

# Translation Strategies from English Language to Thai Language in the Novel ‘The Wizard of Oz’

Received: May 26, 2020  
Revised: June 17, 2020  
Accepted: June 17, 2020

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## Abstract

The objectives of this study were to analyze the translation strategies from English Language to Thai Language in Novel ‘The Wizard of Oz’ by using Baker's taxonomy as a framework to categorize and divide the translations into eight strategies. Findings showed that seven of eight Baker's translation strategies were founded in the novel which were translation by cultural substitution, translation by a more general word, translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by omission using related word, translation by paraphrase using related word, and translation by paraphrase using unrelated words. The frequency of translation strategies used showed that translation by cultural substitution (57.07%) was mostly found in translation from English language to Thai language in the novel The Wizard of Oz’.

**Keywords:** Translation, Translation Strategy, Novel Translation

## Introduction

Translation plays a significant role in English as foreign language (EFL) learners. Many books, media, and online texts are written or published in the English language. To access, understand, obtain the idea, or learning

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through texts, learners may need to select a suitable text of their level and learners also require translation skills to use as a tool or to translate English texts into Thai language.

To conduct the translation, learners or translators should know the basics of translation. Begin with the meaning of translation, Nida's (1969) perspective translation is the Translating that occurs by reproducing in the target language with the closest equivalent of the source-language text with natural use, first in meaning and second in style. However, the statement requires careful evaluation of several seemingly contradictory elements. Newmark (1981) gives the meaning of the translation refers to a construction of words that attempt to replace the message in one language by the equal message in another language. Also, Chambell (1998) stated that translation is the alternative of from in the first language to the second language consist by the method of writing or speaking. To summary, translation mainly focuses on transferring source language to target language with equivalence in meaning by changing, replacing, recreating words or form, and avoiding inequivalent meaning.

Additionally, Saibua (1982) was categorized the types of translation into two groups. The first group of translation type is literal translation which can be divided into three types as word for word translation, literal translation, and non-literal translation. Second group of translation type is free translation which focusing on communicative aspect or for understanding.

To cope with translation, Baker (1992) mentioned about the model of translation strategy that used by professional translators, to deal with the problems in translation tasks and he categorized the translation strategies into eight types that called "Baker's taxonomy". Baker's taxonomy contained with eight translation strategies which were translation by a more general word, translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, translation by cultural

substitution, translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by paraphrase using the related word, translation by paraphrase using unrelated words, translation by omission, and translation by illustration.

To supported Baker's translation strategy, Saputriyani (2018), Amos (2020), Angelina, Riadi, and Thennoza (2020) was conducted the research that study and classify translation strategy in the individual novel by using Baker's translation strategy as a framework. The result of each study also showed different strategies used in novel. The gap of each research may interpret as the style of translating and the type of individual book.

In Thai context, English language may be difficult for learners to understand because, in daily life, English language is used in school and used in specific jobs. Some learners may not understand English texts, so the tool that they always used for solving the problems of translating the texts may be translate programs on computer or mobile applications or called machine translation (MT) but learners may not aware of translation problems from using translate program on the computer or mobile applications.

To improve their English language and to aid the problem, one of the most popular method of learning English language through texts is learning by reading English learning novel which may provide the entertainment and language learning at the same time. One of the famous English learning novels is "The Wizard of Oz", the novel had been translated over 60 languages and published in many types of media such as depicted books with a short story, simplified versions novel books, E-books in a mobile application, stage play, and English learning books. The story gave the idea of human power that characters in the story already got the power but they were not confident. After they became more confident, they changed themselves to what they wanted to be and achieved their goal at the end.

To obtain more benefit, prevent mistakes in translation, and to make learners aware of using too much machine translation, using translation strategies through English learning novel is one of methods that could help learners to translate the texts instead of using MT which may cause translation problems. To make clear of the picture and to explore in translation strategy use in the individual novel, this study selected the novel 'The Wizard of Oz' which is language learning novel with a good moral and idea in the story but the translation strategy used in the novel still unclear. To aid this gap, this study demonstrated the translation strategies and frequency of translation use in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz' in translated Thai version by using Baker's taxonomy or Baker's translation strategies as a tool.

