

## A Lexical Semantic Analysis in Translation of Sa'adu Zungur's Poem by Yakubu Muhammad

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**Abstract:** *This study is concerned with a lexical semantic analysis of the translation of Sa'adu Zungur's poem entitled: "Wakar Arewa Jamhuriya ko Mulukiya" which was translated from Hausa language (SL) to English language (TL) by Yakubu Muhammad. This research was mainly dealing with Geoffrey Leech's seven types of meaning in Semantics. This study was qualitative research. The data collection method used in this research was content analysis. The data were analyzed by describing the situation examined in the form of translation of the poem. The findings of study revealed that the lexical knowledge insufficiency in both the (SL) and the (TL) is one of the major challenges that result to this inappropriate use of correct lexical semantic used in the translation. The researchers made possible recommendations on how to overcome such occurrences in translating a text. Emphasis should be given to languages teaching more especially English and Hausa language. Government should provide experts that will teach the two languages effectively also Linguistic workshops and seminars should frequently carry out regularly to address the problems facing languages in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Translation, Language, Poem, Analysis, Linguistics, Lexical.*

### Introduction

It is peculiar over the years that; translation remains one of the mediums of communication in any society that is multilingual and Nigeria is one of the case studies. 'Translation is the process of turning an original or "source" text into a text in another language or translated version of a text. (Nordquist, 2019).

The translation is an activity that aims at conveying the meaning or meanings of a given linguistic discourse from one language to another. Translation can be defined in terms of the sameness of meaning across languages. According to some researchers, there can be no absolute correspondence between languages and hence no fully exact translations. Translation at some level is always possible, however, there are times when interlocutors are aware that they do not mean the same by particular phrases. Meaning is formed on each occasion of linguistic interaction and is therefore unique and not replicable. Therefore, a translation can never 'mean' the same as the source text. But this does not matter, because practice ensures that translators 'get away with' translating sufficiently well sufficiently often. (Malmkjaer, 2012).

The translation is the comprehension of the meaning of a text and the subsequent production of an equivalent text, likewise called a "translation" that communicates the same message in another language. The text that is translated is called the source text, and the language that it is translated into is called the target language. (Warwal, 2015).

Translation as a process-oriented view can be said as the most favorable definition of translation. Many translation scholars define translation as an act of communication. The most prominent translation expert who is popular for the Bible translation is Nida. The claim is that translation is the process of reproducing in the receptor language to the closest natural equivalent of the source language message. (Nida and Taber, 1982).

The process of translation can be defined as the activity of translation. The translation process usually is used by a translator as a guide in translating text from the source language into the target language. The process of translation consists of three steps, analysis of texts of the source language, transfer, and restructuring (Nida & Taber, 2012).

According to Brislin (1976.p1) translation is a general term referring to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language to another, whether the language is in written or oral form, whether the languages have established orthographies or not; or whether one or both languages is based on signs, as with signs of the deaf.

According to Wills (1982.p3) translation is a transfer process that aims at the transformation of a written source language text (SLT) into an optimally equivalent target-language text (TLT), and which requires the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic understanding and analytical processing of the source text.

As stated by Newmark (1991.p27) translation is the act of transferring the meaning of a stretch or a unit of language, the whole or a part, from one language to another. (The discussion on meaning can be seen at sub-point F. Meaning, Message, and Style.)

As mentioned by Newmark (1988.p5), “translation is rendering. the meaning of a text in another language in the way that the author intended the. text.”

The translation is a process and a product. According to Catford (1995.p20), translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). This definition shows that translation is a process in the sense that is an activity.

### **Objectives of the Research**

The objectives of this research is to:

1. Identify the lexical knowledge that affects Hausa translators’ competency when translating texts from SL to TL.
2. Examine difficulties that Hausa translators face when translating texts as a result of lexical knowledge which their definitions are more difficult to translate
3. Find out the major reasons that cause lexical knowledge insufficiency for Hausa translators

### **Research Questions**

1. How does lexical knowledge affect Hausa translators' competency when translating texts from SL to TL?
2. What are the difficulties that Hausa translators face when translating texts as a result of lexical knowledge and their lexical definitions are more difficult to translate?
3. What are the major reasons that cause lexical knowledge insufficiency for Hausa translators?

### **Statement of the Problem**

Language remains the bedrock of any society in communication either at media houses, homes, markets, or schools for learning. Translation helps a lot in exchanging ideas from one language to another.

