

THE AESTHETIC OF LANGUAGE IN TRANSLATION. A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF SOLA OWONIBI'S THE TIGHT GAME

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ABSTRACT

Language plays a significant role in translation. Through it the aesthetic work of arts (drama, poetry and prose) are constructively and de constructively critiqued. However without language, translation cannot exist. Translation on the other hand, enables a listener or a reader to acquire comprehensive abilities in a foreign language and the mother's tongue or first language. Therefore this paper looks at the aesthetic of language from the perspective of syntactic features which includes the use of sentence types such as declarative, imperative, interrogative and exclamatory in Sola Owonibi's *The Tight Game*.

Keywords, Language, Translation, Syntax, Sola Owonibi, *The Tight Game*

INTRODUCTION

Language plays a significant role in translation. Through it aesthetic literary work of arts (Drama, Poetry, Prose) are constructively and de constructively appreciated or celebrated. However, different linguists and scholars have given diverse definitions of language. According to Edward Sapir (1921), Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires using voluntarily producing symbols. J.R Firth (1957) sees language as a system in which all the constituent units are held together in function by the whole (180). Oniemayuin (2001) Sees language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols, which enables all the people in a given culture or others who have learned the system of that culture to communicate and interact.

From the above definition of language could therefore refer to a medium of expression which convey social, linguistics, and cultural functions in human society on the other hand, translation according to Adagbonyin (2013) "is one of the creative-stylistic strategies in Nigeria novelists employ to tackle the problems of the use of English in Nigeria prose. Translation is a feature of bilingualism and multilingualism, aimed at bridging the communication gaps in bilingual and multilingual societies. Translation involves the transfer of messages from one language to another, as well as the transfer of one culture to another, aimed at mature understanding. Kolawole (2001). Asserts; translation as a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another language. Catford (1965) observes that translation is "the replacement of textual material in one language(usually the source language) by equivalent textual material in another language (target language). In support of this, Adagbonyin (2013) opines: Catford distinguishes between two distinct types of translation namely: partial and full translation. While in full translation the entire text translation, parts of the text are translated in partial translations. Oyeleye (1995) asserts that partial translation In literary work is done in a second language... The two types of translation practice by African writer one stylistic and experimental. Osundare (1995) describes stylistic translation as "the writers attempt to render in English the figure and type of listening consciously, and of oftentimes laboriously, preserve their original flavor, the rhythm and cadences of their idiomatic, and proverbial authenticity, and even their situational dramatic occasions. While experiential translation, involves the conceptual and perceptual dimensions of the African writer's creative challenge. Adagbonyin (2013) concluded that translation is inevitable, as well as difficult in African/Nigerian literature because the medium of creation is not cognate to the African/Nigerian culture. Nigeria novelist employs several methods of translating from indigenous languages to English, among which are creative translation and transliteration or literal translation

DISCUSSION OF SYNTACTIC FEATURES IN A TIGHT GAMES

Sola Owonibi's *A Tight Game* is a translated version of Akinwunmi Isola's *O Le Ku*. Sola Owonibi is a poet, playwright and a professor of English in the Department of English and Literary Studies at Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria. His area of specialization include Literature and Medicine, Gender Studies and African Oral Literature. Currently is the President of African Writers in Translation. The following are his translated books *Gaa*, a translated version of Adebayo Faleti's *Bashorun Gaa*, *Delusion of Grandeur*, a translated version of Oladejo Okedi's *Aja Lo Leru*. However, the novel (*The Tight Game*) have some syntactic features include sentence types such as declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory sentences. All these syntactic features help the writer to convey his tragic love story.

SENTENCE TYPES

Declarative Sentences

This is a types of sentence that declares something. According to Quirk (1972) “a declarative is a statement that has a compulsory preceding a verb. However, Adagbonyin noted (2013)The basic function of a declarative statement is to convey information. The speaker in this case assumes the role of an informant while the hearer becomes the informed. Consequently, the speaker conveys his thoughts, viewpoints, desires, intentions etc. To his hearer using a deceleration form. However, the following are some of the translated declarative sentences in Sola Owonibi's

The Tight Game.

1. I am not beautiful o (4)
2. Love is not mere talk (7)
3. It is you I want to marry (6)
4. It is a free world (8)
5. I am not angry at all (8)

In extract (1) the sentence declaratively express how Asake was telling that she was not beautiful.

In extract (2), the sentence declared how Ajani was telling Asake that love was not a mere talk.

In extract (3), the sentence emphatically declares how Ajani was telling Asake that she wanted to marry her.

In extract (4), the sentence declares how Ajani was telling Asake that the world is a file place for any body to practice love.

