A Contrastive Pragmalinguistic Analysis of Theme Zone and Its Necessity in Two Different Persian Translated Versions of The Secret

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This study aimed to investigate the linguistic realization of the theme zone in an English text and its maintenance through translation process into the Persian text, using a pragmalinguistic perspective. A book by Rhonda Byrnes, entitled The Secret, and two translated versions by 2 translators, Nafiseh Mo’takef and Parvaneh Esteki was selected. Thirty paragraphs of the source text (ST) were isolated randomly and were broken into their constituent sentences. Theme zones in sentences of ST were identified and compared to theme zones of corresponding sentences of 2 target texts. A pragmalinguistic perspective was considered while comparing the (non) maintained theme zones in translations. Two translated versions were also compared to each other. Five raters were asked to rate the translated versions based on a holistic approach of translation quality assessment (TQA). The results suggested that translation by Esteki included more maintained theme zones. The frequency of non-maintained theme zones due to pragmalinguistic considerations was almost equal. TQA results also suggested that there is a significant difference between quality of 2 translated versions; translation by Esteki was a better translation. It concluded that theme zone maintenance is a necessity to enhance translation quality. Pragmalinguistic consideration is also an effective tool to evaluate the quality of translation.