

# POINT TO INQUIRY INTO PSYCHOLOGY TRANSLATION OF CATFORD'S THEORY OF SHIFTING

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed at evaluating Catford's shift strategies as the most fundamental aspects of translating psychology text *When Nietzsche Wept* by Irvin D. Yalom to examine the inevitability of resorting to translation shifts that preserve the meaning and effect of the source text. The main objectives of the study consist of identifying various types of shifts applied in the Persian translation of the following novel that displays the relationship between psychology and translation according to Catford's theory. For the purpose of this study, it will be a corpus-assisted study where a descriptive-analytical methodology was carried out on the novel. Catford's shift theory constitutes level shift and category shift that falls under four types; structure, class, unit, and intra-system shift. The researcher read the novel to detect instances of level shift and category shift. For this purpose, the research consists of the original text and translated book and the type of Catford's model. To conduct the analysis, first a sample covering selected, then analyzed them based on the current strategies to compare the source text with the target text.

## Keywords

Catford's theory, Level shift, Category shift.

## 1. Introduction

It is perceptibly authentic that translation is significant to disseminate information between diverse cultures and people of different backgrounds that enables either addressee or addresser to send and to receive data and to achieve successful communication. In this line of assumption, a good translation reproduces the form as well as the content of the original that will depend on a range of factors, notably the compatibility of the [source language](#) and the [target language](#), the nature of the original speech or text, and the purpose of the translation by taking into two accounts cultural and territorial versatility between source and target languages. The most faithful translators require a high degree of understanding of the target culture and of themselves. Self-understanding means that the translator is aware of the subjective psychological factors that affect their translation. After all, psychology translation is the bridge that transmits information between two cultures. Psychology translators interact with two versions of reality, two different reference points. To truly understand a language, one must understand its culture. The best translators, therefore, understand the source culture and their own, target culture. However, understanding is a subjective psychological process. Catford (1995, p. 73) defines translation shift as the departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL. The translation is also "the replacement of textual

material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)" (Catford, 1995, p. 20). As far as translation shifts are concerned, the shift occurs when there is no formal correspondence to the syntactic item to be translated and translating a text from SL to TL by concerning some adaptations namely structural adaptation which causes the shift of form and semantic adaptation which causes the shift of meaning (Nida & Taber, 1982, p. 105). In this study, the researcher applied Catford's types of translation shifts, i.e. level shifts, and category shifts, to analyze *When Nietzsche Wept* by Irvin D. Yalom from English into Persian. The researcher aimed at determining the types of translation shifts applied to resolve the linguistic differences between English and Persian.

## 2. Translation Shift Approach

### 2.1 Catford's Model

Catford introduced his typology of translation shifts In his book named *A Linguistic Theory to Translation* (1965), which was his main contribution in the field of translation theory. For such contribution, Catford is reputed as the 'Father of Translation Shifts'. Catford introduces the concepts of translation shift as the major contribution in the field of translation theory is the introduction of the concepts of translation shift. Catford has proposed very broad types of translation in terms of three criteria:

1. The extent of translation (full translation vs partial translation).
2. The grammatical rank at which the translation equivalence is established (rank-bound translation vs. unbounded translation).
3. The levels of language involved in translation (total translation vs. restricted translation) (1978, p. 21).

Catford argues that translation shifts are classified into two greater types, namely level shifts, where the SL item at one linguistic level (e.g. grammar) has a TL parallel at a different level (e.g. lexis), and category shifts that is the departure of formal correspondence which are divided into four categories namely structure shifts, unit shifts, class shifts, and intra-system shifts (Catford, 1965, p. 76).

#### 2.1.1 Level Shift

Level shifts as the changes that take place when "an SL item at one linguistic level has a TL equivalent at a different level;" i.e., grammar in the source (1965). language is declared using a word in the target language or vice versa. It is also called rank shift.

##### 2.1.1.1 Shifts from Grammar to Lexis

This subcategory of level shifts constitutes a change from a grammatical item in the ST to a lexical item (i.e. word) in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 1 Grammar to Lexis Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	Level shift
Example 1	"I will wait. You will always be the <u>only</u> man in my life." (p.1)	من صبر می کنم. شما تنها مرد زندگی من خواهید بود. (ص.24)	Level shift

Comment\_ In example 1 can be seen an optional level shift from grammar to lexis. The change English word (always) which is an adverb, into the Persian word (تنها) to emphasize and show the importance of the sentence.