## **Objectives of Research**

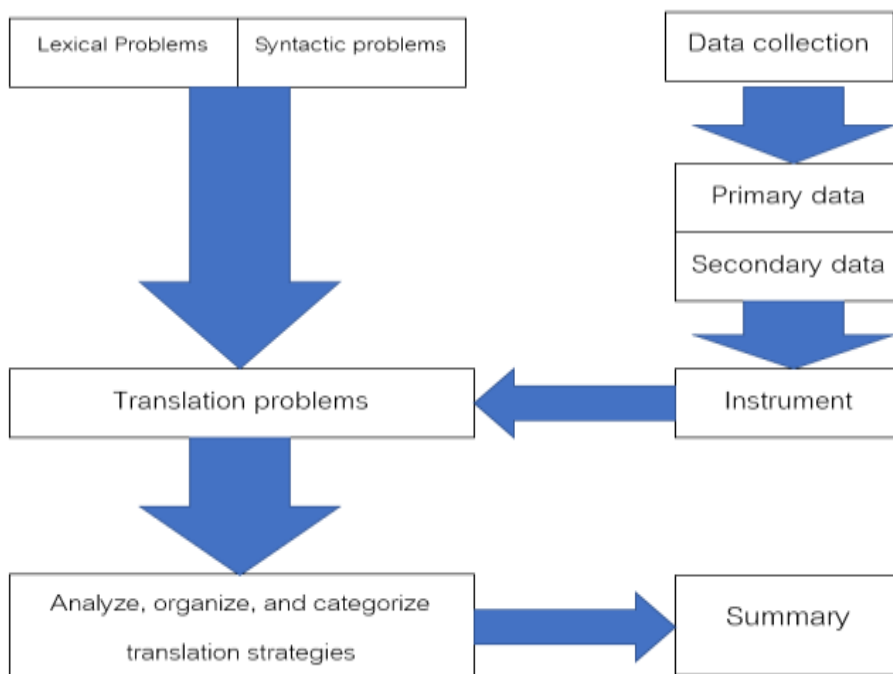
1. To investigate the translation strategies which were used in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz'
2. To investigate the frequency of translation strategies used in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz'

## **Research Methodology**

### **Research Design**

Mixed method was used in this study which obtained the qualitative data and the quantitative data from novel 'The Wizard of Oz' in English language and translated Thai language. The qualitative data was gained by studying related research, documentary paper, online searching, and library to extract the basic knowledge of translation, translation problems, translation strategies, framework, ideas, and theories. The quantitative data was obtained by using Baker's translation strategies which was obtained and developed from the qualitative data as the instrument to organize and

categorize the translation strategies used in the novel to illustrate the frequency of translation strategies usage.



*Figure 1* Research design

### Research Tool

Baker's taxonomy (2011) which contained with eight translation strategies, translation by a more general word (ST1), translation by a more neutral/less expressive word (ST2), translation by cultural substitution (ST3), translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation (ST4), translation by paraphrase using related word (ST5), translation by paraphrase using unrelated words (ST6), translation by omission (ST7), translation by illustration (ST8). Baker's taxonomy was used to develop into the research instrument, or translation strategies table or categorizer, which used to organize and categorize the translation strategies and illustrated the frequent of each strategy used in novel in each chapter. After illustrated the use and frequent of each strategy used in novel, the result was interpreted by content analysis and presented as the study.

## Results of Research

Baker's translation strategies which were found in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz' was demonstrated as followed, translation by cultural substitution (57.07%), translation by a more general word (25%), translation by a more neutral/less expressive word (6.55%), translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation (5.17%), translation by omission using related word (2.93%), translation by paraphrase using related word (2.59%), translation by paraphrase using unrelated words (0.69%), and the last, translation by illustration which was not found in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz'.

	ST1	ST2	ST3	ST4	ST5	ST6	ST7	ST8
<b>Total</b>	145	38	331	30	15	4	17	0
<b>Percentage</b>	25%	6.55%	57.07%	5.17%	2.59%	0.69%	2.93%	0%

*Figure 2* The frequency of eight of Baker's translation strategies used in "The Wizard of Oz"

## Conclusion and Discussion

### Finding result of translation strategies found in the novel

To answer the first research question and concerning about the initial objective, the study found that seven of translation strategies were employed in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz' which the translator used in the translation. The seven strategies were translation by a more general word (ST1), translation by a more neutral/less expressive word (ST2), translation by cultural substitution (ST3), translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation (ST4), translation by paraphrase using related word (ST5), Translation by paraphrase using unrelated words (ST6), and Translation by omission (ST7).

### **Finding result of used translation strategies in the novel**

The second research question and the secondary objective, the strategies that were most used in translating ‘The Wizard of Oz’ was translation by cultural substitution that were 57.07% of the total of strategies frequency. The strategy translation by cultural substitution which could be done by replacing the culture-specific item with a target language item that does not have the same propositional meaning but likely to have a similar impact. Then followed by, translation by a more general word at 25%. Next was the strategy translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, 6.55%, and translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, 5.17%. Followed by Translation by omission, 2.93%, and translation by paraphrase using related word at 2.59%. The last one was translation by paraphrase using unrelated words which was 0.69%.

