



# MOTHER TONGUE INFLUENCE IN TRANSLATION: A STUDY BASED ON ENGLISH TO TAMIL

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**Abstract:** Translation is an essential tool for communication across different cultures and languages. However, the influence of one's mother tongue on the translation process is a significant factor that can affect the accuracy and quality of the translated text. This research aims to investigate the impact of mother tongue influence on the translation process from English to Tamil, focusing on the linguistic and cultural aspects that contribute to this influence. The study utilizes incorporating qualitative research methods. Firstly, a literature review is conducted to explore existing theories and studies on translation, mother tongue influence, and the specific challenges encountered when translating between English and Tamil. This serves as the foundation for the subsequent empirical research. A comparative analysis is performed to identify instances where mother tongue influence affects the translation choices made by the participants. The analysis includes linguistic features such as grammar, vocabulary, syntax, idiomatic expressions, and cultural references. This qualitative data provides a deeper understanding of the translators' experiences and perspectives. The findings of this research contribute to the field of translation studies by shedding light on the role of mother tongue influence in the translation process from English to Tamil. It identifies specific linguistic and cultural challenges that translators encounter and offers recommendations for addressing these challenges effectively. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of translator training programs that focus on minimizing the negative impact of mother tongue influence on translations.

**Index Terms - Translation Studies, Mother Tongue Influence, English to Tamil Translation, Linguistic Challenges, Bilingual Translators.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a method of communicating ideas, conceptions and aspirations utilizing sounds for psychological survival. English is a link language, a foreign language and a second language. Mainly English is considered a Global Language. This article aims to discuss the mother tongue's influence in translation among the community and how can overcome the problems encountered by them.

The wide knowledge of L<sub>2</sub> [Second Language] is to use a Language in its correct form and also with the necessary strategy. In writing a language, the accuracy of its structure and also the talent of communication consider writing in a second Language as a difficult task.

Language learners including translators depend mainly on their mother tongue. In translators will display the form and meanings of the mother tongue. Translation will encounter the problem of understanding the meaning of the structure in L<sub>2</sub> in the process of translation Translator should understand the semantic nature of the source language and thereafter must be able to produce the correct meaning in the Tamil Language. A translator may face difficulty in producing the translation text in the course of the statement Translator may find it easy when the structure of the language is similar in the Second Language and Tamil Language but it may be difficult when the structures are difficult in the Second Language and Tamil Language for instance. Structures in Tamil and Sinhala are mainly entirely different. There is a possibility that if the structures are similar in Second Language and Tamil Language the translation text will be positive. Further, if the structures are different in both languages, it may bring out the negative character. In interpretation the structure of the mother tongue may cause a deviation in the Tamil Language but in case of translation in its production. Because in foreign languages structure is highly domain in phonemic, morphological and syntactical features.

Dulary al suggested that a translator accustomed to the mother tongue may produce the surface structure in the Second Language to Tamil Language in the same manner.

Language is a tool and is made up of habits that pay the way to express their expressions and ideas of thoughts. Here Socio sociocultural, educational and regional backgrounds influence learning a second language. The acquisition of a mother tongue is

different from studying another foreign language in all aspects. It is learnt in a natural environment without any barriers. When a native speaker translates a text the habits of his /her mother tongue continuously influence all areas of structures, vocabulary, and grammar unfortunately and unknowingly.

## NEED OF THE STUDY.

The study on "Mother Tongue Influence in Translation: A Study Based on English to Tamil" addresses a critical gap in the existing research landscape by delving into the intricate dynamics of language translation with a specific focus on the influence of the translator's mother tongue. This research is essential in the context of English-to-Tamil translation, given the inherent linguistic and cultural diversities between these languages. By investigating the impact of the translator's mother tongue on the quality, accuracy, and cultural nuances of translations, this thesis aims to contribute valuable insights to the field of translation studies. Understanding and acknowledging the role of mother tongue influence is crucial not only for improving the efficiency and precision of translation processes but also for promoting cross-cultural understanding and effective communication in a globalized world. The findings of this study have the potential to inform translation practices, enhance linguistic proficiency, and foster a deeper appreciation for the nuances inherent in cross-linguistic communication, particularly within the English-to-Tamil translation context.

