Research Article

Selected Hiligayon Novels: Translation and Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive-evaluative study aimed to translate and evaluate selected Hiligaynon novels. In the translation, the following steps were followed: reading and understanding the work to fully capture the general thought, essence, and message; translation and development of the first manuscript; validation and improvement of the first manuscript based on the suggestions of experts/consultants; revising, refining, and developing the final form and evaluating the appropriateness of the translated Hiligaynon novels. Three teachers of Hiligaynon literature and language evaluated the appropriateness of the translation. The result of the evaluation showed that the translated novels were appropriate as a whole, and also appropriate according to various criteria. It was concluded that the translators possess the characteristics and knowledge of the translated works, and also have proficiency in the two languages involved in the translation. It is suggested to further polish the translation of selected Hiligaynon novels. Moreover, it is proposed to include the translated novels as teaching and reference materials for teachers, students, and researchers in schools and libraries and to carry out further translation of other Hiligaynon novels towards the development of local Ilonggo literature.

Keywords: *Evaluation, Hiligaynon, Novels, Translation*

Introduction

Region VI is rich in folklores that truly reflect the culture, traditions and even the ideals of the people of Western Visayas. This knowledge should be included in the national canon of Filipino Literature by virtue of CHED Memo Order No. 59, s. 1996 which mandates the need to emphasize the study of regional literatures in order to have a deeper appreciation of Filipino Literature and meet the need to have a collection of literature from different regions (Bacio, et al. 2016).

One of the mandates of the Filipino Language Commission is to publish local or regional literary works in response to the needs of the K-12 curriculum. The Regional Language

and Culture Center in this university is affiliated with the commission in implementing this mandate. In fact, the mission of the regional center is to lead the conduct of significant research or studies and the linguistic and cultural programs of the region as well as to coordinate and promote the linguistic and literary activities of the region in the maintenance and propagation of culture and educational development and other intellectual purposes.

In addition to this, one of the ways to be an important contribution to the canon of national literature, to spread and develop the Hiligaynon language and literature is through translation. Translation of local or regional literature is necessary because translation paves the way to explore the thought process and test the boundaries of the language to be translated so as to discover the ability of the language to contain foreign and/or regional concept (Ynion, 2003).

Translation theory is related to an exercise that consists of attempting to replace a written message in one language with the same message in another language (Newmark, 1988) in (Batnag, et al.,2009). Two languages are involved in translation – the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). In this research, the starting language is Hiligaynon/Kinaray-a and the target language is Filipino.

Almario (1993), in Espina, et al. (2011) mentioned that because the national literature is written in different languages, more translation is needed in order to have an exchange of literature even within the Philippines. Because of this, every Filipino can get closer and understand his fellow Filipinos through literature. Language can fulfill the duty of uniting Filipinos in heart and mind, word and deed even though the islands are divided and the languages of the country are different. It is not only Filipino literature that will inspire but also the strength of the Filipino people towards an aspiration to achieve a stable and independent republic.

Therefore, the translation of regional literature is a necessity, especially novels that have not been given much attention when it comes to translation. Researchers in collaboration with the Language and Culture Center thought that this work is one of the important steps

towards the development and dissemination of Hiligaynon literature.

Research Objectives

This study aimed to translate selected Hiligaynon novels and assess the accuracy of the translation. Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions: What are the steps followed in the translation of selected Hiligaynon novels? and How accurate is the translation in terms of (a) clarity, (b) literary quality, (c) grammatical accuracy, (d) use of figurative language, and (e) appreciation of rhetorical rules?

Methods
Research Design

This study aimed to translate selected Hiligaynon novels and assess the level of their translation accuracy.

The accuracy of the entire translation was assessed based on the following criteria: (a) clarity, (b) literary quality, (c) grammatical accuracy, (d) use of figurative language and (e) appreciation of rhetorical rules. The jurors were a literature teacher, expert in Hiligaynon, and Filipino languages.

The method used in the study was descriptive-evaluative. After the selected Hiligaynon novels were translated, expert teachers assessed their accuracy based on the mentioned criteria. The jurors were the three (3) teachers are experts in the Hiligaynon and Filipino languages.

The teachers who assessed the excellence of the selected novels were from different universities in the city while the resident writers were award-winning writers in the Hiligaynon and Filipino languages.

The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire checklist. In the translation process, the translators followed steps in translating recommended by Almario et al. (1996), as cited by Ynion (2003).

The checklist based on the study consisted of the following criteria: clarity, literary quality, grammatical accuracy, use of figurative language and appreciation of rhetorical rules (Bandada, 2001; Cordero, 2014).

