The Utility of Malone’s Linguistic Mode in Translating English Texts

Marjan Chahian
Department of Foreign Languages, Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan Branch, Isfahan, Iran
marjan.chahian@yahoo.com

The principle that a translation should have an equivalence relation with the source language text has always been important. Equivalence is a key word in the linguistic-based translation theories and translation is undeniably a linguistic phenomenon. There are many possible linguistic models in translating English texts. Joseph Malone (1988) developed a linguistic model of translation which contains thirteen trajectories including Matching (Equation and Substitution), Zigzagging (Divergence and Convergence), Recrescence (Amplification and Reduction), Repackaging (Diffusion and Condensation), and Reordering. For checking the applicability of this model on different texts in translating from English to Persian, two texts were chosen; Short Story (The war at sea) and Philosophy (Myth, truth, and literature: towards a true postmodernism). These texts were translated according to Malone’s model and it was concluded that not all trajectories cannot be used in translating from English to Persian but this study shows that this linguistic model can help translators benefit from understanding what they do as they are translating and they can plausibly find this model as a linguistic analysis and a useful part of their armory.