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DISCOURSE ANALYSIS AND TRANSLATION: AN ILLUSTRATION
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Abstract

Discourse analysis is an interdisciplinary approach that cuts across Linguistics, Literature, Sociology, Anthropology, Politics, Culture etc. It is a relatively recent approach that can be applied to such areas as literary appreciation, translation, simplification and the like. In this paper an attempt has been made to evaluate the the process of translation using an integrated discourse framework proposed by Dr. A. S. Rao. The chosen texts for illustration are two passages, one from the original text i.e. English the target text i.e. the Telugu version of a short story written by R. K. Narayan in English. The title of the story is *Another Community*, translated into Telugu by Shi V. V. B. Rama Rao as *Maroojaati*.

Key words: discourse, translation, simplification, narrative nucleus, content, context, code

Introduction

Harris, a well-known American linguist was among the first to recognize the need to extend linguistic investigation beyond the sentence. His methods for the analysis of discourse were structural equivalence and distribution of sentences in combination. He implied that 'discourse' is a structural or formal unit at a higher level like the sentence at a lower level of language organization. His primary concern was with the formal distribution of sentences without reference to meaning. (Harris 1970:357)

On the other hand, Tagmemicists, have done extensive work on discourse. Under the stimulus of Pike, many linguists worked on several American Indian, Philippine and African languages. In addition to the work done by Pike himself, the contribution by Longacre and Wise is noteworthy. Klammer has adopted the tagmemic framework for his study on discourse in English.

According to Grimes (1975: 25), Pike's most important contribution to discourse studies was, his insistence that certain chunks of human behaviour can be taken as actually given. They are recognizable to those who participate in them and often to non-participants who have

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knowledge of the cultural system involved as having a beginning and an end. Behaviour that is characterized thus by *closure* is Pike's starting point for the analysis of both verbal and non-verbal behavior.Longacre's main contribution to discourse studies, on the basis of his study of the   Philippine languages (Longacre 1968), maybe summarized as follows:

> 1. A typology of discourse genres, each genre distinguished by the parameters of sequence of time (either past accomplished or projected) and setting orientation (first/third or first/second person) and
> 2. Tagmemic formulas for the different discourse genres.

The tagmeme formulas for Narrative Discourse and Narrative Paragraph are specified as shown below.

i.   Narrative discourse

Tagmeme: $\pm$ Aperture + Episode + Denouement + Anti-denouement
              $\pm$ Closure $\pm$ Finis

ii.   Narrative paragraph

Tagmeme: $\pm$ Setting $\pm$ Build Up$_1$… Build Up$_n$ $\pm$ Terminus

Wise in her study of the narratives in Nomestiguenga, a South American Language (Wise 1968), demonstrates that the lexemic or deep structure units like the Plot, the Events and the Social Setting control the occurrence of the surface structure forms for participant reference. That is, according to Wise, the deep structure units determine the occurrence of the surface structure units.In the narrative discourse of Nometsiguenga, Wise recognizes three types of grammatical (or surface structure) Paragraphs, namely Developmental, Progressive and Dialogue Paragraphs each of which can be Simple, Compound or Complex. Likewise she recognizes six types of lexemic (or deep structure) Paragraphs. This distinction between lexemic and grammatical modes is extended to the sentence level also. However, Wise does not explicitly account for the dependency relationship or correspondence between the deep structure and the surface structure units.

In text-grammar, Van Dijk's (1972) contribution to discourse studies is important. He presents arguments in support of the need for a text approach to the grammar of language. He maintains that Chomsky's concept of *competence* needs revision on empirical, psychological and methodological grounds.Van Dijk proposes a Text Grammar to capture the different structures of discourse. The two main components of this are Text Component and Pragmatic Component. He also proposes some modifications and inclusions to the existing devices in modern logic in order to apply them to the description of macro-structures and the formulation of transformation

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rules.Nevertheless, Van Dijk's Text Grammar looks abstract and incomplete for the reason that most of his observations and specification of categories belonging to different levels are only tentative and informal and his assumptions on discourse-text organization are mostly hearer-oriented in nature.