The evaluators' responses were given corresponding points as follows:
Point Description
1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Partially Agree
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

The raters' responses to the translation was interpreted using the following scale:

Scale	Meaning
4.51 – 5.00	Very accurate
3.51 – 4.50	Accurate
2.51 - 3.50	Partially Accurate
1.51 - 2.50	Inaccurate
1.00 - 1.50	Totally Inaccurate

To execute this program, the following steps were followed:
1. Finding and selecting Hiligaynon novels. The novels used in this study were personally selected by the researchers. It was presented to the experts for the approval.
2. Reading and understanding the work to fully capture the general thought and message.
3. Translating and developing of the first manuscript.
4. Validating and improving of the first manuscript based on the suggestions of experts/consultants.
5. Revising, refining, and developing the final form.
6. Estimating the efficiency of the translated Hiligaynon novel.

The responses of the jurors/assessors of the translation were interpreted through the mean which determined the accuracy of the translation as a whole and corresponding to variables.

Results and Discussion

In translating the selected Hiligaynon novels the researchers followed a certain process. First, the entire text to be translated was read to fully grasp the overall idea. It was necessary to read several times to fully discover the hidden meaning of the obscure words, figure of speech, and idioms used by the author, to discover the hidden meaning, the feelings contained in the words, and the style of the author. Second, while reading the text, it was necessary to say what is supposed to be said. Using a dictionary can also help. Third, make a list of words and their equivalent translation was made. Fourth, a first draft of the translation was done and each was sliced into meaningful unit or segment. Then, it is put all together, modified if necessary and checked whether this conforms to the natural order or free flow of translation. Fifth, the first draft was revised. This was read again to find out if there were words that were unclear or needed to be coordinated. The translator made sure that they consistent with their use of words and their spelling. Sixth, the text is revised again. They made sure the order of every sentence was correct, and the statements had a natural rhythm or flow. Seventh, redo the second draft. Eighth, the translation submitted for reading to the consultants. They were asked for a reaction or opinion regarding the translation. Ninth, the draft was edited again and polished. Then this was submitted for assessment of the experts..

The outcome of the assessment showed that the translation was accurate (M= 3.98, SD= 0.45) as a whole and accurate according to the following values of clarity of translation (M= 4.04, SD= 0.41), literary quality (M=4.33, SD=0.46) grammatical correctness (M= 3.93, SD=0.58), use of figurative language (M=3.73, SD=0.35), and appreciation of rhetorical rules (M= 3.87, SD=0.43).

Since the translation results are accurate. This can be a helpful tool in teaching. It was supported by Quidato (2023), It can be used as a helpful teaching tool to introduce students to the literature of the region because the translation was correctly translated by the researcher and is accurate.

Furthermore, according to Hartono (2009), a translator needs to have a breadth of knowledge in both the source and target languages, as well as in the cultures of both, in order to avoid some issues and find an appropriate solution when translating a novel, even to make a high-quality translation. They have to follow the relevant guidelines and the sequential, natural process of translating a novel.

In addition According to Taryadi (2000), a translator should abide by the following guidelines in order to generate high-quality translations. The translators should adhere to the following rules: (1) They should rely on their language instinct when translating novels; (2) They need to have a strong command of the source language; (3) They need to be able to master the target language and culture; (4) They need to be familiar with the source language's culture; (5) They also need to be familiar with the target language's culture; and (6) They need to have a thorough understanding of the science of literary works. The data are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Overall Mean of the Translation

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
Clarity	4.04	0.41	Accurate
Literary Character	4.33	0.46	Accurate
Grammatical Correctness	3.93	0.58	Accurate
Use of Figurative Speech	3.73	0.35	Accurate
Appreciation of Rhetorical rules	3.87	0.43	Accurate
Overall Mean	**3.98**	**0.45**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Translation Accuracy in Terms of Clarity

Based on the assessment of the jurors on clarity, it emerged that generally (M= 4.04, SD=0.41) the translation of folk wisdom (karunungan-bayan)was accurate.

It was revealed that the use of simple words and terminology for clearer understanding of the reader accurate (M=4.33, SD= 0.58); well-structured words and phrases in lines for clear understanding of readers (M=4.00, SD= 0.00); equivalent terminologies were correct and appropriate (M= 4.33, SD= 0.58); there was evident consistency in using the same equivalent nomenclature (M=3.33, SD= 0.58); the translation is thought by thought and not word by word (M=4.00, SD= 0.00); the reader can easily understand the words used in the translation (M=4.33, SD=0.58); the words and phrases describe the author's own style or originality (M= 4.00, SD= 1.00); and the translator succeeded in conveying the intended message (M=4.00, SD= 0.00). Table 2 shows the data.

