

Translating Gender: An Analysis of Gender Roles and Representations in Literary Translation

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Abstract: This article delves into the intricacy of gender portrayal in the field of literary translation, uncovering the ways in which gender is conveyed and depicted in literary works that undergo the process of moving from one language and culture to another. This research used a desk-based approach to incorporate studies from multiple academic sources that examine the interaction of gender, language, and translation. The findings demonstrate that literary translation functions as both a conduit across languages and cultures and as a platform for the negotiation and questioning of gender constructs and norms. The research emphasizes the translator's function as an engaged intermediary in this process, indicating that being aware of gender-related matters in translation might impact readers' perspectives and foster cross-cultural discussions on gender parity. The study's conclusions support the need of considering gender while translating literary works in order to advance gender parity and improve our understanding of gender in a global context.

Keywords: Gender in Translation, Gender Representation, Literature and Translation, Gender Analysis, Gender Sensitivity, and Cross-Cultural Dialogue

Introduction

Academics and practitioners have studied gender in literary translation for a decade (Von Flotow, 2016). Global transformations and cross-cultural discourses as social and cultural structures make gender translation and portrayal in cross-language literature more important (Meng et al., 2019). Castro (2013) notes that gender affects how readers from numerous cultures interpret translations. Wallmach (1998) says gender affects translation terms, phrases, and sentences. Beyond word-for-word interpretation, translating redefines social and cultural importance, including gender roles. Flotow (2012) proposes "translating women" to investigate literary portrayals of women and how translation may challenge gender stereotypes. Ahsin and Widiyanto (2020) found that "Sri Promises" short stories generally expose gender injustice through outstanding narrative. Translated narratives allow us to rethink gender roles and identities. Alami (2016) and Ergün (2013) also suggest going beyond textual analysis in gender studies and translation. They recommend an interdisciplinary gender translation strategy that addresses social, political, and cultural factors. Aminatul Musrichaha and Baskoro (2020) note that gender bias in literature is present in both tale material and translation. Nyi Atikah's story was studied using the Functional Systemic Linguistic Approach, which reveals how language and grammar can support or remove gender bias in translation. Bi (2010)'s study on women's English linguistic features illuminates gender-language links. Since language shapes and perpetuates social and gender roles, translators must consider gender

while translating texts. Through their study of "I Forgot I Was a Woman," Cholil, Basri, and Sholihah (2021) demonstrate how literature can challenge gender norms. Translating this work into other languages encourages readers to consider different gender norms.

Ergün (2013) examines how translation affects language gender notions using feminism and linguistic sociology. This method emphasizes feminist theory and translation practice by arguing that translation can challenge literary gender stereotypes. Using Sara Mills' discourse analysis, Hasanudin (2015) examines gender representation in literature and translation in "Amba". Translation affects feminist values and story women's development, according to the study. Hayati (2016) says children's literature impacts gender roles and reflects society's values. Gender perspectives should be considered while translating children's books. Hutabalian et al. (2022) studied women in "Less Quiet Than Whispering". Gender representation in literature and its effects on varied cultural readers are investigated by feminist literary theory. Literary translation tells stories, ideas, and perspectives, the study found.

Indriyani, Rachman, and Fathia (2024) recommend gender education in elementary school texts. For equity and diversity, translate instructional materials gender-sensitively. In their thorough research on feminism and literary translation, Irshad and Yasmin (2022) offer a unique perspective on how translation can support or oppose gender concerns in literature. Book translations foster worldwide gender discussions and include many cultural viewpoints in gender stories. Political language influences gender in British political discourse, according to Kuznyetsova et al. (2023). This shows gender translation in politics and literature. Mihira and her team (2021) examined English textbook gender discrepancies. They demonstrate how textbook translations affect gender and justice knowledge. Translators must participate in the translation process and promote gender equality.