Danes's work is important for discourse studies in FSP (functional sentence perspective). He makes reference to the three main aspects of FSP; i. Given and New information ii. Theme and Rheme, and iii. Communicative Dynamism. He claims that Theme plays a very important role in textual organization for bringing about text coherence or unity. He calls such unity *thematic progression* (TP) and proposes that it can be captured in terms of theme-rheme nexuses. However, Danes's notion of *thematic progression,* utterance-oriented as it is, does not clearly distinguish between relations obtaining between the units of different levels (i.e. the semantic level, the grammatical level and the level of FSP).In Systemic linguistics the insights of Firth are significant. He viewed language as a meaningful activity. He employed two notions, namely 'system' which is a set of choices for the meanings of a linguistic item in a given context (i.e. context) in the language itself, and 'context of situation' which provides a linguistic item with extra-linguistic meaning. To capture this language-meaning complex in terms of 'system' and 'extra-linguistic situation', Firth proposes different levels: Phonetics, Grammar, Lexicography and Semantics with its sub-levels. (Firth 1968)

However, Firth's notions were nowhere presented as a full-fledged model. To fill the gaps, Halliday introduced three other grammatical categories along with the Firthian notions of System, namely Rank, Delicacy and Exponence to describe the operation of the grammatical categories (Halliday 1961).

Halliday recognizes three major functions that language performs in society as a 'social semiotic' process. These are: i. the interpersonal function, ii. the Ideational (or Experiential) function and iii. the Textual function. At the clause level these three functions are carried out by three systems, namely Mood (Interpersonal function), Transitivity (Ideational function) and Theme (Textual function). (Halliday 1968, 1977)He further shows how these three systems perform three functions in literary discourse by applying them in the analysis of three passages from *The Inheritors* by William Golding (Halliday 1971)

Under the textual function, Halliday proposes the notion of *cohesion* to capture the 'textures' or unity of of literary texts. This notion of *cohesion* has subsequently been elaborated in Halliday and Hassan (1976). Cohesion, according to Halliday is the relation obtaining between the sentences in a given text. That is, a linguistic element is interpreted in terms of another

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element, both elements occurring in two neighbouring sentences. A single instance of *cohesion* in a connected text is called a *tie*. Accordingly, Halliday and Hasan distinguish 5 types of *cohesion* in English viz. 1. Reference, 2. Substitution, 3. Ellipsis, 4. Conjunction, and 5. Lexical Cohesion.

Reference is anaphoric or cataphoric and and it is brought about by personal pronouns, possessives, demonstratives, adverbs, articles and comparatives. Substitution can be lexical, phrasal or clausal. Ellipsis is substitution by zero and it can also be lexical, phrasal or clausal. Conjunction is Additive, Adversative, Causal or Temporal. Lexical Cohesion is achieved by *reiteration* and *collocation*. Halliday does not imply that there is any structural unit above the level of the sentence though he points out that there is *cohesion* between the paragraphs of a given text. Consequently, the notion of *cohesion,* though very important for any study of discourse-text organization, covers only a limited area, namely inter-sentential relatedness in the surface structure of a given text.

The recent development in discourse analysis is critical discourse analysis which is often misconstrued as having a leftist orientation. As long ago as early 1980s Dr A. Subbarao, a senior professor, faculty member in the Department of English, in Osmania University, Hyderabad proposed an integrated model of discourse which he proved can be successfully applied for simplification, translation and literary appreciation. (Subbarao:1987) His model is based upon the Chomskyan concepts of deep structure and surface structure as propounded in his theory of Transformational Generative grammar. (Chomsky: 1957, 1965) In his analysis of narrative discourse, Rao takes discourse as the deep structure and text as the surface structure. The deep structure is mapped onto the surface structure in terms of the different units and the rules of inclusion and exclusion in the three intermediary and mutually complementary components viz. Content, Context and Code. In 'content', there are existents, events and frames; while the 'context' consists of the narrator, the reader, the setting, the purpose, the time, the point of view and the communicative acts (determined by coherence) whereas the 'code' consists of lexical items, sentences, paragraphs and the title along with the cohesive devices and factors of coherence. These are mutually connected through Cohesion.In the component of 'content' the major existents are Initiator, Prop, Adversary; the events are Contact, Conflict, Discovery, Resolution and Consequence; while the major frames are Foreground and Background.