##### 2.1.1.2 Shifts from lexis to Grammar

This subcategory of level shifts constitutes a change from a lexical item (word) in the ST to a grammatical item (i.e. part of the linguistic structure) in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 2 Lexis to Grammar Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	Level shift
Example 2	Breuer <u>nodded</u> to the waiter, a lad of thirteen or fourteen with wet black hair-brushed sleekly back.	برویر سری به نشانه ی تایید برای پیش خدمت تکان داد. او پسری بود سیزده چهارده ساله با موهای سیاه و براق که	Level shift

	(p.1)	به عقب شانه شده بود. (ص.23)	
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Comment\_ In the above example, there is a level shift from lexis to grammar. The lexical item (nodded) in the ST was translated into a grammatical item in the TT, which is the underline in (سری به نشانه ی تایید). This is because the word (nodded), which is the translation of the word (سری به (نشانه-ی تایید). This shift was optional because make a suitable meaning instead of repeating the word it refers to.

#### 2.1.2 Category Shift

The other type of Catford's translation shift is category shifts. It refers to the departure of formal correspondence which is subdivided into four categories namely:

##### 2.1.2.1 Structure Shifts

Structure shifts are defined by Catford (1965) as the changes in the grammatical structure of a sentence at any linguistic rank (i.e., phrases, clauses, and sentences). Structure shifts can be changes in word order, nominal-verbal sentence structure, and passive-active voice shifts. Below, the researcher elaborates on each type of structure shift supported by examples.

**Table 3 Structure Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	structure shift
Example 3	Accept it, at least, in a <u>friendly</u> spirit, even though it leave you unsatisfied. (p.4)	به خاطر دوستی مان آن را بپذیرید، حتی اگر شما را خوشنود نکند. (ص.28)	structure shift

Comment\_ This example includes a unit shift from a word in the ST to a morpheme in the TT. The word (friendly) which is an adjective in the ST was rendered into the speech act of noun and it adds the bound morpheme 'مان' in the TT. The shift, in this case, was obligatory because the meaning of the possessive adjective 'our' in this context can only be transferred 'مان' in Persian.

##### 2.1.2.1.1 Shifts in Word Order

This type of structure shifts takes place when there is a change in the organization of words in a sentence between the ST and the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 4 Shift in Word Order**

Example	ST:	TT:	structure shift
Example 4	All <u>his</u> <u>attention</u> had been consumed with thoughts of Bertha: (p.2)	تمام افکارش متوجه برتا بود. (ص.25)	structure shift

In this example, a unit shift from a word in the ST to a morpheme in the TT was identified. As underlined, the word (his) in the ST was shifted into a bound morpheme 'ش' at the end of the word in the TT. This shift was obligatory because the equivalent of the masculine pronoun (his) in Persian is the bound morpheme (ش).

#### 2.1.2.1.2 Shifts in Verbal-nominal Sentence Structure

This subcategory of structure shifts refers to the change in the sentence structure from a verbal sentence in the ST to a nominal (i.e. verbless) sentence in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 5 Shifts in Verbal-nominal Sentence Structure**

Example	ST:	TT:	structure shift
5	<u>Suddenly</u> <u>Breuer's mind</u> <u>ceased</u> its <u>chattering.</u> (p.28)	ناگهان ذهن بروی دست از پرگویی برداشت. (ص.28)	

Comment\_ As underlined in this example, there is a shift in sentence structure from verbal to nominal case. English sentences are always verbal and cannot be meaningful without a verb. Persian sentences, however, have two sentence structures, verbal and nominal, and both can similarly convey a meaningful message. In this example, the English sentence (Suddenly Breuer's mind ceased its chattering.) contains the verb 'ceased'. The translator shifted this verbal sentence into a nominal sentence in Persian as in (ناگهان ذهن بروی دستاز پرگویی برداشت ....). This shift was optional as the meaning can also be conveyed through the following verbal sentence.

#### 2.1.2.1.3 Passive-active Voice Shifts

In this subcategory of structure shifts, a change from the passive voice in the ST to the active voice in the TT, and vice versa, takes place. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 6. Passive-active Voice Shifts**

Example	ST:	TT:	structure shift
6	But you are ill! <u>Are you also discouraged?</u> (p.4)	ولی شما بیمارین؟ ای دل سرد هم شده این؟ (ص.28)	

In this example, structure shift in sentence voice from passive to active was observed. The passive question (Are you also discouraged?) in the ST was transferred into an active sentence in the TT (ای دل سرد هم شده ای؟). In this sentence, the English passive structure (be+ verb) was transferred into an Arabic active structure (be+ adjective).