Literary translation can host gender debates, according to theory, practice, and academic relationships. Translation extends beyond text integrity and language importance. It may impact social gender creation (Hatim & Munday, 2019). Translation impacts society, posing ethical and practical issues for scholars and translators. Literary translation violates gender norms, study shows. Gender-conscious translation promotes gender equality, diversity, and minority perspectives. This research helps literary translation, gender studies, and social justice. Because of these issues, translators are needed. Their linkages span cultures, ideas, text, and reader. Supporting or challenging gender conventions during translation can make gender stories more inclusive and fair. Translations should reflect the social and cultural repercussions of gender portrayal in literary texts, according to the study. "Gender Translation: An Analysis of Gender Roles and Representations in Literary Translation" exposes the complicated and ever-changing gender portrayal in literature and translations. Literary translation promotes cross-cultural gender equality, according to the study. It encourages readers, writers, translators, and academics to evaluate how their stories might improve society.

Methodology

Bibliographic research is a qualitative process that collects, evaluates, and studies literary sources. According to Santosa (2015), literary translation theories, findings, and perspectives should be examined for gender representation. This technique seeks translation and gender representation trends, themes, and interactions in literature. Use gender, literary translation, and cultural studies scientific journals, books, papers, and conference proceedings to start research. The sources were chosen for their relevance to the research and impact on gender on literature translation. Study uniqueness, author and publication trustworthiness, and research subject relevance determine literature selection. To ensure research credibility, the analysis uses only high-quality sources.

Source data is examined following library selection. This procedure requires understanding each source's arguments, methods, and outcomes. Scholars have highlighted key themes, patterns, and perspectives on gender representation in literary translation. This method helps researchers create a unified narrative across all study domains. This method identifies study gaps, highlights field research, and suggests new research directions. Next, a thorough literature review evaluates past research's pros and cons and effects on theory and practice. Thus, the research provides new perspectives to improve comprehension. Library-based analysis scrutinizes literary translation gender representation. This study examines gender, language, and culture in academia. A complex relationship between gender and translation is also examined (Metcalf & Woodhams, 2012).

Results and Discussion

4.1 Gender representation in literary translation

4.1.1 Patterns and Themes of Gender Representation

Literary translations must show gender roles and identities to comprehend society. We explore gender depiction in translated literary texts and gender relations. This study examines gender in cross-cultural folk stories using translation theory, critical discourse analysis, and feminist studies. Literary translation gender representation is displayed in the table below with titles and brief annotations.

Table 1: Literary translation gender representation

Title of Literary Work	Short Content
"Janji Sri" in Ahsin, M. N., & Widiyanto, E. (2020)	A collection of short stories that expose gender injustice through powerful narratives.
"I Forgot That I Am a Woman" by Cholil, M., Basri, H., & Sholihah, I. N. (2021)	A novel that challenges gender norms through the perspective of women's emancipation.
"Amba" analysis by Hasanudin, C. (2015)	A novel that explores the representation of feminist values and the formation of female characters in translation.
"Quieter Than a Whisper" by Hutabalian, E. E., Panggabean, S., & Bangun, K. (2022)	A study of feminist literary criticism of novels that portray the image of women.
"The Pregnant King" in Sri Varshni, M., & Sunitha, V. (2023) analysis	Post-colonial reading that explores gender transgression, motherhood, and desire.
"Gender Bias in the Story of Ulama Nyi Atikah" by Aminatul Musrichaha, A. P., & Baskoro, B. R. S. (2020)	Analysis of Serat Centhini text that reveals gender bias through a Functional Systemic Linguistics approach.
"Feminist Translation and Feminist Sociolinguistics" by Ergün, E. (2013)	Linguistic gender analysis in translations between English and Turkish, highlighting the dialogue between feminist translation and feminist sociolinguistics.
"Gender Representation in Children's Literature in Indonesia" by Hayati, Y. (2016)	A study of how children's literature in Indonesia reflects gender-related social norms and values.

"Feminism and Literary Translation: A Systematic Review" by Irshad, I., & Yasmin, M. (2022)	A systematic review of the relationship between feminism and literary translation, offers a new perspective on gender discourse in literature.
"Gender Peculiarities of Modern English-Language Political Discourse" by Kuznyetsova, G., et al. (2023)	Findings on the construction of gender in current British political discourse, emphasize the importance of gender translation in political and literary works.