From the investigation on translation strategies used in ‘The Wizard of Oz’, the result represented seven of Baker’s translation strategies which were translation by a more general word, translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, translation by cultural substitution, translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by paraphrase using related word, translation by paraphrase using unrelated words, and translation by omission was found in the novel. The finding was supported the study of Roekmongkhonwit (2006), Khongbumpen, (2008), MungChomklang (2009), and Wachananan (2015) as that seven of Baker’s translation strategies could be founded in translation work.

Translation by cultural substitution was founded at 57.07%. The strategy was used by translator when translation between the source language and the target language have their own specific word that can be used to explain, express, and give a clear picture to readers in another

context. For example, the English word “how do you do?” which is a greeting word that people used to say when meeting someone at the first time but in the Thai language there was no word that uses for greeting someone at the first time so the translator has to use the word “สบายดีหรือ” which presents a greeting but may not presents the meaning in meeting at the first time. The finding was supported Pokasumrit (2012) and Amos (2020) result that translation by cultural substitution gave a meaning by replacing the source cultural item with the target cultural such as, name, animal, item, religion, time, location, food, interjection, proverb, and idiom that readers could understand the meaning, tone of language, and picture.

The second, translation by a more general word at 25%. For this strategy, the translator used when encounter with a word that literal translation cannot give the natural use of Thai language in translation so translator have to translate differently by using more easy word. For example, the English word “white in your frock” the word “frock” is a dress worn in by women but in Thai context readers may not know about frock so the translator uses the word “ชุด” which was more common word that the meaning presents as a cloth that people wear. This finding was supported Suksalee (2018) study that gave the idea of translation by a more general word in similes as a comparison of images between the source language and the target language which translated by a superordinated.

Next is strategy translation by a more neutral/less expressive word at 6.55%, The translator used this strategy to deal with translation words that keep the natural or tone of words in the Thai language. For example, the English word “wasted” which means to not make good or full use of something translated into Thai word “ไร้ผล” which means useless. The result was supported Widiyanto (2014) and Angelina, Riadi, and Thennoza (2020)



results of studies that translation by a more neutral/less expressive word was used to deliver the meaning which suitable in situation or context from the source language to target language.

One of the strategies that was used to deal with translating the items that did not exist in the Thai context is translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation which was found at 5.17%. For example, the English word “daisies and buttercups”, daisy and buttercup are a type of flower growing in the western region so Thai reader may not know about it because these flowers were not existing in Thai. The translator translated by using loan word which presented the direct name of the item and translated as “ดอกเดซี่ กับดอกบัตเตอร์คัพ”. The result also supported Widiyanto (2014) and Angelina, Riadi, and Thennoza (2020) studies that represented the idea of translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation as the strategy were used when encounter with unfamiliar word from the source language, the translator needed to modified or categorized the sentence to make the meaning clear or translated into a common word or paraphrase by using related word.

The strategy that omitted the word but still kept the meaning of the translated language is translation by omission at 2.93%. The translator used this strategy to reduce the words use in translation or make the translation more natural in the target language. For example, “the house passed and nothing terrible happen.” The translator translated this sentence as “แต่หลายชั่วโมงผ่านไปก็ไม่มีอะไรเกิดขึ้น” which the word “terrible” or in Thai language “เลวร้าย” was omitted but the word didn’t cause inequivalence in translation. This result of translation by omission in ‘The Wizard of Oz’ was supported by Wachananan (2015) and Saputriyani (2018) studies that the results gave the idea in translation by omission as there were a various type of omission such as omission of noun or noun phrase, subject pronouns, objective pronouns, filler words, adjective, adverbs, prepositional phrase, repeated words, and coordinating conjunction.

Next, translation by paraphrase using related word at 2.59%. This strategy was used by changing or rearrange the words or made a new sentence but still kept the range of word to keep the meaning and the idea of the original sentence. For example, in the English word “With one blow of his paw” the translator didn’t use direct translation but recreated a new message that used the related word as “มันเอาอุ้งเท้าฟาด” to kept the meaning and picture. This finding also supported by Thhappang (2013) study that gave the idea of translation by paraphrase using related word as the transfer of meaning which focusing on the target context used that people in context could be understand the meaning.