This shift was obligatory since and the Persian language favors using the active voice in this case.

#### 2.1.2.2 Class shifts

Class shifts occur when there is a change from one part of speech in the ST to another in the TT (Catford, 1965). This kind of shift constitutes an alteration in the word class, including verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, ...etc., between the ST and the TT. The following are examples covering different types of class shifts.

**Table 7 Class shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	class shift
7	In his <u>imagination</u> , he grabbed a broom and swept away all sexual thoughts. He concentrated <u>harder</u> on her eyes and her words. (p.21)	در خیال جاروبی تصور کرد، آن افکار جنسی اش را رو بید و سعی کرد بر چشمان و کلمات لو بیشتر تمرکز کند. (ص.50)	

Comment\_ In this example, two class shifts were observed. The first shift occurred when the translator changed the part of speech of the word (imagination) from a noun in the ST to a verb in the TT, which is (تصور کرد). The second shift is an adverb (harder) in ST, into a verb "سعی کرد" in TT. These shifts were optional because the ST noun can be translated into a Persian noun such as "و سخت، تصورات".

#### 2.1.2.3 Unit Shifts

Catford (1965) refers to unit shifts as the changes in the unit of language. This kind of shift constitutes altering the SL rank into another different TL rank. For instance, a word in the ST can be changed into a morpheme, phrase, clause, or sentence in the TT. Each of these ranks can be changed into the other for the purpose of achieving textual equivalence. To clarify this type of shift, the following examples were provided.

**Table 8. Unit Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
8	But he is, to borrow one of his favorite phrases, only human, <u>all too human</u> , and he has his own blind spots." (p.46)	ولی با این حال اگر بخواهم از یکی از عبارات مورد علاقه خودش استفاده کنم، باید بگویم او تنها یک انسان است، انسان زیادی انسانی، و نقاط ضعف خود را دارد. (ص.15)	

Comment\_ In this sentence, a unit shift from a word in the ST to a phrase in the TT was discovered. The English phrase (all too human), was translated into the clause (انسان زیادی) in Persian. This shift was obligatory because the meaning of the English phrase (all too human) can only be translated using a clause in Persian used by the author.

#### 2.1.2.3.1 Word to Morpheme

This type of unit shift constitutes a change from a word in the ST to a bound morpheme in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 9. Word to Morpheme**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
9	"Fräulein, you are smiling as though you have a secret. I think you are a young <u>lady</u> who enjoys mysteries!"(p.6)	دوشیزه، لبخند شما کمی مرموز است. شما <u>خانم های</u> جوان از رمز و راز لذت می برید!" (ص.30)	

Comment\_ In this example, a unit shift from a word in the ST into a morpheme in the TT was detected. As underlined in the example above, the word (lady) in the ST was rendered into the bound morpheme 'های' (خانم های) in the TT. In this case, the shift was optional because the word (lady) can also be translated using a word such as 'خانم' in the TT.

#### 2.1.2.3.2 Word to Phrase

This type of unit shift refers to the change from a word in the ST to a phrase (i.e. more than one word) in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 10. Word to Phrase**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
10	But he is, to borrow one of his favorite phrases, only human, all too human, and he has his own blind spots."(p.46)	ولی با این حال اگر بخواهم از یکی از عبارات مورد علاقه خودش استفاده کنم، بانی بگویم او تنها یک انسان است، انسان ز طای انسان، و نقاط ضعف خود را دارد. (ص.15)	

Comment\_ In this sentence, a unit shift from a word in the ST to a phrase in the TT was discovered. The English phrase

(all too human), was translated into the clause (انسان ز طای) in Persian. This shift was obligatory because the meaning of the English phrase (all too human) can only be translated using a clause in Persian used by the author.

#### 2.1.2.3.3 Word to Clause

This type of unit shift constitutes a change from a word in the ST to a clause (i.e., a grammatical unit consisting of a subject and predicate) in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 11. Word to Clause**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
11	For a time, it appeared that Paul's hopes for a friendship or mentorship between Nietzsche and me would be realized. Intellectually, we were a perfect fit. We folded into each other's minds—he said we had twin brother-sister brains.(p.20)	برای مدتی به نظر می رسید که آرزوی پل در ایجاد دوستی و رابطه استناد و شاگردی م کلن من و ن چه به تحقق پی بسته است. طرز تفکر ما کاملاً متناسری بود. (ص.51)	

There is a unit shift from a word to a clause in this example. The SL word (mentorship) was translated into the TL clause (رابطه استناد و شاگردی). This unit shift from a word to a clause was optional since the word (adopted) can be translated and still be meaningful using other structures, such as 'راهنما'.