However, errors were made as a result of translation which affect the effective communication of people in one way or the other. This does not rest only on the writers at media houses or in school activities in passing information without destroying the semantic expression in the process of coming out with the correct meaning of the source language. In light of this, the study is set to investigate and analyze the errors made in translating a poem written by Sa'adu Zungur titled "*Arewa, Jamhuriya ko Mulukiya*"

### **Literature Review**

Much research was conducted to investigate the problems and factors that affect the translation process in various aspects as a contribution to the development of language study and language teaching as well as to find out factors that affect the process of converting meaning from one language to another. Less research attempted to investigate the effect of lexical knowledge on translation and how this factor hinders translation process.

Eissa and Khaled (2015) conducted research on lexical discourse analysis in Translation. The researchers used qualitative study in studying 15 texts translated by some M. A students at the Department of English Language and Literature at Mu'atah University in Jordan. The findings of this research revealed that lexical knowledge and meaning insufficiency have a significant effect on the translation of texts from the source language(SL) (Arabic) to the target language(TL) (English).

Anari and Ghaffarof (2013) conducted a study in which they investigated the effect of productive and receptive knowledge of lexical and grammatical collocations on the accuracy of the translation done by Iranian EFL learners studying translation courses at the university. The findings of this study revealed that there is a significant relationship between receptive knowledge and productive knowledge of lexical collocations and grammatical colligations and the accuracy of the translation.

Likewise, Birjandi (1999) conducted research on the impact of foreign language learners 'lexical knowledge on their translation ability. This study was conducted at Islamic Azad University. The findings of this study showed that there is a significant relationship between lexical knowledge and translation ability. The researcher concluded that lexical knowledge may contribute to the development of translation skills and conceptual comprehension of the text which results in better translation.

Al-Sohbani and Muthanna (2011) conducted a study on the current major challenges of Arabic-English translation and vice versa among English department students of the Faculty of Arts, IBB University in Yemen. The study revealed that lexical knowledge insufficiency; inadequate knowledge and practice of grammar; inadequate cultural backgrounds; and inappropriate teaching atmosphere and methodology are the main problems that cause the major challenges of Arabic-English translation and vice versa.

Abu-Shaqra (2009) conducted a study on the problems and the strategies employed by students in translating a group of lexical and semantic collocations from three religious references in both Islamic and Christianity: The Holy Quran, the Hadith, and the Bible. The researcher used a sample of 35 M.A. students majoring in translation at three different public and private

Jordanian universities. The researcher designed a translation test containing 45 short sentences of contextual collocations chosen from the three abovementioned religious references. The participants were requested to translate these collocations from English into Arabic. The results of her study showed that students employed different strategies to tackle problems in translating specific expressions. Also, the study revealed that literal translation is the dominant strategy applied when translating semantic collocations in the Holy Quran and Bible.

Danlami and Yusuf (2022) also conducted a study on the componential analysis of meaning as an instrument of English-Hausa lexical translation. The researchers examine the impossibility of the existence of lexical equivalence in all languages. they analyzed and translated the paradigms of the colours red and blue using the binary scale taxonomy under the theory of Componential Analysis of meaning as an instrument of lexical translation from English into Hausa. The findings revealed that linguistic relativity cannot be ruled out in lexical translation, componential analysis is an invaluable tool for lexicographers to determine the best option for the translation of lexical items. The researchers wish to fill the gaps that were left open in the field of language and linguistics which the current study focuses on studying a lexical semantic analysis in the translation of Sa’adu Zungur’s poem by Yakubu Muhammad. **“Wakar Arewa jamhuriya ko mulukiya’**

### **Research Methodology**

This study emphasized on the poem written by Sa’adu Zungur entitled: **“Wakar Arewa jamhuriya ko mulukiya’** which was translated by Yakubu Muhammad from Hausa to English language. Textual analysis was employed to elicit data for this study. The researchers used content analysis in the process of data collection and analysis. The data in this study were phrases, clauses, and sentences found in most known poems of Sa’adu Zungur’s This research was mainly dealing with Geoffrey Leech’s seven types of meaning in Semantics. This study was qualitative research. The data collection method used in this research was the observation method. The data were analyzed by describing the situation examined in the form of a narrative description.

### **Data Presentation and Analysis**

In the following data analysis ten (10) excerpts were extracted from the translated poem written by Sa’adu Zungur entitled: **“Wakar Arewa jamhuriya ko mulukiya’** which was translated by Yakubu Muhammad. The excerpts will be presented in two forms: the English version and Hausa version which is the original language (SL).

#### **Excerpt 1.**

Inappropriate use of ‘Adjective’ in place of ‘conjunction’

**Table 1.**

S/N	Source language	Target language Translated vision	Analysis
1	<i>Hakane editanmu na Gaskiya</i>	that is <b>correct</b> our editor of Gaskiya	that is <b>so</b> our editor of Gaskiya

In excerpt 1. Above the word **‘gaskiya’** was misrepresented as **“correct’**, the actual word to be use is **‘so’** this brings distortion of meaning as a result of inappropriate use of Conjunction.

