

## The Translation Methods Used by Pe Myint in the Short Story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark

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### Abstract

This research analyzes translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark based on the eight types of translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988). The objectives of the research are to explore the types of translation methods used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark based on the eight types of translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988), to find out which types of translation methods are the most frequently used and the least frequently used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark and to learn how the translator convey the intention of the short story in SL (source language) to the TL (target language) readers accurately. After analyzing the data, the findings show that seven types of translations are explored except idiomatic translation. While communicative translation is the most frequently used, word-for-word translation and faithful translation are the least frequently used in the short story. According to the result of using different types of translation appropriately in their correct places, the translator can convey the intention of the short story to the TL readers' heart by cleaning their mindset and building their soul healthy.

**Keywords:** translation, SL (source language), TL (target language), communicative translation, word-for-word translation, faithful translation

### Introduction

Language is a system of communication used by a particular country or community. In the modern world, as global connections intensify, borders fade, and cultures blend, translation becomes an essential link that unites our varied communities. It functions as a bridge in this interconnected era, allowing for the sharing of ideas, fostering political collaboration, supporting economic progress, and deepening cultural understanding. According to Oxford Language dictionary, translation is the process of translating words or text from one language into another. According to Catford (1965:1), translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another. Moreover, he also states that translation is an activity of enormous importance in the modern world and it is a subject of interest not only to linguists, professional and amateur translators and language-teachers but also to electronic engineers and mathematicians. According to Newmark (1988:5), translation is rendering the message of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.

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Translation of a language opens the doors to unknown cultural and linguistic environment. It also promotes the growth of local literature and culture by bringing the great wealth of literatures and cultures from foreign lands. Although researchers analyzed translation in different genres, literature such as short stories, novels and poems is more interesting in analyzing translation. This research investigated translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark according to the theory of Newmark (1988). *A Brother Like That* is one of the short stories from *A Chicken soup for the Soul* by Dan Clark.

The aim of this research is to analyze the translation methods used by Pe Myint in translating the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark. The objectives of the research are to explore the types of translation methods used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark based on the eight types of translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988), to find out which types of translation methods are the most frequently used and the least frequently used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark and to learn how the translator convey the intention of the short story in SL to the TL readers accurately.

According to the rationale, this research attempts to investigate the possible solutions of the following research questions:

- (1) What types of translation methods are used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark?
- (2) Which types of translation methods are the most and the least frequently used in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark?
- (3) How does the translator convey the intention of the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark in SL to the TL readers accurately?

This research consists of five chapters; introduction, literature review, research methodology, findings and discussion, and conclusion. The first chapter, introduction, presents background, aim and objectives and organization of the research. In the second chapter, literature review, biographies of the authors, synopsis of the short story, theoretical background and related researches are presented. In the third chapter, research methodology, a description of material and method, procedures for analyzing data, data collection and data analysis and data interpretation are presented. Findings and discussion follow as the fourth chapter. And, the last chapter of the research paper is conclusion which is followed by references and internet sources.

### **Literature Review**

In this research, biography of the authors, synopsis of the short story *A Brother Like That*, theoretical background and related researches are presented.

## **Biography of the Authors**

Information about the life of a literary author can be enormously helpful in understanding the values, characters, or themes of a literary work. Therefore, in this section, the biographies of the SL writer, Dan Clark, and the TL writer, Pe Myint, are presented.

### **Biography of the Author, Dan Clark**

Dan Clark was born on March 14, 1995, in Mesa, Arizona. He received a scholarship to play both football and baseball at the University of Utah, where he majored in psychology. Today, Clark is a professional motivational speaker, author, and the CEO of Clark Success Systems.

He has written twenty-one books. In 1983, he published his first book, *Getting High—How to Really Do It*. His third book, *One Minute Messages*, featured 250 original short stories, each just 24 lines long. Clark often gave away copies to people he met, asking only that they buy another copy to pass on to someone else. The book went on to sell over 150,000 copies.

Clark's innovative approach to promoting *One Minute Messages* caught the attention of Mark Hansen and Jack Canfield, co-creators of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. In 1993, Clark became a key contributor to the series, serving as both author and editor for its first twelve volumes. One of his most well-known stories, *A Brother Like That*, was featured in the collection.

His book *Chicken Soup for the College Soul* became a major success, reaching number two on the New York Times bestseller list in 1999, with over one million copies in print.

