Domestication and Foreignization Strategies in two Persian Translations of Hajji Baba Esfahani: A Case of Culture - Specific Items

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This study aimed to investigate domestication and foreignization strategies applied to culture-specific items in two Persian translations of 'The Adventures of Hajji Baba Esfahani'. Mirza Habib's and Afshar's translations of Hajji Baba belong to different points in Iran translation history. Accordingly, investigating their translation tendencies towards domestication and foreignization can reveal the possible shift in Persian translation after about 100 years. 'The Adventures of Hajji Baba Esfahani' by James Morier along with its two translations were selected as the material of the study. Venuti's (1995) theory of domestication and foreignization formed the main theoretical framework of the research. However, Newmark's (1988) translation strategies were applied to operationalize Venuti's theory. Through a sentence-by-sentence contrasting each ST-TT pair of the corpus of the research, instances of CSIs, as the unit of translation, were detected to be analyzed and categorized. The applied translation strategy to each CSI was investigated and grouped into domestication or foreignization category. The application frequency of domestication and foreignization strategies showed that domestication has been the most pervasive translation method in both renderings of Hajji Baba. However, Afshar's translation was much more foreignized than Mirza Habib's. In other words, Mirza Habib has been more willing to domesticate the ST in a way that some scholars have regarded his work as a pseudotranslation. The result
of this study revealed that, domestication is still the most pervasive translation method; however, an increasing inclination towards foreignizing translation is an undeniable fact of Persian translation.