The last one was paraphrase using unrelated words which at 0.69%, This strategy was used by changing or rearrange the word or make a new sentence that may help readers to understand the idea or picture but didn’t keep the range of words. For example, the English sentence “then another crow dies at him, and the Scarecrow twisted its neck also” the translator got rid of this problem by using this strategy to recreate a new sentence “เมื่อมีกาอีกตัวบินเข้ามา หุ่นไล่กา ก็หักคอมันอีก” which changed some of the words to make it easier to understand in the target language. The result was supported by Treetrapetch, Tipayasuparat, and Webb (2017)’ study that mentioned about paraphrase using unrelated words as the strategy was found in hostile and scatological humor and the strategy was used in common sentence in a manner similar to formal equivalence. However, the translator needed to aware of translating by literal to avoid the unnaturalness of language. To make sure that humor, flavor, and emotion from the source language was effectively transferred to readers the method paraphrase using unrelated words is the one translator could use.

However, there was other translation strategies that were found in ‘The Wizard of Oz’, for example, literal translation which showed that even English context and Thai context was different but some words that using in daily life activities may match and can be translated directly from English language to Thai language, and free translation which translator used when encounter with complex style of writing so translator was given the priority in translation to make it easier to understand by Thai readers. Krai-on (2013)’s study was supported this point by mentioned that the translator may use many techniques, translation strategies and mixed translation strategy as a tool to deal with translation work.

Although Baker’s translation strategies may use in a various type of medias but the frequency of each strategy use may different in individual work. This point was supported by Roekmongkhonwit (2006), Khongbumpen, (2008), MungChomklang (2009), Wachananan (2015), Amos (2020), and Angelina, Riadi, and Thennoza (2020) studies which the result of frequent use of translation strategies were different that two of studies result presented that translation strategies used was translation by omission was mostly used but another study showed that translation by paraphrase using a related word was mostly used.

For this study, translation by cultural substitution was mostly found at 57.07%. The result was supported by Krai-on (2013) and Amos (2020) that mentioned about the translation by cultural substitution as translator need to give priority to the target language first to make reader understand and also kept the tone and beautiful wording that present the source language cultural context. This may imply that in ‘The Wizard of Oz’, the English language and Thai language have their own specific word that can be used to explain, express, and give a clear picture to readers in another context.

The finding of the study illustrated seven of Baker's translation strategies used in the novel 'The Wizard of Oz' which were translation by a more general word, translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, translation by cultural substitution, translation using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by paraphrase using related word, translation by paraphrase using unrelated words, and translation by omission. Each of the strategies founded were supported by the related study result which gave the idea of translation strategies used or the suitable situation to use the translation strategies. However, one of Baker's translation strategy, translate by illustration, was not found in this study.

The most frequency of translation strategies use was translation by cultural substitution which translator try to transfer the English language text to Thai language text by focusing on target language or Thai language as first priority to make readers understand the meaning and picture or to make the item matched with Thai context by replacing English language with Thai specific word or cultural word that Thai people used in a daily life.

## **New body of knowledge**

The study may provide the frequency of translation strategies used in the novel "The Wizard of Oz" and the guide of translation strategies used in translating English language in novel "The Wizard of Oz" to Thai language as a knowledge.

The frequency of translation strategies used showed that Baker's translation strategies may supported with the novel "The Wizard of Oz" because seven of strategies were found in the novel. If learners or readers looked carefully into the translation in the novel, each of strategy was used by translator to deal with the translation problem in different situations so learners may learn how to use each of translation strategy in the individual situation.

The finding also illustrated the translation by cultural substitution which was most used in translating. This may give learners or translators a guide when translating novel from the English language to the Thai language and remind learners or translators to focus on target language as the first priority. To replace the specific item in source language with specific target item, learners or translators need to research on source item first, then carefully translated into target item in order to give a clear picture and understanding to target readers.

Additionally, the implication of the study may use in the classroom context or in translation classroom. For teacher, the study may be use as a guide of translation strategies to translate novel, to translate other texts, to deal with the translation problems, and may be use as teaching material. For students or learners, translation strategies may obtain the idea by learning translation in classroom or encounter with the individual situation.

## Suggestions for Research

### Suggestions for the further studies

1. Studying translation strategies in the proper name of Peter Newmark (1988) that were found in the literary works. The frequency of translation strategies will be divided from the results of the latest study. Readers, learners, translators can learn translation strategies to improve their English and Thai translation skills.

2. Exploring strategies found in translating English in new era media such as movie, animation, E-book, website, video on Youtube ,and game which has the English language and the translated Thai language option or subtitle. This interest will be beneficial for people who learning English language through the entertainment media.

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