### **Biography of the Translator, Pe Myint**

Pe Myint was born on December 15, 1949, in Thandwe, Myanmar, to Aung Nyein and Khin Thein. He is of Rakhine ethnicity. Pe Myint is a Burmese politician, writer, and former Minister for Information of Myanmar.

He graduated from Thandwe State High School in 1966 and from the Institute of Medicine 1, Yangon, in 1975. He worked as a physician until 1988, after which he received journalism training at the Indochina Media Memorial Foundation in Bangkok.

Pe Myint has held various roles in the media and publishing sectors. He served as vice chairperson of the Myanmar Press Council, editor-in-chief of *The People's Age Journal*, and editor at both Sarpaylawka Book House and Myanmar Book Publishing House.

He is also a well-known writer. In 1995, he won the Myanmar National Literature Award for his book *Parts for Sale and Other Short Stories*. He has authored and translated over forty works, including fiction, non-fiction, and literary translations.

### **Synopsis of the Short Story *A Brother Like That***

Paul notices a street urchin who is astounding his new car given by his brother. Despite expecting envy, Paul is surprised because the boy wishes to be a brother like that. So, Paul gives the

boy and his polio-crippled brother a ride and the three of them begin a memorable holiday ride. On that Christmas Eve, Paul realizes that the true happiness comes from giving and understands the essence of Christmas.

### **Theoretical Background**

Newmark (1988) suggested that translation has its own excitement, its own interest. A satisfied translation is always possible, but a good translator is never satisfied with it. A translator is always trying to extend his knowledge and improve his means of expression. Moreover, translation has been instrumental in transmitting culture, sometimes under unequal conditions responsible for distorted and biased translations, ever since countries and languages have been in contact with each other. That translation is not merely a transmitter of culture, but also of the truth, a force for progress, could be instanced by following the course of resistance to Bible translation and the preservation of Latin as a superior language of the elect, with a consequent disincentive to translating between other languages.

Peter Newmark put translation method in the form of a flattened V diagram:

| <b>SL emphasis</b>        | <b>TL emphasis</b>        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Word-for-word translation | Adaptation                |
| Literal translation       | Free translation          |
| Faithful Translation      | Idiomatic translation     |
| Semantic translation      | Communicative translation |

### **Words-for-word translation**

This method is often shown through interlinear translation, where the target language (TL) is placed directly beneath the source language (SL) words. The original word order of the SL is retained, and each word is translated individually using its most common meaning, without regard for context. Cultural terms are translated literally. The primary purpose of word-for-word translation is to either grasp the structure of the source language or to interpret a complex text as a preliminary step before full translation.

### **Literal translation**

In literal translation, the grammatical structures of the source language (SL) are converted into their closest equivalents in the target language (TL), but lexical items are still translated individually and out of context.

### **Faithful translation**

A faithful translation strives to accurately convey the contextual meaning of the original text while remaining within the bounds of TL grammar. It transfers cultural elements and retains grammatical and lexical irregularities that exist in the SL. The goal is to be fully loyal to the author's original intent and style.

**Semantic translation**

Semantic translation is similar to faithful translation but places greater emphasis on the aesthetic aspects of the original text—such as sound, rhythm, and stylistic devices. It may slightly compromise meaning to preserve effects like assonance or wordplay, ensuring a smooth reading experience. While cultural terms may be rendered in neutral or functional equivalents, they are not replaced with culturally specific substitutes. Semantic translation allows for creative adjustments and reflects the translator's sensitivity to the original work, distinguishing it from the stricter approach of faithful translation.

**Adaptation**

Adaptation represents the most liberal form of translation. Commonly used for drama and poetry, it retains the themes, characters, and plots of the original but reworks the content to fit the cultural context of the TL. The SL culture is fully transformed into the TL culture. While the practice of literal translation followed by a rewrite from a dramatist or poet often results in poor adaptations, some have successfully revitalized older works for modern audiences.

**Free translation**

Free translation conveys the meaning of the original without preserving its form or style. It often takes the form of a lengthy paraphrase—technically an intralingual translation—that can become verbose and overly elaborate, straying far from true translation.

**Idiomatic translation**

Idiomatic translation captures the original message but may alter subtle meanings by using idioms and colloquial language not present in the source text.

**Communicative translation**

Communicative translation aims to convey the precise contextual meaning of the original in a way that is both clear and acceptable to the target audience, preserving both content and language intent.

**Related Researches**

Many researchers have analyzed translation in different ways. To provide a context to this research, the two related researches which have attempted to analyze translation are presented.

