

● Theories of Translation and Interpretation

philosopher, jurist and physician who mastered Arabic and Hebrew. His father, Maimon, was a scholar and Moses studied under his supervision. His major contributions were as follow:

- a. millotha-higgayon (a study on the technical terms used in logic and metaphysics)
- b. Books of Precepts (in Arabic)
- c. Laws of Jerusalem (in Hebrew)

Although he has not been categorized as a translator, his considerations of translation gave inspirations to others who were involved in translating. He insisted that "... word for word renderings generally make for a doubtful confused translation" (Nida, 1964:14).

2.1.2.5 CHAUCER, Geoffrey (1340-1400)

Despite his popularity as a writer, Chaucer was also a translator. His well-known stories: "Boerce", "Malibee" and "Parson Tales" are translations and his "Knight's Tale" is an adaptation (Machan 1985:2). Generally speaking, a great bulk of Chaucerian cannon is to be recognized as translations. What makes it difficult to evaluate Chaucer's as well as other medieval translators is the fact that they have refused to talk about their own techniques, and many of findings about their translations are the result of efforts made by the contemporary researchers. According to Machan, Chaucer's technique in using words to translate his sources is the way he uses the syntax of English to represent the syntax of the source language and the stylistic devices he uses in arranging his translation all indicate his competency, uniqueness and mastery in translation (1985:10).

Machan categorizes Chaucer's use of native words in his renderings as follow:

- a. predictable translations
- b. unpredictable translations
- c. calque

This process consists in substituting for each of the morphemes of the source language the semantically closest morph in the target language using the target language's rules of word formation.

d. idioms

He uses idioms in his translation despite the fact that their use was not firmly established in the medieval English. He has either translated idioms literally or has attempted to express the real meanings of the idioms.

(Machan, 1985:1421)

According to Machan, Chaucer used the technique of 'combined translation', that is, using of morphemes to speak around meanings implicit in Latin and French where different morphemes used in these languages in isolation did not cover the same semantic range. On the other hand, Chaucer used 'doublets', that is, replacing each single Latin or French word by two English words. For instance, the Latin word "inquam", which has been translated into "dis" in French, gets its equivalent in English as "answeride and said" (Machan, 1985:35). The final technique Chaucer has used is the adoption

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of source language words in his translation of lexical selection. He uses two types of adoptions:

- a. the use of a native word which is a derivative of the word he is translating;
- b. the use of a source word (i.e., source language) not previously recorded in English.

(Machan, 1985:46)

In translating syntactic components, Chaucer prefers open translation rather than the imitation of the source language. The complexity of verbal adjectives has been naturalized by Chaucer through turning them into complete clauses, and that indicates his awareness of underlying intricacies (Machan 1985:70).

As far as his style of translation is concerned, Chaucer's technique lies in using double translations. That is, he first translates the Latin word and then translates its French equivalent used as gloss to the former form (Machan:79).

The followings are said to be characteristics of Chaucer's translation not recorded in others:

- a. He regularly identifies proper nouns by explaining that they refer to a man, a mountain, river, etc.
- b. He uses the expression "that is to seyn" to set off nouns or clauses in apposition.
- c. He uses cleft sentences or empty introductory clauses.

(Machan, 1985:104-106)