The 'content' of a text can be analyzed in terms of primary and secondary existents. Primary existents are which are essential for the narrative text. The secondary existents are optional. In like manner events and frames also can be either primary or secondary depending upon whether they are essential and non-essential. Human and general existents or characters are

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indicated by the Nouns, Noun phrases, Noun clauses and Pronouns in the text. Likewise events which are expressed through Verbs, Verb phrases can indicate actions like Motion, Mental Activity, Perception, Transaction, Communication, Possession and the like. In the same way frames are Qualifier, Temporal, Spatial, Manner, Negative or Adversative, Comparative, Purposive, Possessive, Instrumental, Casual, Sequential, Repetitive and Distributive. Frames are normally expressed by Adjectives, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions etc.In the component of of 'code' there are content and function words in lexicon, while grammar consists of different structural and functional types of sentences, paragraphs and the textual sections which are connected to one another by grammatical cohesive ties of Reference, Conjunction, Substitution and Ellipsis, and lexical ties of Collocation and Reiteration.

Dr. Rao shows the content of a narrative text in a summarized form and calls it a narrative nucleus. The following for example, is the Narrative Nucleus of a story written by O. Henry entitled *The Last Leaf*, as analyzed by Rao:
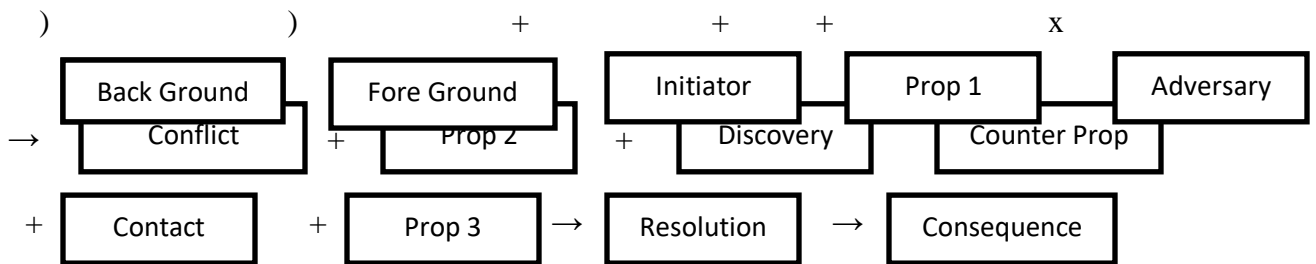
Employing the above mentioned discourse framework, we shall now analyze, compare and contrast the two texts related by translation. They are given below.
English text:

1. He worked in an office which was concerned with insurance business. 2. He sat at a table checked paper and figures between 11.00 noon and 5:00 p.m. every day, and at the end of a month his pay envelope came to his hands containing one hundred rupees. 3. He was middle-aged now but his passage from youth to middle-age was, more or less at the same seat in his office. 4. He lived in a little house in a lane; it had two rooms and a hall and sufficed for his wife and four children, although he felt embarrassed when some guest or other came down for a stay with him. 5. The shops were nearby; the children's school was quite close, and his wife had friends all around. 6. It was on the whole a peaceful, happy life - till the October of 1947, when he found that the people around had begun to speak and act like savages.