In extract (5), the sentence declares how Ajani was telling Asake that he was not angry with her.

The above extracts express declarative sentences which helps the writer convey his declarative information in the novel.

Interrogative sentences

These are sentences in the English language that are primarily meant to ask questions. However, according to Quick (1972); a question is used "to expresses lack of information on a specific

point and to request the histenas to supply this information verbally. The following are some of the Interrogative sentences used in Sola Owonibi's *A Tight Game*.

1. Where will I tell my parents I slept (10)
2. It my father objects, what do you want me to do? (6)
3. Why will I lie? (4)
4. Where were you before the nights falls (14)
5. What does she do now? (18)

In extract (1), the above sentence was expressed by Asake when Ajani convinced her to spend a night with him. But Asake holds him, what does she want her to tell her parents where she sleeps.

In extract (2), the above sentence was expressed by Asake when Ajani asked her to marry him. But she told Ajani what he want her to do if her father objected to the relationship.

In extract (3), the above sentence was expressed by Ajani when he told Asake that she is beautiful and Asake replied him that she is not beautiful. That Ajani should stop lying. But Ajani now asked her the rhetorically that would he be lying?

In extract (4),the above sentence was expressed by Asake's father when she was angrily asking Asake where she was before the night falls.

In extract (5),the above sentence was expressed by Ijaola asking Ajani what Asake does for now.

The above sentences are Interrogative sentences used by the writer to ask questions in the text. Through this sentences the mind of some of the characters were known.

Exclamatory Sentences

This is a type of sentence that expresses strong emotions or surprises. Adagbonyin (2013) define exclamatory sentences as "sentences that express intense emotions of fear, anxiety, excitement, surprise etc. They are usually not complete sentences. They are sentences which have an initial phrase usually introduced by what, or how, without inversion of subjects and operator and these express an extreme degree of some variable factors, which may be left implicit. However, the following are some of exclamatory sentences used in the text.

1. Not at all! (8)
2. Marriage! Maybe not up to two of them. (9)
3. That is not good! (28)
4. Prophets are liar! (54)
5. Afraid of a fight! (60)

In extract (1), the above sentence was expressed in an exclamatory form. The sentence was expressed by Ajani when Asake told him that they can't have sex on the grass in the public place like this. And this sentence shocked Ajani because Ajani pretended to be angry with Asake.

In extract (2), the above sentence was made in an exclamatory form. This sentence was expressed by Ajani when he was explaining to Asake about relationship on campus, which many didn't end up in marriage.

In extract (3), the above sentence was made by Ijaola, that dating different girls is not good which Ajani queried sarcastically.

In extract (4), the above sentence was exclamatorily expressed by Ajani, telling his brother, Bode that prophets are liars and they merely lie against Jesus.

In extract (5), the above sentence was exclamatorily expressed by Ajani when Lola told him if he is afraid of a fight with Dotun.

The above sentences are exclamatory sentences used by the writer to express a state of surprise, anxiety, fear and excitement in the text.

Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are sentences that express a request, a command and a warning in the English language. According to Adagbonyin (2013) Imperative sentences are sentences which have no overt grammatical subject, and whose verb is in the imperative. The implied subject is usually the second person pronoun "you". They often express a command, an invitation, a request, or a warning. Imperatives are apt to sound abrupt unless toned down by markers of politeness such as please. However, the following are imperatives sentences used in the text.

1. Let me see you go on any nonsensical outing again (14).
2. Don't follow me o (75).
3. Please, leave me alone (76).
4. Let us talk about the main issue. (77).
5. Please drive cautiously o (101).

In extract (1), the above sentence was expressed by Baba Kekere to warn Asake never to see her going on any nonsensical outing again.

In extract (2), the above sentence was expressed by Lola to Ajani. Lola was warning Ajani not to follow her because she was not in the mood to talk.

In extract (3), the above sentence was expressed by Lola, warning Ajani to leave her alone.

In extract (4), the above sentence was expressed by Lola to Ajani. Lola is inviting Ajani to let them talk on the issue on the ground instead of forgetting or playing over it.

In extract (5), the above sentence was expressed by Lola. Lola is telling Ajani to drive cautiously after getting his promising car from his uncle.

The above sentences are imperative sentences used by the writer to convey his message to his reader.

Conclusion

In this paper, we have seen how language plays an important role in translation, especially in Sola Owonibi's *The Tight Game*, a translated version of Adebayo Faleti's Bashorun Gaa through a synthetic analysis of the text. This syntactic analysis examines the writer's use of sentence types which include Interrogative, Imperative, exclamatory, and declarative. The above sentence types assisted the writer in conveying his tragic love story to the reader.

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