### 3.1 Population and Sample

The population for the thesis "Mother Tongue Influence in Translation: A Study Based on English to Tamil" comprises individuals engaged in English-to-Tamil translation activities, such as professional translators, language experts, and bilingual speakers with proficiency in both English and Tamil. Given the specific focus of the study, the sample will be selected systematically from this population, ensuring representation from diverse backgrounds and linguistic expertise levels. The sample size will be determined based on the principles of saturation, seeking to include an adequate number of participants to capture a comprehensive range of mother tongue influences in the translation process. To gather relevant data, the study may employ techniques such as interviews, surveys, and translation tasks. The intention is to create a sample that not only reflects the diversity of English to Tamil translators but also facilitates a nuanced understanding of how mother tongue influences shape translation outcomes in this particular linguistic context.

### 3.2 Data and Sources of Data

The data for the thesis "Mother Tongue Influence in Translation: A Study Based on English to Tamil" will be collected through a multifaceted approach. Primary data will be gathered through interviews and surveys conducted with professional translators, language experts, and bilingual individuals proficient in English and Tamil. These qualitative methods will elicit insights into the participants' experiences, challenges, and perceptions regarding mother tongue influence in the translation process. Additionally, translation tasks will be assigned to the participants, allowing for the analysis of actual translation outputs. Complementing the primary data, secondary data sources such as scholarly articles, books, and relevant literature on translation studies, linguistic influences, and cross-cultural communication will be consulted. The combination of primary and secondary data will enable a comprehensive exploration of the research topic, shedding light on the intricacies of mother tongue influence in English to Tamil translation and contributing to a deeper understanding of the dynamics involved in cross-linguistic communication.

### 3.3 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework for the thesis "Mother Tongue Influence in Translation: A Study Based on English to Tamil" draws upon the foundations of translation studies, sociolinguistics, and cross-cultural communication. The study will be guided by concepts such as linguistic relativity, exploring how the inherent features of the translator's mother tongue may influence the interpretation and expression of meaning in the target language. Additionally, the theoretical framework will incorporate elements from sociolinguistics to understand the cultural dimensions embedded in language, examining how the translator's cultural background, shaped by their mother tongue, impacts the translation process. Furthermore, the study will be informed by theories on language transfer and interference to elucidate the specific linguistic challenges encountered during English to Tamil translation due to mother tongue influence. By integrating these theoretical perspectives, the thesis aims to provide a robust analytical framework that elucidates the intricate interplay between mother tongue influence, linguistic transfer, and cultural nuances in the realm of translation from English to Tamil.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for the study titled "Mother Tongue Influence in Translation: A Study Based on English to Tamil" adopts a qualitative method.

Initially, a comprehensive literature review is conducted to gather existing theories and studies on translation, mother tongue influence, and the challenges encountered when translating between English and Tamil. This literature review serves as a foundation for the research, guiding the development of research questions and hypotheses.

The data collection process involves translation tasks from English to Tamil. The tasks encompass various text genres to represent a range of linguistic and cultural challenges. Qualitative data is gathered by referring to secondary data. This method aims to capture the translators' experiences, perceptions, and strategies related to mother tongue influence in translation.

The research study concludes by summarizing the findings and drawing conclusions regarding the impact of mother tongue influence in translation from English to Tamil. Recommendations are provided for addressing and minimizing the negative effects of mother tongue influence. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and adherence to ethical guidelines, are taken into account throughout the research process.

Overall, this research methodology aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of mother tongue influence in translation from English to Tamil, combining qualitative insights to contribute to the field of translation studies and offer practical recommendations for translator training programs.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Reason for using mother tongue

If the translators have poor knowledge of the target language, they may resort to their mother tongue to simplify their work. Meanwhile, the translator may also experience a certain amount of stress in his mind if he has a poor knowledge of the target language.

Harmer (2001), says “We try to make sense of a new linguistic world through the linguistics world we are already familiar with” Butzkamm (2003), 31pg says that the mother tongue is a master key to foreign languages, the tool which gives us the fastest, surest, most precise and most complete means of accessing a foreign language. Although the translator should be proficient in his mother tongue, he should not entirely depend on the Second Language and should concentrate on the style of the language used in Tamil Language is entirely a new approach that is dependent on the mother tongue.