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Telugu text:

1. అతను భీమా కంపెనీలో పని చేస్తున్నాడు. 2. రోజూ పొద్దున్నే 11 నుండి సాయంత్రం ఐదు గంటలకు వరకు బల్ల దగ్గర కూర్చుని లెక్కలు సరి చూస్తూ ఉంటాడు. 3. నెల చివరన అతని జీతం వంద రూపాయలు ఓ కవరులో అతని చేతికి అందుతాయి. 4. ఇప్పుడతను నడి వయసుకి వచ్చాడు. 5. అదే ఆఫీసులో, అదే కుర్చీలో యవ్వనం దాటి, మధ్యవయస్కుడు అయిపోయాడు. 6. ఓ సందులో చిన్న ఇంట్లో ఉంటాడు. 7. ఈ ఇంట్లో రెండు గదులు, హాల్లు, అతని భార్య, నలుగురు పిల్లలకు సరిపోతుంది. 8. ఎవరైనా వచ్చి రాత్రికి ఇంట్లో ఉంటానంటే, ఇబ్బంది అయినా మొగమాట పడేవాడు. 9. ఇంటి పక్కనే దుకాణాలు. 10. పిల్లల బడి దగ్గరే. 11. అతని భార్యకు ఇరుగుపొరుగువారంతా నేస్తాలే. 12. మొత్తంమీద అది ప్రశాంతమైన, ఆనందమైన జీవితమే-అక్టోబర్ 1947-అంటే, చుట్టుపక్కల మనుషులందరూ అనాగరికులలా, మాటలూ, చేష్టలూ చేయడం మన మిత్రుడు గమనించే వరకు.

Summary of the text:

Communal violence is the theme of the short story. The narrator skillfully describes how a middle class employee of an insurance company is victimized in spite of his docile and peace loving nature. An incident of communal violence takes place in a distant town. It spreads like wildfire to this town also and before the the protagonist could do anything to fulfill his wishes of non-violence and peaceful coexistence; he is most unexpectedly killed by the rival group of the other community.

The passage selected for the analysis describes the protagonist's uneventful routine life till October, 1947. i.e. before the eruption of communal violence between two religious groups after India's political independence, two months after the declaration of independence. The Narrative Nucleus of this short story may be shown as under:
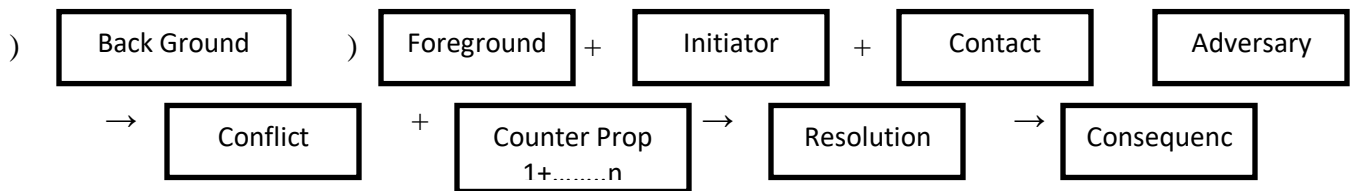
The content of the above-mentioned Narrative Nucleus may be summarized as follows: In a certain town of India there was a middle class employee working in an insurance company. It was the month of the October, 1947, two months after the declaration of Indian political

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independence. In a far off town violent clashes broke out between two rival communities (belonging to two different religions). The protagonist of the story was a peace-loving person with broad-minded democratic ideals. The wildfire of communal riots reaches his town also and locally two rival groups were formed. One day when he was returning from his office on his bicycle the protagonist was attached by a mass of the rival group and killed.

The author like a journalist did not want to mention the name, community of the protagonist purposefully and designated the rival community as another community. This is an example of R.K. Narayan's style of satire.

Textual Analysis

Content	Text 1	Text 2
1. Existents i. Primay: Human specific	He 6	అతను3, వయస్కుడు1
ii. Secondary: Human General	wife 2, children1,guest 1, other 1, friends 1, people1, savages1, all1, it2,	ఎవరు1, అతిథి1, భార్య2, నేస్తాలు1, మనుషులందరూ1,అనాగరికులు1, పిల్లలు2, ఇరుగుపొరుగువారంతా1, మిత్రుడు1
Place	house1, lane1, shops1, school1,	కంపెనీ1, ఆఫీసు1, సందు1, ఇల్లు4, బడి1, దుకాణాలు1
House and body parts	rooms1, hall1,	గదులు1, హాలు1- చేతి1
Time	noon1, p.m.1, end1, month1, October1	రాత్రి1, నెల1, సాయంత్రం1
Physical state	it1, youth1, stay1, whole1, life1, seat1	జీతం1, వయసు1, యవ్వనం1, ఇబ్బంది1, మొగమాటం1, జీవితము1, మాటలూ1, చేష్టలూ1, అది1
Occupation	business	కవరు1, కుర్చీ1, బల్ల1, అది1, రూపాయలు1