The first related research is *An Analysis of translation method used in the novel Earth translated by Gill Westaway* conducted by Nanda Rizki Ramadhan, Baharuddin and Lalu Ali Wardana from University Mataram in 2021. This research aims to find what kind of translation methods that are applied to the novel *Earth*. Peter Newmark's translation method was used. In their research, a qualitative descriptive study was used. In their research, the researchers found that the translator

successfully navigates linguistic, cultural, and literary challenges by selecting the most effective and appropriate translation methods for the source text.

The second related research is *The Translation Methods Used by Zaw Tun in Translating the Poem “ပန်းပန်လျက်ပဲ” by Sayar Zawgyi* conducted by Zaw Win Khaing and Pyae Phyo from Yadanabon University in 2022. Their aim is studying the translation methods used by Zaw Tun in translating Sayar Zawgyi’s poem “ပန်းပန်လျက်ပဲ”. The objectives are exploring the translation methods used by Zaw Tun and investigating the most dominant translation methods used by Zaw Tun in translating the poem “ပန်းပန်လျက်ပဲ” by Sayar Zawgyi and finding out the significant use of translation methods in conveying the meaning from SL (source language) to TL (target language). They used the translation methods of Newmark (1988). After analyzing the data, it was found that the adaptation translation method is used most frequently, while idiomatic and free translation methods are used the least. The translator does not employ the word-for-word or literal translation methods at all. As a result, the findings of this research indicate that Zaw Tun’s translated poems are able to preserve the original meaning effectively.

### Research Methodology

In this research, a description of material and method, procedures for analyzing data, data collection and data analysis and data interpretation are presented.

The material of this research is the translation of the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark into အဲသည်လို အစ်ကိုမျိုး extracted from နှလုံးသားအာဟာရ (ရသစာများ) by Pe Myint. This research is based on the theory of Newmark (1988). The original sentences and their translations were collected and numbered. The short story *A Brother Like That* is studied by investigating sentence by sentence to find out the translation methods used by Pe Myint. After that, the eight types of translation methods are classified according to the theory proposed by Newmark (1988).

### Data Collection and Data Analysis

The sample analysis of translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark is shown in Table 1. In classifying the translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story, the following coding systems are used.

| Coding | Types of translation      | Coding | Types of translation      |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| WT     | Word-for-word Translation | A      | Adaption                  |
| LT     | Literal Translation       | FrT    | Free Translation          |
| FaT    | Faithful Translation      | IT     | Idiomatic Translation     |
| ST     | Semantic Translation      | CT     | Communicative Translation |

**Table 1: Sample Data Analysis of translation methods in the short story*****A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark**

| Sr. No. | St. No. | Original Sentences and Their Translations in Myanmar                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Types of Translation |        |             |        |   |             |        |        |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------|--------|---|-------------|--------|--------|
|         |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | W<br>T               | L<br>T | F<br>a<br>T | S<br>T | A | F<br>r<br>T | I<br>T | C<br>T |
| 1       | 2       | On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it.<br>ခရစ္စမတ်အကြိုနေ့မှာ သူ့ရုံးခန်းက ထွက်လာတော့ လမ်းဘေးမှာ ကောင်လေးတစ်ယောက်က တောက်ပသော သူ့ကားသစ်ကြီးကို သဘောကျစွာ လှည့်ပတ်ကြည့်နေတာ မြင်ရသည်။ |                      |        |             | √      |   |             |        |        |
| 2       | 3-4     | Is this your car, mister? he asked. The boy looked astounded.<br>ကြည့်ရုံနှင့် အားမရသေးဟန်ဖြင့် ကောင်လေးက မေးသည်။<br>တဲ့။ ”ဒါ အစ်ကိုကားလား“                                                                                                                         |                      |        |             |        |   |             |        | √      |
| 3       | 5       | Paul nodded.<br>ပေါလ်က ခေါင်းညိတ်ပြီး                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | √                    |        |             |        |   |             |        |        |
| 4       | 10      | He was going to wish he had a brother like that.<br>သူ့မှာလည်း အဲဒီလို အစ်ကိုမျိုး တစ်ယောက်ရပါစေလို့ ဆုတောင်းမှာပဲပေါ့.....                                                                                                                                         |                      |        | √           |        |   |             |        |        |
| 5       | 18      | He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile.<br>သူ့ကားသစ်ကြီးစီးပြီး အိမ်ပြန်လာတာ အိမ်နားနီးချင်းတွေကို ကြွားချင်ပုံပဲ။                                                                                                             |                      |        |             |        | √ |             |        |        |
| 6       | 19      | But Paul was wrong again.<br>သို့သော် သည်တစ်ခါလည်း ပေါလ်မှားပြန်ပါသည်။                                                                                                                                                                                              |                      | √      |             |        |   |             |        |        |
| 7       | 23      | He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother.<br>သူက ကလေးတစ်ယောက်ကို ချီယူလာခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။<br>ခြေမသန်သော သူညီလေး။                                                                                                                                               |                      |        |             |        |   | √           |        |        |

### Sample Data Interpretation

The following are the sample data interpretations of the collected data in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark according to the theory of Newmark (1988).

1. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. (Sentence No.2)

ခရစ္စမတ်အကြိုနေ့မှာ သူ့ရုံးခန်းက ထွက်လာတော့ လမ်းဘေးမှာ ကောင်လေးတစ်ယောက်က တောက်ပသော သူ့ကားသစ်ကြီးကို သဘောကျစွာ လှည့်ပတ်ကြည့်နေတာ မြင်ရသည်။

The target language writer translated the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. And, the original phrase *a street urchin* was translated into လမ်းဘေးမှာ ကောင်လေးတစ်ယောက်က because the translator used small concessions to the readership with his creation. Moreover, the expression *မြင်ရသည်* is added in the target language as his creation without being dogmatic the source text. Therefore, semantic translation is used in this sentence.

2. Is this your car, mister? he asked. The boy looked astounded. (Sentence No.3-4)

ကြည့်ရုံနှင့် အားမရသေးဟန်ဖြင့် ကောင်လေးက မေးသည်။ တဲ့။ ”ဒါ အစ်ကိုကားလား“

In these sentences, the TL writer translated *mister* into *အစ်ကို* and *The boy looked astounded* into *ကြည့်ရုံနှင့် အားမရသေးဟန်ဖြင့်* by making TL readers acceptable and comprehensible the SL text. Since the translator conveyed the exact contextual meaning of the original in a manner that makes both the content and language easily accessible and understandable to the readers, the communicative translation method was employed.

3. Paul nodded. (Sentence No.5)

ပေါလ်က ခေါင်းညိတ်ပြီး

The translator used the interlinear translation method, placing the target language directly beneath the source language words. The source text's word order was preserved, and each word was translated individually using its most common meaning, without considering the context. Therefore, the method applied in this sentence is word-for-word translation.

4. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. (Sentence No.10)

သူ့မှာလည်း အဲဒီလို အစ်ကိုမျိုး တစ်ယောက်ရပါစေလို့ ဆုတောင်းမှာပဲပေါ့.....

The TL writer reproduced the accurate contextual meaning of the original within the limitations of the TL grammatical structures. Moreover, he attempted to be totally faithful to the purpose and the text-realization of the SL writer. Thus, faithful translation is used in this sentence.

5. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. (Sentence No.18)

သူ့ကားသစ်ကြီးစီးပြီး အိမ်ပြန်လာတာ အိမ်နားနီးချင်းတွေကို ကြွားချင်ပုံပဲ။



The TL writer translated *He wanted to show his neighbors* into အိမ်နားနီးချင်းတွေကို ကြွားချင်ပုံပဲ by omitting *He* and *his* and *wanted to show* into ကြွားချင်ပုံပဲ freely. And, *that he could ride home in a big automobile* is translated သူ့ကားသစ်ကြီးစီးပြီး အိမ်ပြန်လာတာ by omitting the subject *he* and adding the meaning of possessive pronoun သူ့ and new သစ်. Although the translator used the freest form of translation, the character of the original sentence was preserved. Thus, Adaption is used in this sentence.

6. But Paul was wrong again. (Sentence No.19)

သို့သော် သည်တစ်ခါလည်း ပေါလ်မှားပြန်ပါသည်။

In this sentence, the translator converted the SL grammatical constructions to their nearest TL equivalents but translated the lexical words singly, out of context. Therefore, the method used in this sentence is literal translation.

7. He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. (Sentence No.23)

သူက ကလေးတစ်ယောက်ကို ချီယူလာခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။ ခြေမသန်သော သူ့ညီလေး။

In this sentence, the translator reproduced the content without the form of the original. And, the target language is a little longer than the original because it is pretentious with an extra word ကလေးတစ်ယောက်. Therefore, the method used in this sentence is free translation.