The investigation found gender inequality, freedom, feminist ideas, and gender nonconformity in these works. The topics demonstrate the complexity of gender experiences across nations and the importance of translators in explaining gender issues to global audiences. This study examines how literary translations affect readers' gender norms, identities, and global gender equality discussions.

4.1.2 The Role of Translators in Constructing Gender

Literature translation requires cultural interpretation, negotiation, and language translation. Through word choice, sentence structure, and cultural considerations, translators shape gender representation in translated writings. Castro (2013) notes that gender affects how foreign readers interpret translated literature. Translators must understand gender differences in languages and cultures to accurately represent the author's meaning. Flotow (2012) suggests "translating women" to evaluate women in literature and examine how translation affects gender norms. Translators facilitate cross-cultural gender talks by translating and reconstructing target resources.

Ergün (2013) examines how translation affects gender concepts through feminism and feminist sociolinguistics. This approach leverages feminist theory and translation practice to claim that translation can change literary gender norms. Translation procedures can shape gender perceptions. Hasanudin (2015) uses Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis to examine gender portrayal in literature and translation, showing how translation affects feminist ideals and female characters. Translators should investigate how their translations support or resist gender stereotypes to deepen and multicultural gender conversation.

According to Hayati (2016), young children's reading reflects society's standards and gender views. Translators should test how children's book translations effect gender knowledge and perspectives, emphasizing gender sensitivity in kid-friendly reading. In 2022, Irshad and Yasmin present new ideas on how literary translation might support or challenge gender discourse. Translation adds cultural diversity to gender narratives, advancing global debate. Thus, translators influence gender debate through literature. Because political language causes gender in British political discourse, Kuznyetsova et al. (2023) recommend gender translation in political and literary works. It stresses that translators must understand how language and translation affect gender creation and representation in political and literary literature. This study shows literary translators affect gender roles. They negotiate cultural meanings and conditions when translating verbatim, which may reinforce or challenge gender stereotypes. Translators should address social and cultural consequences and support gender equality and justice.

4.2 Social and Cultural Impact of Gender Representation

4.2.1 Effects of Translation on Gender Perception

Literary translations of gender reflect cultural customs and shape readers' gender views. Literary translation story and character descriptions affect gender perceptions. While "Janji Sri" exposes gender injustice, Ahsin and Widiyanto (2020) suggest translating these stories to help readers comprehend and question gender norms. Hasanudin (2015) argues in "Amba" that translation can promote or undermine feminist values and female characters. Translations alter topics, impacting new readers' gender and character views. Translators effect gender and feminism-sociolinguistics debate in Ergün (2013). Translators' gender insights help readers overcome stereotypes. Literary translation can contribute to global gender discourse by presenting culturally different perspectives in gender tales, argue Irshad and Yasmin (2022). Sharing values and ideas through literary translation can influence worldwide gender debates. Hayati (2016) shows that children's reading impacts gender views early on. Children's book translations can break gender norms and make kids more accepting. Literary translation affects gender perception, says research. Translators can confirm or challenge gender stereotypes with gender awareness and skill. Literary translation affects gender perception and advocacy by connecting text and reader.

4.2.2 Contributions of Translation in Cross-Cultural Gender Discourse

New gender equality and sensitivity stories in literary translation promote cross-cultural discussion. By highlighting gender dynamics in multiple countries, Alami (2016) shows how translated literature may compare, criticise, and enrich global gender discourses. Organisation and gender theory study by Metcalfe & Woodhams (2012) shows how translation enhances theory and practice on gender. They argue literature and translation gender complications explain gender development across cultures and support gender equality. Translation alters culture and society through language and gender, according to von Flotow (2016). Literary translation fights cultural gender biases and promotes equality. In their extensive feminism and translation review, Irshad and Yasmin (2022) argue that literary translation enhances feminist discourse. Translating gender-related literature promotes feminism and equality. Kuznyetsova et al. (2023) say language and translation affect gender norms in modern English-language political discourse. Literary translation focuses word choice and context to change gender views across cultures. Finally, Hutabalian et al. (2022) demonstrate that literary translations may reflect cultural views about women. Gender discourse is promoted by literary translation of women's issues and triumphs.