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objects	table1, papers1, envelop1, rupees1	లెక్కలు1
Numeral	figures1	పనిచేస్తున్నాడు1,సరిచూస్తూ1, ఉంటాడు2, చేయడం1, పడేవాడు1
2. Events i. Action	worked1,checked1, found1, begun1, act1	కూర్చుని1,అయినా2,అయిపోయాడు1, సరిపోతుంది1, ఉంటాను1 గమనించే1,
ii. State	was5, concerned1, sat1, lived1, were1, sufficed1, were1	అంశే2, అందుతాయి1
	felt1, embarrassed1	
iii. Mental activity	had 3, containing1	
iv. Possession	to speak	వచ్చాడు1, వచ్చి1, దాటి1, భీమా1, ప్రశాంతమైన1, ఆనందమైన1
v. Communication/ Exchange		
vi. motion	came2,	చిన్న1,
3. Frames i. Classifier	insurance1, pay1	నలుగురు1, రెండు1, ఓ2, వంద1 అతని4, మన1
ii. Qualifier	peaceful1, happy1	మధ్య1, నడి1, రోజూ1, అయిదింటి1, పొద్దున్నే1, ఇప్పుడు1, అక్టోబర్1, 1947, నుండి1, వరకూ2, చివరన1, కి1
iii. Size and identifier	little1, same 2,	
iv. Number	eleven1, five1, one hundred1, two1, four1,	చుట్టుపక్కల1, పిల్లల1, అదే2, లో7, దగ్గర2, కి1
v. Possessive	his 5, children's1,	
vi. Time	middle aged 2, everyday1, now1, more or less1, at1, of2, to1	మొత్తం మీద1, లా1

		ఇరుగుపొరుగువారంతా1, ఈ1,
vii. Place	nearby1, quite close1, all around1, in 4, at1, around1 like1	కు1
viii. Manner		
ix. Instrument/ Relation	with 3 to 1, down 1, on1	
x. Direction	for 2	
xi. Purpose		

Context	Text 1	Text 2

1. Contextual Factors
   i. Narrator
 	
   ii.   Reader
   iii. Setting
   iv.   Purpose
   v.   Time
   vi.   Point of view
	Indian writer of English fiction
	Lover of stories (adult)
	Literary story telling
	Aesthetic
	Past accomplished
	Narrator
		Telugu translator of English fiction
		Lover of stories (adult)
		Literary story telling
		Aesthetic
		Past accomplished
		Narrator

2. Communicative Acts
   i. Report
   ii. Quote
	13
	0
		13
		0

3. Coherence	Presupposition:	Presupposition:

	Information about the protagonist in the preceding text	Information about the protagonist in the preceding text

Code	Text 1	Text 2
Textual presentation	English	Telugu
1. Lexicon: Number of lexical items	152	110
i. Content words	89	88
ii. Function words	63	12
2. Grammar No. of sentences	6	12
i. Simple	0	8
ii. Compound	3	0
iii. Complex	2	4
iv. Multiple	1	0
3. Cohesion: i. Number of grammatical ties	55	28
Ties of pronominals.	15	10
Ties of articles	14	2
Ties of adverbs	10	9
Conjunctions	16 (And8, when2, or2, which1, that1, but1, although1)	0
Substitution	0	5
Ellipses	0	0

ii. Lexical ties	18	22
Collocation	2 (papers and figures, more or less)	2(ఇరుగుపొరుగువారంతా, మాటలు-చేష్టలు)
Reiteration	16 (officer-insurance business, pay-one hundred, middle aged-middle age, house-two rooms-a hall, guest-other-friends, nearby-close, peaceful-happy, people-savages	20 (కంపెనీ-బల్ల-లెక్కలు, జీతం-వందరూపాయలు, నడివయసు-మధ్యవయస్కుడు, ఇల్లు-రెండుగదులు-హాలు, ఇబ్బంది-మొహమాటం, పక్కనే-దగ్గరే, ఇరుగుపొరుగువారు-నేస్తాలు, మనుషులు-అనాగరికులు, ప్రశాంతము-ఆనందము

Interpretation

From the analysis above, we can make the following findings and draw certain inferences from these findings.