### Findings and Discussion

In this chapter, findings and discussion is presented. This research focused on analyzing the translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark. The data are classified according to the theory of Newmark (1988). The frequencies and percentages of the translation methods found in the short story *A Brother Like That* are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: The frequencies and percentages of the translation methods found in the short story *A Brother Like That*

| Sr. No. | Methods | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1       | WT      | 1         | 4%         |
| 2       | LT      | 2         | 7%         |
| 3       | FaT     | 1         | 4%         |
| 4       | ST      | 4         | 15%        |
| 5       | A       | 5         | 18%        |
| 6       | FrT     | 3         | 11%        |
| 7       | IT      | 0         | 0%         |
| 8       | CT      | 11        | 41%        |
| Total   |         | 27        | 100%       |

Communicative translation is the most frequently used and word-for-word translation and faithful translation are the least frequently used in the short story *A Brother Like That* while idiomatic translation is not used at all.

According to the results, it was learned that the translator conveyed the intention of the short story in SL to the TL readers' heart by using communicative translation mostly throughout the short story so that the readers in TL can participate and feel from the place of characters. Communicative translation aims to convey the precise contextual meaning of the original text in a manner that makes both the content and language easily acceptable and understandable to the target audience. In reading, we cannot isolate the intention of the text from understanding it. The intention of the short story *A Brother Like That* is the beauty of giving and love. Additionally, the translator's intention is usually identical with that of the author of the SL-text. The SL author did not use complex words. Hence, the translator did not need to use idiomatic translation at all. In the original sentence numbers 7 and 8, *You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Gosh, I wish...*, the translator translated into ဟာ..... ခင်ဗျားအစ်ကိုက ခင်ဗျားကို အလကားပေးတာဟုတ်လား၊ ခင်ဗျား..... ဆိုပြီး.....ကျွန်တော်သာ ဆုတောင်းလို့ရမယ်ဆိုရင်...ပိုက်ဆံတစ်ပြားမှ မကုန်ဘူးပေါ့၊ ဟာဗျာ by using communicative translation to help the readers acceptable and comprehensible the intention of the text. Therefore, the TL readers may hear the character's voice and feel the character's mind-set. The TL readers can understand the intention of the short story which the SL writer want to express. And, the character Paul's though, *He was going to wish he had a brother like that* in the original sentence number 10, was translated into သူ့မှာလည်း အဲဒီလို အစ်ကိုမျိုး တစ်ယောက်ရပါစေလို့ ဆုတောင်းမှာပဲပေါ့.....by using faithful translation because the translator attempted to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realization of the SL writer within the constraints of the TL grammatical structure. Gradually, the intention of the short story passed to the heart of the TL readers. Moreover, the TL writer reproduced *I wish, the boy went on, that I could be a brother like that* in sentence no.12 into တဲ့ "ကျွန်တော် အဲဒီလို အစ်ကိုမျိုး ဖြစ်ချင်လိုက်တာဗျာ" by using communicative translation. The TL writer omitted *the boy went on* to translate not to hidden the intention of the sentence. Rendering the exact contextual meaning of the original, he translated the content and language to be acceptable and comprehensible to the readers. Therefore, the TL readers can understand the heart of the short story. And, the TL readers can know the essence of the title *A Brother Like That*, အဲသည်လို အစ်ကိုမျိုး, more visibly. Furthermore, *That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said, "It is more blessed to give..."* in sentence no.29 was translated into အထူးသဖြင့် ပေါလ်အဖို့ သင်ခန်းစာတစ်ခု မှတ်မှတ်သားသား ရခဲ့သည်။ ယူရခြင်းအရသာထက် ပေးရခြင်းကြောင့်ဖြစ်သော ပီတိက ပို၍ နှစ်သက်ဖွယ် ချိုမြိန်လှ၏ .....ဟူသော အသိတရား by using free translation that reproduces the matter without manner and the content without the form of the original and much longer paraphrase than the original

so that the TL readers can learn the moral lesson, the beauty of giving and love, more vividly. Therefore, the translator can convey the intention of the short story *A Brother Like That* to the TL readers with his powerful translation methods.

### Conclusion

The conclusion of this research is to analyze translation methods used by Pe Myint in the short story *A Brother Like That* by Dan Clark based on the eight types of translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988). While word-for-word translation and faithful translation are the least frequently used, communicative translation is the most frequently used in the short story *A Brother Like That*. However, idiomatic translation is not used at all. From the findings, it is shown that the translator can convey the intention of the short story *A Brother Like That* to the TL readers because of his effective translation method and powerful and beautiful TL word choices.

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