4.3 Translation Methods and Gender Issues

Literary translators' methods affect gender and text accuracy. Translation can help or hurt gender presentation depending on sensitivity. Von Flotow (2016) claims that "translating in the era of feminism" has made translators more gender aware and concerned with preserving the source text's gendered details. Ergün (2013) uses feminism and sociolinguistics to demonstrate how multi-layered methods disclose linguistic gender categories and affect translation. Translators must consider the text's social and cultural background, particularly gender construction and discussion in source and destination countries. Translators actively negotiate and recreate gender meaning. Alami (2016) details gender studies methodologies for gender-sensitive translation. Translators must grasp gender theory to detect and interpret gender representations in source and target texts, research show. In their comprehensive assessment of feminism and literary translation, Irshad and Yasmin (2022) propose feminist literary translation may assist readers comprehend and accept gender concerns. To address gender depiction, translators could alter, domesticate, or utilise footnotes to describe gender-related cultural or socioeconomic conditions.

In gender, diversity, and organisational theory, Metcalfe & Woodhams (2012) highlight diversity and inclusivity in all professions, including translation. Fair translation and gender diversity can broaden gender. Political language, word choice, and gender representation are highlighted by Kuznyetsova et al. (2023). Literary translation's word choice and gender translation might affect target culture readers' comprehension of characters and situations. Language, sociology, and culture experts must interpret literature to address gender issues. Translators promote gender equality and cross-cultural discussion by translating verbatim and gender-related values and conventions. Translators must actively participate and consider social and cultural issues to attain language and gender accuracy. Translators can better encourage gender diversity by being aware of gender stereotypes. Translation that takes gender equality into account benefits language, culture, and gender diversity. This can promote gender parity and intercultural understanding by highlighting the similarities and differences among people from different languages and cultural backgrounds. Literary translators must therefore consider gender. Literary translation can encourage gender awareness and societal change while enhancing the target literature with works of the highest caliber. Translation is beneficial for gender diversity, literature, and culture.

4.4 Research Gap and New Direction

4.4.1 Conclusions from Literature Analysis

Gender expression and controversies in translation have been demonstrated through literary and gender translation studies. A literature study reveals that translation is social, cultural, and gendered. There are several key results from the examined studies:

1. The translator's position as a gender mediator is crucial in reconstructing gender representation from source to destination. They translate verbatim and the cultural and social factors that shape gender depictions, which may impact target readers' gender perspectives.
2. Cultural and Social Context: Both source and target texts' cultures and social contexts affect gender representation in translation. Using context-sensitive translation can assist ensure gender distinctions are respected in both cultures.
3. Gender-related translation strategy: Domestication, alienation, and intervention can impact gender representation in translation. Gender representation must be considered when choosing this method.
4. Literary Translation: Literary translation needs more gender sensitivity. Gender education and training can help translators generate more effective and sensitive translations.
5. Researchers have studied gender in literary translation, but intercultural comparison studies and evaluations of gender representation in other genres are lacking. Further research is needed to determine how literary translation affects gender norms and values in target societies across time.

This summary shows the importance of gender in translation practice to improve quality and promote gender equality and inclusivity. Research gaps reveal topics for further study, advancing translation and gender studies. Further research on this gap could improve our understanding of gender dynamics in literary translation and its effects on cross-cultural readers.

4.4.2 New Directions for Research on Gender in Translation

The findings and gaps in prior literature assessments suggest numerous intriguing gender and translation study areas. This conversation highlights the possibilities for new avenues to improve our understanding of literary translation gender dynamics and cross-cultural gender dialogue.