#### 2.1.2.3.4 Word to Sentence

This type of unit shift constitutes a change from a word in the ST to a sentence in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 12. Word to Sentence**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
12	A prophet, Zarathustra, bursting with wisdom, decides to enlighten the people. But no one understands	پلیمیر - زرتشت - از فرزاندگی خویش لبر می شده و مصمم می شود آن را به مردمان	



	his words. They aren't ready for him and the prophet, realizing that he's come too soon, returns to his solitude."(p.27).	ارزانی دارد. ولی آنان او را در نم یابند. آمادگی پذیرش او هنوز در آنان نیست و پلیمیر در م یاید که پش از موقع سراغ شان آمده است، پس به خلوت خویش باز م ی گردد (ص.29).	
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Comment\_This pair of sentences includes a unit shift from a word in the ST into a sentence in the TT. The translator changed the English word (bursting with wisdom) in the ST to the Persian sentence (از فرزانی خوشی لبرین شده) in the TT. This shift was obligatory because the English word (bursting) is a verb that means 'dehisce. These implied meanings can only be rendered by a sentence in Persian.

#### 2.1.2.3.4 Phrase to Word

This type of unit shift constitutes a change from a phrase (i.e. more than one word) in the ST to a single word in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 13. Phrase to Word**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
13	His vision has been gradually deteriorating.(p.5)	<u>افت تدریجی</u> <u>بخیایی</u> (ص.29)	

This example contains a structure shift in which a phrase in the ST was changed into a word in the TT. As underlined, the phrase (his vision has been gradually deteriorating.) in the ST was translated into the word (افت تدریجی بخیایی) in the TT. This shift was optional because the literal translation is used to translate the Persian phrase which can be accepted in the TT.

#### 2.1.2.3.4 Sentence to word

This type of unit shifts constitutes a change from a sentence in the ST to a single word in the TT. It cannot find in the corpus.

#### 2.1.2.4 Class Shifts

Class shifts occur when there is a change from one part of speech in the ST to another in the TT (Catford, 1965). This kind of shift constitutes an alteration in the word class, including verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc., between the ST and the TT. The following are examples covering different types of class shifts.

**Table 14. Class Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	unit shift
14	She always <u>lies</u> ! She is a dangerous woman. (p.26)	او زنی دروغ گو و خطرناک است. (ص.57)	

This sentence includes a class shift. The shift took place in the translation of the verb (lies) in the ST into the adjective (دروغ گو) in the TT. This shift was obligatory because the ST adjective can be translated into a Persian verb such as "گفتن".

#### 2.1.2.5 Intra-system Shifts

Intra-system translation shifts occur when there is no equivalence for a source language term in the target language system (Catford, 1965). This kind of Catford's shift usually occurs when the ST and the TT have somewhat similar linguistic systems; however, there is a preference for the use of the systematically different term in the TL. For example, both English and Persian use singular and plural forms; however, sometimes a plural noun in English is textually used in the singular form in Persian and vice versa. The following examples present an explanation for this type of translation shift.

**Table 15. Intra-system Shift**

Example	ST:	TT:	Intra-system shift
15	Just last month, despite <u>Elisabeth's objections</u> , Paul, Nietzsche, and I spent three weeks in Leipzig with Paul's mother, where we once again had serious philosophical discussions, particularly about the development of religious belief (p. 22).	درست ماه گذشته، با وجود <u>اعتراض الیزابت</u> ، من، پل و نیچه سه هفته در کنار مادر پل در لایپزیک ماندیم و آنجا بحث های فلسفی جدی ای را خصوصاً در زمینه ی چگونگی پیدایش ایمان مذهبی از سر گرفتیم. (ص.58)	

Comment\_This pair of sentences includes an intra-system shift from the possessive form in the ST to the genitive form in the TT as underlined in the above example. The possessive phrase (Elisabeth's objections) in the ST was

translated into the genitive form (اعتراض الیازیت). This shift is obligatory due to differences in the English and Persian grammatical systems.

