A Comparative Study of Two Persian Translations of Colloquial Expressions as a Feature of Salinger's Style in The Catcher in the Rye

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Regarding the fact that style is defined as the writer's use of language, a close study of language and its formality scale seems to be inevitable. Colloquial language is one of language levels that might be used by the author as a stylistic device. This study was an attempt to examine the translation of colloquial language from English into Persian and the strategies used by translators in translating such language. To do so, firstly the colloquial expressions in the original English book The Catcher in the Rye (Salinger, 1951) and its two Persian versions were identified, classified, and tabulated. Afterwards, the strategies applied by the translators were determined, and the frequencies of the different strategies were numerated to see which strategies had higher frequency in the translation of colloquial language and what the effect of each strategy in this translation was. To evaluate these 2 translations, a questionnaire containing 20 samples of the 3 books were presented to 10 readers. Comparing the results of the questionnaire and the analysis of the data shed more light on the fact that the strategies of maintenance and use of colloquial expression of the target language lead to a better translation and the strategies like omission and neutralizing strategies lead to loosing the informal aspects of the text and cause neutralizing of the text as a whole. In addition to the colloquial expressions in general, the researcher also focused on the fillers and catch phrases as a subpart of colloquial
expressions in particular. Therefore, the frequency of the strategies used by the Persian translators of this book in the translation of the fillers and catch phrases were also computed to see how translators deal with repeated expressions and how the style and content was affected. The analysis of the data indicated that repetition as one of colloquial stylistic aspects of the text is lost using the strategies of repetition cancelling and omission translating it.