1. Future literary translation study may focus on cross-cultural comparative analysis. This approach can compare cultures and languages to examine how translation changes or maintains gender norms and values.
2. Literary Translation and Gender conversation: Studying how literary translation impacts gender conversation in target nations is valuable. This involves studying how readers and literary critics react to translated works and their long-term effects on gendered attitudes.
3. Translation Technology and Gender: As translation technology grows, research into how automated translation methods like machine translation address gender concerns is vital. The study could assess gender bias in translation algorithms and develop gender-sensitive automated translation solutions.
4. Given the relevance of gender awareness in translation, gender-focused translator education and training research is critically needed. This could involve evaluating training programmes and creating gender-sensitive curricula.
5. Gender and Sexuality Literature Translation Marginalisation: Translating literary works that represent marginalised gender and sexuality viewpoints could advance literature. This includes transgender, non-binary, and queer authors and how translations affect their representation and acceptance in target societies.
6. Gender Sensitive Translation Methodology: Developing and validating gender-sensitive translation procedures can help translators address gender representation difficulties. This research can provide empirically-based guidelines.
7. Translation study can benefit from interdisciplinary approaches from gender studies, linguistics, literature, and anthropology. This interdisciplinary approach can broaden gender in translation research.

These research areas can help academics and translators understand how gender is read, represented, and negotiated in literary translation. Thus, future study can progress translation and gender studies and promote more inclusive and gender-equitable translation processes.

Conclusion

This study found that literary translators construct and negotiate gender through texts. Several major findings from comprehensive literature study and in-depth discussion of gender-related aspects of translation have enhanced our awareness of gender's complexity and nuances in literary translation. The findings show that translators impact gender representation in target texts as key cultural mediators. Their word choice, sentence structure, and cultural context adaptation affect how readers view gender. The study also shows that cultural context of the source and target affects gender representation in translation. Social

factors and cultural gender standards affect gender representation and acceptance in translated writings.

The analysis emphasises gender-sensitive translation procedures. Using inclusive terminology and consulting gender experts can lead to more equal and inclusive translations. This research has revealed several gender-related features of literary translation, yet gaps remain. Future research could focus on cross-cultural comparative analysis, gender discourse and translation technologies. This study enhances our understanding of gender and literary translation. These findings stimulate critical thought and greater discourse on gender equality in literature and beyond by emphasising translators' involvement in gender representation and gender sensitivity in translation practice. By identifying research gaps, the study lays the groundwork for ongoing research on gender-related translation issues and inclusive, sustainable translation practises. This research expands the academic understanding of gender in literary translation and encourages translators and academics to pay more attention to gender issues in their work to create more inclusive and equitable literature.

Theoretical and Practical Implications

This study has several theoretical and practical consequences for translation theory, practice, and gender studies. The deep interaction of gender and literary translation provides new insights into both fields and their intersections.

Theoretical Implications

1. **Expanding Translation Theory:** These findings suggest adding gender issues to translation theory. This contradicts translation theories that overlook social and cultural aspects, especially gender concerns. Gender-sensitive translation theory shows that language reflects and reinforces social characteristics, including gender.
2. This study emphasizes the need of incorporating gender studies ideas and findings into translation theory. Theorists must analyze how translation might affect or sustain gender norms, representations, and identities, complicating our understanding of translation.

Practical Implications

1. These findings emphasize the need of translating practitioners being conscious and sensitive to gender issues. Consider how language and translation affect gender portrayal and social impact.
2. **Translation Training and Education:** Practical challenges include gender-sensitive translation training. Gender studies training helps translators translate gender-related texts and their social and cultural contexts.
3. This research promotes the creation and usage of gender-sensitive translation guides. Translators can apply the guidelines for gender representation ethics.

Implications for Gender Studies

1. This research illuminates how literary translation constructs and debates gender in gender studies. Translation may be a space for gender identity negotiation, challenging gender stereotypes and promoting gender inclusion.
2. Translations of literature can influence cross-cultural gender debate and promote gender equality ideas. How gender concepts are translated and accepted across cultures is currently studied.

The study concludes translation theory and practice must address gender. Gender studies may make literary translation more egalitarian and inclusive, improving the target literature and deepening our understanding of human diversity.

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