A Study on the Translation Strategies in Korean-English Children’s Literature: From the Domesticated and Foreignised Perspective

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Abstract
The purpose of this study is to examine the Korean-English translation strategies through the aspects of ‘domestication’ and ‘foreignisation’ in children’s literature. In the age of globalisation, more Korean children’s literature is exported and attracting in international book fairs and markets, but there are some cultural and linguistic difficulties in translating. In order to overcome those difficulties, this study tried to address translation used in each perspective and find some examples by analysing translated children’s books. Based on Newmark and Oh's translation strategies, this paper presents overall strategies. Domestication methods in this paper include adaptation, liberal translation, idiomatic translation, communicative translation (using hyperonym, hyponym), using culture alternatives (words which have similar meanings), eliminating and generalisation. Meanwhile, foreignisation methods include literal translation and borrowing words. By and large, domestication methods appeared much more than foreignisation in this study. However, the aforementioned strategies in domestication were focused on only word level and were not described in syntactic level. Moreover, those strategies could not cover all aspects in text level and some unexplained aspects were found while analysing children’s literature. Therefore, this study seeks to find new translation techniques in domestication. Considering sentence level, this paper suggests three strategies including adding sentences, separating sentences, and changing the order of words. We still have some difficulties in translating Korean children’s literatures and spreading them to the world. It is to be hoped that this study will be helpful for translators to find norms in translating Korean children’s literature.

Keywords
domestication, foreignisation, translation strategies, Korean-English children’s literature

1. Introduction
Recently, children’s literature has grown and now takes up a large slice of the publishing market in Korea. In 2010, children’s books have been published most among all the translated books. A lot of Korean publishers try to introduce foreign classics, fables and fairy tales. How about the English versions from Korean Children’s Literature? On one hand, there were over 10,000 imported books (Korean versions) in Korea, but there were only 1,000 exports (English versions); there were drastic imbalances between imports and exports overall. To overcome this, more should be done to globally introduce and promote Korean children’s literature.
Exporting Korean children’s books is the medium that introduce Korean culture and history to the foreign children reading them. Furthermore, it is also important material that makes them understand Korea and Koreans and then go beyond the bounds of limitation in minority literature.

For this, translation into English is needed because now English has become a lingua franca in many parts of the world. With the support from the Korea Literature Translation Institute (KLTI) and other foundations, lately there are some moves to publish translated books into English. Despite the rise of the translated books as commercial publication, few have attempted to address academic discipline. Therefore, relatively little academic research on translations has been done yet.

But one study has covered ‘domestication and foreignisation strategies’ on translated children's books. When it comes to the importance of cultural differences and the impact on translations, the issue is one of the most referred to translation studies in Korea. For example, Oh (2007) has researched the domesticated and foreignised approach to analyse the Korean-English text, Cat School. She said that there were some difficulties due to the lack of data finding references from the English translated books. Conversely, a lot of research has been done with Korean translated versions from foreign texts. Woo (2010) has analysed the cases of domestication and foreignisation on No Country for Old Men. Sun (2009) also has done a case study on The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and researched the specific idioms related to cultural differences between the Korean and English versions. Those studies dealt with Korean versions, not English ones. As mentioned before, most of the studies in Korea have limited in variety of the translated books in English.

This study will analyse how Korean children’s literature is introduced in other countries and explore which strategies were used based on Domestication and Foreignisation perspectives. Specific questions will be considered and discussed as follows:

[1] How many existing aspects of domestication and foreignisation are shown when translating Korean children’s literature into English?

[2] Are there any additional strategies apart from the existing strategies when translating Korean children’s literature into English?