rue mae tae wang tang lang tae ter kor mai yom Ø an tee jing ...*)

Example 12

“Really?”

“Oh yes. She's great!” He stands up and gives me a kiss. “You were right. I'm very glad you invited her for the weekend.” (208:5)

“จริงหรือ ฉันพูดเบา ๆ (*Jing rer chan pood bao bao.*)

“Ø ไช้ เจสเก่งมาก!” เขาลุกขึ้นแล้วจูบฉัน “ถูกของคุณ ผมดีใจมากที่คุณเชิญเจสมาสุดสัปดาห์นี้” (“Ø *chai Jess keng mak!*” *Kao look kuen leaw job chan “took kong khun pom dee jai mak tee khun chern Jess ma sood sab da ni.”*)

Apparently, *oh* from Example 11 and 12 are omitted in translation. The upcoming words, *well* and *yes* can still demonstrate the overall meaning.

5 Conclusion

In summary, to translate primary interjections from the source language found in Shopaholic & Sister into the target language, the translator employed the following strategies; translating-into-primary interjection, translating-into-secondary interjection, transliteration, translating-into-address term, translating-into-other functional utterance, and omission.

Table 2: Translation Strategies Found in Translated Version

Strategy	Number
primary interjection	317
secondary interjection	5
transliteration	18
address term	3
other functional utterance	2
omission	17

As mentioned in Table 2, primary interjections have been mostly used while transliteration and omission were exercised fractionally. For the rest, secondary interjections, address term, and other functional utterance are rarely seen.

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