1. So far as the 'content' is concerned in Text 1 there are 44 existents, 24 events and 51 frames as against 42 existents, 18 events and 50 frames in Text 2. Here in the 'content' of the two texts, statistically there is simplification in the form of reduction in the number of existents, events and frames in Text 2. This is a clear instance of simplification.

2. In relation to 'context', there are not many differences between Text 1 and text 2. That is, the translated version is cent percent faithful to its original.

3. In terms of 'code' the difference between the source text and the target text are very striking. If there are 152 lexical items in Text 1, only 110 words are there in its translated version. Of these, in Text 1 there are 89 content words and 63 function words while the content words are 88 and 12 function words respectively in Text 2. In this respect a drastic reduction of function words can be observed in the Telugu translated version i.e. Text 2. It is a clear indication of simplification.

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4. In terms of 'Syntax', the total number of sentences in Text 1 is 6, which comprises 3 compound sentences, 2 complex sentences and 1 multiple sentence. Strangely there are no simple sentences in Text 1. In contrast, Text 2 has a total number of sentences 12, of which 8 are simple sentences and 4 are complex sentences. In Text 2 there are no compound and multiple sentences. A look at multiple sentences in Text 1 and their absence, and the majority of simple sentences in Text 2 lends support to the process of simplification in translation.

5. In modern Telugu there are no conjunctions. The additive conjunction of classical Telugu 'మరియు' (mariyu) is no longer used in modern Telugu. Absence of conjunctions resulted in the absence of compound sentences in Telugu. So is the case of multiple sentences. Even though the number of sentences in Telugu is greater than that in English, this does not indicate any degree of elaboration in Translation. Instead, the presence of 8 simple sentences and 4 complex sentences in Telugu against no simple sentences and 2 complex sentences in English reveals again the process of simplification employed by the translator at the sentence level.

6. In terms of 'Cohesion', the number of grammatical cohesive ties is 55 in English while such ties are only 28 in Telugu; under Reference against 15 pronominal ties, 14 of Articles and 10 of Adverbs in Text 1. Text 2 consists of 10 ties of Pronouns, 2 ties of Articles and 9 ties of Adverbs. In other words, under Cohesion by Reference also there is a conspicuous simplification in the translated version of Telugu. So is the case with the Conjunctions and Ellipses. For example, against 16 Conjunctions in Text 1, there are no Conjunctions in Text 2. While there are no instances of Ellipses in both the texts, there are 5 ties of Substitution in the Telugu text against the total absence of Substitution in the English text. These details also confirm the finding that there is a striking simplification in the Telugu text.

7. With regard to the Lexical Cohesion, there are 18 lexical ties, comprising two ties of Collocation and 16 ties of Reiteration in the English text as against a total of 22 lexical ties that comprise two ties of Collocation and 20 ties of Reiteration in the Telugu text. These details also lend support to the finding that there is a striking simplification in the Telugu text.

However a certain degree of innovation is also found in the Telugu translation. For instance the translator introduces a new noun phrase, 'mana mitrudu' (i.e. our friend) in the place of 'he' in the original text. This is one kind of innovation on the part of the translator. Furthermore, the translator also dilutes the force of certain words in the original text by using

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subordinate synonyms for some words in the original. For example, he uses 'anaagarikulu' i.e. (uncivilized people) for the word 'savages' in the original text which could have been translated as 'aatavikulu' in the Telugu text. These are some of the innovations introduced by the translator knowingly or unknowingly. Such innovations may, sometimes, mar the quality of translation.

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