**Excerpt 2**

Inappropriate use of ‘Pronoun’ in place of ‘Noun’

**Table 2**

S/N	Source language	Target language Translated vision	Analysis
2	<i>Shi yake karbe ta ga taliki</i>	He confiscates it from <b>anybody</b>	He confiscates it from <b>being</b>

In excerpt 2 above the translator used **anybody** in interpretation of ‘*taliki*’ which is a serious distortion in meaning as a result of inappropriate use of pronoun ‘**anybody**’.

**Excerpt 3**

Inappropriate use of ‘Adjective’ in place of ‘Noun’

**Table 3**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
3	<i>Munyi niyyar bayyana gaskiya</i>	we intend <b>revealing</b> the truth	we intend to <b>reveal</b> the truth

In excerpt 3 above the translator used **revealing** in interpretation of ‘*bayyana*’ which is not in line with the meaning of the original lexical word used in the poem. The correct word to be use is **reveal**.

**Excerpt 4**

Inappropriate use of ‘determiner’

**Table 4**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
4	<i>Muminai da masihai jumlatan</i>	Muslims and Christians <b>all</b>	Muslims and Christians

In the excerpt 4 above the translator used inappropriate determiner ‘**all**’ in interpretation of the meaning of the phrase.

**Excerpt 5**

Inappropriate use of ‘Demonstrative pronouns’

**Table 5**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
5	<i>Addu’armu damu da sarakuna</i>	Our prayers and <b>those</b> of emirs	Our prayers and <b>that</b> of emirs

In the above excerpt the translator used inappropriate use of ‘Demonstrative pronoun’ **those** in place of **that**.

**Excerpt 6**

Inappropriate use of ‘Noun’

**Table 6**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
6	<i>Sunka fa ra fataucin dukiya</i>	They started trading <b>in merchandise</b>	They started trading for <b>wealth</b>

In the excerpt 6 of the translated poem the translator used **merchandise** in translating ‘*dukiya*’ which is a serious distortion of meaning. The appropriate word to use is **wealth**.

**Excerpt 7**

Inappropriate use of ‘pronoun’

**Table 7**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
7	<i>Allah sa fa kasau ke lafiya</i>	May Allah help <b>us</b> to accomplish it successfully	May Allah help <b>you</b> to accomplish it successfully

In the above excerpt the translator used inappropriate pronoun ‘**us**’ in translating ‘*ka*’ instead of using ‘**you**’ as a correct pronoun to be use.

**Excerpt 8**

Inappropriate meaning

**Table 8**

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
8	<i>Lamido fitillun gaskiya</i>	Lamido the world lamp	the translation does not match with meaning of the source language

In the above excerpt the translator misinterpreted the phrase: ‘*Lamido fitillun gaskiya*’ which he translated to : **Lamido the world lamp**, the meaning has a serious distortion.

**Excerpt 9**

Inappropriate use of ‘tenses’

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
9	<i>Ya gane sha’anin duniya</i>	He <b>understand</b> the affairs of the world	He <b>understood</b> the affairs of the world

In the above excerpt the translator used Inappropriate use of ‘verb’ **understand** instead of **understood** which is the correct word to use.

### Excerpt 10

Inappropriate meaning

Table 10

S/N	Source language	Target language	Analysis
10	<i>Duk sun san kaine shugaba</i>	they all acknowledge your leadership	they all know you are the leader

In the above excerpt the translator translated the phrase with serious distortion of meaning from the source language, which brings misinterpretation of the idea.

### Conclusion

In this study, the researchers investigated the major challenges that face translator in translating the poem from Hausa ( as SL) to English language ( as TL). The qualitative and quantitative methods that applied in the present study helped in classifying those relationships between lexical knowledge, semantic knowledge and syntactical knowledge competency and translatability. Therefore, it has been verified that translating texts from Hausa Language into English language is very challenging for Hausa translators due to the lexical knowledge insufficiency in both the (SL) and the (TL) and this could be even revealed within the variety of the same language such as Hausa or English languages. Also, it was figure out that translators use diverse types of translation strategies to translate texts on their own way.

### Recommendations

Furthermore, teachers and students of both English and Hausa languages would find this study valuable. This is because an important aspect of language i.e translating a poem is explored using the two languages.

Moreover, teachers, students and scholars in the field of study may equally benefit from the present study. Aspects of knowledge organization and also content analysis and lexical semantic description among others would be use as require insights from the study.

Media studies could also find this study relevant; it would help in making decisions relating to content selection, materials and areas for development, reading diagnosis, and subsequent relevant choices. This study recommends that further investigations in the field of applied linguistics, translation and language at large.

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