#### 2.1.2.5.1 Possessive-genitive Case

This type of intra-system shift constitutes a change from the possessive case (i.e. Noun+'s) in the ST to the genitive case in the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 16. Possessive-genitive Case**

Exempl e 16	ST:	TT:	unit shif t
	He hates his sister's anti-Semitism. He is appalled and disgusted that Bernard Förster, <u>one of Germany's most outspoken</u> and virulent anti-Semites, often visits her. His sister, Elisabeth."(p.21)	او از ضد یهود بودن خواهر خود بفقار است، از ملاقات ها ی العنایت با برتارت فورستر، از ملاحظه تر ین و تندروتر ین چهره ها ی ضد یهود المان، منزجر و وحشت زده است، العنایت. (ص.56-57)	

Comment\_In this example, an intra-system shift from the possessive form in the ST to the genitive form in the TT has occurred. The translator changed the possessive phrase (Germany's most outspoken and virulent anti-Semites) in the ST to the genitive phrase (چهره های ضد یهود المان) in the TT. This shift is obligatory as the possessive form in English is expressed using the genitive form in the TT.

#### 2.1.2.5.2 Grammatical Number Categories

This type of intra-system shift constitutes a change in the grammatical number categories (i.e. singular, dual, and plural) between the ST and the TT. The following examples provide a further explanation:

**Table 17. Grammatical Number Categories**

Example 17	ST:	TT:	unit shift
	The first words he spoke to me were: 'From what <u>stars</u> have we dropped down to each other here?'(p.17)	اولین جمله ای که به من گفت، ا ین بود: "ما از کدام ین ستاره اینجا کنار یکدیگر فرود آمده ایم؟" (ص.51)	

Comment\_In the example above, an intra-system shift from plural to dual was observed. The translator changed the ST word (stars) from the plural form to the dual form in the TT word (ستاره). This shift was obligatory because the plural 's' is absent in Persian, it is used in English.

### 3. Data Analysis

The descriptive approach was adopted for the explanation of the occurrence of the shifts in the Persian translation of *When Nietzsche Wept* in which the researchers tried to elaborate on the relationship between English and Persian language pairs in translation. Descriptive translation studies embark upon an examination of the product, the function, and the process as three focal points among which the first one is highlighted in course of this research. Alongside the aforementioned corpus-based comparative descriptive approach adopted in this study, a qualitative focus was also employed in the process of identifying the kinds of shifts used by translator of psychology texts. In this paper, the data will be analyzed, the findings will be discussed. Each type of Catford's translation shift is discussed solely in the above subsections. Examples covering the book completely, examples were also provided for each type of Catford's translation shift as applicable for support and clarification. The data were analyzed in order to investigate Catford's translation model in the Persian translation of *When Nietzsche Wept* by Irvin D. Yalom. The findings revealed (1) type of shifts are applied in the Persian translation of when Nietzsche wept according to Catford's theory; (2) It also showed that shifts phenomenon were unavoidable in some cases in psychological translation and structural shift may change the source text meaning but class shift just change part of speech position, this is due to different nature of languages and variations that exist among them, so the translator was forced to distort the source text structure.

### 4. Conclusion

This research was designed to be a descriptive content-analysis study focusing on the linguistic changes that take place in the translation of psychology texts from English into Persian. To trace these changes, Catford's model of translation shifts was applied to the translation of *When Nietzsche Wept*. Since English and Persian belong to distinct language families, a large number of obligatory translation shifts were observed to bridge the linguistic and cultural gaps between these two languages. In this paper, the researcher analyzed the translation of *When Nietzsche Wept* novel from English to Persian that adopting a descriptive qualitative approach. The model of Catford's translation shifts was applied to the Persian translated text in comparison with its original English text. All translation shifts were traced and manually counted as shown in the tables. Based on the analysis and findings of the study, it is recommended that translators get more familiar with the nature of psychology concepts, especially in English, whether through university courses or specialized thesis.

Further research on the application of Catford's translation shifts to all text types in general and in psychology texts in particular from English and Persian and vice versa is highly recommended. To conclude, the present study aimed at exploring the application of Catford's translation shift model in the translation of the English novel *When Nietzsche Wept* into Persian and the success of the model to overcome translation problems. A descriptive analysis methodology was carried out to investigate the types of translation shifts applied according to the model. The basic translation problems encountered in the translation were identified in addition to the shifts that were used to solve these problems according to the model. Translation shifts applied in the sample of the study according to Catford's model are level shift and category shift. However, the translation model described by Catford was not inclusive of all translation shifts that were adopted by the translator to solve translation problems.

### Acknowledgment

This research was supported by the Department of English Language Translation, College of Humanities, Shahr-e-Qods Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. The authors would like to thank the university which provided help and support through this study.

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