Table 2. Translation Accuracy in Terms Clarity

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
The translation uses simple words and terminology that the reader can understand.	4.33	0.58	Accurate
The words and phrases are well structured in the lines for clear understanding of the readers.	4.00	0.00	Accurate
Correct and appropriate equivalent terminologies.	4.33	0.58	Accurate
Consistency was evident in the use of the same equivalent terminologies	3.33	0.58	Accurate
The translation was done thought by thought and not word by word	4.00	0.00	Accurate
The reader can easily understand the words used in the translation	4.33	0.58	Accurate
Words and phrases describe the author's own style or originality	4.00	1.00	Accurate
The translator succeeded in conveying the intended message	4.00	0.00	Accurate
Overall Mean	**4.04**	**0.41**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Translation Accuracy in Terms of Literary Characteristics

Based on the literary quality, the translation as a whole was accurate (*M*= 4.33, *SD*= 0.46). The translation was also accurate based on the following rules: The translation is very close to the original (*M*=4.33, *SD*= 0.58); the spiritual content of the translation is like the spiritual content of the original (*M*=4.33, *SD*= 0.58); the translation has the same artistic elements (image, emotion, literary thought) as the original (*M*=4.67, *SD*= 0.58); the translation conveys the feeling and tone expressed by the author (*M*=4.00, *SD*=0.00); and the translator succeeds in conveying the message that the work wants to convey in the original (*M*= 4.33, *SD*= 0.46). Table 3 shows the data.

Table 3. Translation Accuracy in Terms of Literary Characteristics

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
The translation is very close to the original	4.33	0.58	Accurate
The content of the translation is the same as the content of the original	4.33	0.58	Accurate
The translation contains the same artistic elements (image, emotion, literary thought) as the original	4.67	0.58	Accurate
The translation conveys the feeling and melody expressed by the author	4.00	0.00	Accurate
The translator succeeds in conveying the message that the author wants to convey in the original	4.33	0.58	Accurate
Overall Mean	**4.33**	**0.46**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Translation Accuracy in Terms of Grammatical Correctness

In terms of grammatical correctness, the translation was also found accurate (*M*=3.93, *SD*= 0.58) based on the responses of the judges.

As shown by the results of the study, the translations posseses the following grammatical correctness: The correct use of words has been taken into consideration (*M*=3.67, *SD*= 0.58); word were spelled according to the correct spelling in Filipino (*M*=3.33, *SD*= 0.58); word that describe or indicate action were correctly used in the translation (*M*= 4.44, *SD*= 1.15); the verbs used in the translation are in the correct aspect like the original (*M*=4.33, *SD*= 0.58) and the use of words and phrases is balanced, not too short and too long than the original text (*M*= 4.00, *SD*= 0.00). The data are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Translation Accuracy in Terms of Grammatical Correctness

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
The proper use of words has taken into consideration	3.67	0.58	Accurate
The words were spelled according to the correct spelling in Filipino	3.33	0.58	Accurate
Words that describe or indicate action were correctly used in the translation	4.33	1.15	Accurate
The verbs used in the translation are in the correct aspect like the original	4.33	0.58	Accurate
The use of words and phrases is balanced, not too short and too long than the original	4.00	0.00	Accurate
Overall Mean	**3.93**	**0.58**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Translation Accuracy in Terms of Figures of Speech

Generally, the translation was found to be accurate (*M*=3.73, *SD*= 0.35) in terms of the use of figures of speech and even followed the set criteria/rules: The right concept of figures of speech conveyed by the article is correctly translated (*M* = 3.67, *SD* = 0.58); the reader can easily understand the equivalent figure of speech used in the translation (*M* =3.67, *SD*= 0.58); the translation bears the exact essence of the figures of speech (*M* = 4.00, *SD*= 0.00); readers are familiar of the figures of speech used (*M* = 4.00, *SD*= 0.00); and the translator succeeded in conveying to the reader the meaning conveyed by the figures of speech (*M*= 3.33, *SD*= 0.58). The data are shown in table 5.

Table 5. Translation Accuracy in Terms of Figures of Speech

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
The right concept of figure of speech conveyed by the article work is correctly translated	3.67	0.58	Accurate
The reader can easily understand the figures of speech used in the translation	3.67	0.58	Accurate
The translation bears the exact essence of the figure of speech	4.00	0.00	Accurate
Readers are familiar of the figures of speech used	4.00	0.00	Accurate
The translator succeeded in conveying to the reader the meaning conveyed by the figures of speech	3.33	0.58	Accurate
Overall Mean	**3.73**	**0.35**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Translation Accuracy in Terms of the Importance of the Rules of Rhetoric

Based on giving importance to the rules of the rhetoric, the translation was generally assessed (*M* = 3.87, *SD*= 0.43) accurate.