As far as the teachers are concerned the use of the mother tongue is encouraged by them because it is an easy way of learning a foreign language by the student thus, they avoid the use of the target language fully in the process of teaching. Likewise, the translators also should be proficient in their mother tongue which helps them to produce high-quality translated text However translator should not allow the resemblance of the mother tongue in any of its translated text.

At the present development in the language world, the necessity of translation is purpose with different communities. Even in the case of translators, the use of their mother tongue is allowed to a certain extent because it helps to improve their knowledge of foreign languages and thereby, they will be able to produce standard translation work.

Although the perception of translation has become positive some linguistics oppose the use of translation in the linguistic world because they feel that linguistic studies may be affected to a certain extent.

It is accepted that the influence of the mother tongue in translating to the target language plays an important in phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic aspects of the target language Further the set of linguistic habits in the Second language reflects the same view in translating into a Tamil Language because in interfere with the secondary set-in translation whenever the two sets are not similar. The identification of errors that could occur due to the differences between the two systems happens in the comparison of linguistic systems of Second Language and Tamil and Language.

If the structure of a Second Language is more complicated than that of a Tamil Language then the structure of a Second Language is set to be more marked. Translation of the Tamil sentence

1. “xUj;jUK; tutpy; appears in English as “no one came”. This shows the interference of the mother tongue in translation. However, the better form of expression could be “Nobody came”. In some cases, the interference of a Second language in translation will not affect the meaning of the source text but the linguistic structure the following examples:

ehisf;F tUfpNwd; this should be translated as “I am coming” is completely wrong according to the PNG marker (plural, Number and Gender)

2. New;W NghNdd;: this should be translated as I went yesterday But “yesterday went” is completely wrong according to PNG Marker.

This type of problem is faced by the translator due to the difference in the structure of English and Tamil.

Eg: He comes to school in bus which is an incorrect form but the correct form should be “he comes to school by bus” “mtd; ghlrhiyf;F gj;]py; tUfpwhd;” The Tamil form of the above sentence is grammatically correct because English prepositional equivalent of the inflection “in” is identified as ‘il’ in Tamil this type of equivalent is not suitable in this English sentence the correct form of the preposition in English should be as ‘by’

### 3.2 Advantages of Using Mother Tongue in Translations

1. Improvement of comparative skill: When translating from a Second Language to the Tamil Language the aspect of interference has to be considered very carefully. Comparative thinking as an important role in translation activities When there are no equivalent words or phrases in the target language there may be a compulsion of borrowing mother tongue vocabularies.

Ex: metaphors and Idiomatic expressions may not be expressed in the target language accurately. (kaye, 2009) explained that It also helps learners or translators appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the comparison of idiomatic language such as metaphor.

2. Enriches the Translators lexicon:

If a translator is well acquainted with his/her mother tongue, his skill in a particular language will help produce a better translation very easily.

Skill in the mother tongue of the translator will help to produce a creative translation of ideas, concepts and images.

According to the statement of Duff (1989), believes that translations are very important because there would be no summit talks film festivals, etc. without translation. After all, the influence of the mother tongue is unavoidable in the aspect of emotional thinking and understanding. Even if there are no professionals is sometimes necessary in many other jobs.

### 3.3 Disadvantages of using mother tongue in translation.

1. Downfall in the standard of the target language

The quality of the translation will get depreciated when using the style and flow of the mother tongue in the process of translation.



2. **Creation of semantic Ambiguity:** when a translator is influenced by the mother tongue. He will not be able to use the accurate equivalent to context which may create semantic ambiguity among the target language.

#### 4.0 Conclusion:

There are pros and cons aspects of the mother tongue in the translation process but these are unavoidable when there are no equivalents in the target language translator is compelled to borrow the native vocabularies. At the same time, there is a possibility that the quality of the target language may be affected by the influence of the mother tongue. However, when a person reads the translated text, he/she should feel that the Tamil Language text reflects the originality of the source text. Therefore, this will be considered a high-quality translated text.

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