The translation was also accurate in terms of the following: It is in accordance with the thought or meaning being discussed (*M*=4.00, *SD*= 0.00); words and phrases are persuasive or convincing (*M*=4.00, *SD*= 0.00); the words used in the translation are appropriate that do not destroy the beauty of the statement (*M*= 3.67, *SD*= 0.58); the structure of words and phrases shows coherence and unity in form (*M*= 4.00, *SD*= 1.00); and conforms to the rules of rhetoric like parallelism and the clear construction of words and phrases (*M*= 3.67, *SD*= 0.58). Table 6 shows the data.

Table 6. Translation Accuracy in Terms of the Importance of the Rules of Rhetoric

Rule	Mean	SD	Description
It is according to the thought or meaning being discussed	4.00	0.00	Accurate
Words and phrases are persuasive or convincing	4.00	0.00	Accurate
The words used in the translation are appropriate and do not spoil the beauty of the statement	3.67	0.58	Accurate
Shows the coordination and unity of the words and phrases in a structure	4.00	1.00	Accurate
Conforms to the rules of rhetoric like parallelism and the clear construction of words and phrases	3.67	0.58	Accurate
Overall Mean	**3.87**	**0.43**	**Accurate**

Note: 1.00-1.50 (Not Very Accurate), 1.51-2.50 (Not Accurate), 2.51-3.50 (Partially Accurate), 3.51-4.50 (Accurate), 4.51-5.0 (Very Accurate)

Conclusion

The Hiligaynon language is very rich. Its hard to fully imagine the number of words that reflect the culture and identity of the Ilonggos. Many Hiligaynon literatures have been translated but many are still untranslated and many remain only printed in books and buried in the past.

Translating is not easy; it undergoes a rigid process. Even though it goes through the process of revision and correction, there are times int cannot be that perfect. Perhaps, this is a challenge for translators who are not native speakers of the Filipino language, the target language of the translation. It is also difficult to look for equivalent words from Hiligaynon to Filipino. However, following the steps suggested by the expert translators will be very helpful in translating a language to a target language.

The accuracy of the translation showed that the translation was accurate, therefore it can be an effective teaching tool that can be used in teaching literature especially in discussing local works.

The translation made was assessed and this could have been the fruit of being careful to be accurate as it may have been created as a result of carefulness and diligent effort to provide a translation with clarity, literary quality, grammatical accuracy, use of figurative language, and appreciation of rhetorical rules. It can be concluded that the translated Hiligaynon novels have the authenticity of the Hiligaynon that has preserved the cultural words. Perhaps, the translated novels will also show the nature of the translation according to different purposes.

Implications

Based on the study, Translating Hiligaynon novels to Filipino was accurate and good. This shows that proficiency in the two languages involved in the translation is important for the realization of a good and accurate translation. Also a big help in coming up with an accurate translation is one who is a native speaker in any of the languages being translated (Santiago, 1994). In addition, it is easier to translate if the two language involved are closely related like the Hiligaynon and Filipino Language (Batnag, A and Petras J, 2009).

In equating the words to Filipino, there are Hiligaynon words that are retained because they have a unique and specific meaning, reflect our traditional culture, and will further enrich our language. Labos (1999) mentioned that Hiligaynon terms or words that have a unique and specific meaning should be included in the Filipino dictionary. These terminologies cannot be equated with other words. By incorporating these terminologies, the language is enriched and enriched to provide for the needs of the user. Thus, it will be meaningful to use in discussions with others.

The translation of selected Hiligaynon novels will serve as a way to promote Hiligaynon literature and to recognize the culture and traditions of the indigenous people in the said province. Through the translation of regional literature, every Filipino gets closer and understands each other in heart and mind.

The result of this study can be said to be a timely contribution to the teaching of the Mother-Tongue especially since the books used are written in the Hiligaynon language. Terminologies with cultural meaning can be included in Mother-Tongue books that will provide knowledge of terms that reflect the culture. Santiago (1979) mentioned that in order for the teaching to be effective, specific, and time-efficient, the teacher needs to know the characteristics or essence of not only Filipino but also the local language or the first language of the child he is teaching.

The positive assessment of the accuracy of the translation of selected Hiligaynon novels based on different rules is proof of yet another successful study regarding the preservation, enrichment, and appreciation of the regional language.

Recommendations

In translation, there should be a standardized basis for translating languages into the target language – like the Filipino language. Likewise, as a translator, it is advised to have steps

to follow so that you will not be confused about what to do next. Moreover, in translating words that have cultural meanings, these meanings need to be preserved. Furthermore, integrate translated novels into print as teaching and reference materials for teachers, students, and researchers in schools and libraries. Also, it is suggested to school administrators to hold seminars and conferences for the additional experience and knowledge of the teachers regarding translation. In addition, request the help of the local government to allocate funds for the translation of other Hilgaynon novels. Finally, carry out the further translation of other Hiligaynon novels towards the development of local Ilonggo literature.

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