

Issues Confronted by Noguchi Tadashi in Translating Culture Specific Terms in Sinhalese Novel “*Viragaya*” into Japanese

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In the field of literary translation, Sinhalese to Japanese translations are infrequent compared to other language pairs. In addition, there is a scarcity of study on Sinhalese and Japanese translations. The purpose of this study is to look into the cultural barriers that Japanese translators face when translating Sinhalese literary works into Japanese, with a particular focus on Noguchi Tadashi’s Japanese translation of *Viragaya*. The research was conducted by using both primary and secondary data. While the Sinhalese novel, *Viragaya* by Martin Wickramasinghe and its Japanese translation by Noguchi Tadashi were referred as primary data, other available reading materials relevant to the study were taken as secondary data. The collected data was later analyzed by using Content Analysis Method. The data analyzing process was mainly done focusing on cultural issues occurred in the Japanese translation. As per the findings of this study, Noguchi Tadashi, the translator has encountered several issues while translating terms related to religious events and festivals, food items, household equipment, clothing and ornaments, and terms related to human relationships, especially in terms of finding equivalence in Japanese language. Instead of employing equivalent phrases in Japanese, the translator has sought to use other strategies such as explanation, generalization, and adaption. Inconsistency of several culture specific terms was also found as an issue. Furthermore, it was discovered that, despite the translator’s utmost efforts to overcome cultural barriers by employing the aforementioned strategies, he was unable to convey the original meaning of several cultural specific words in most cases to the target audience. In conclusion, this study shows that due to the cultural differences between the two cultures, Noguchi Tadashi was unable to successfully translate number of culture specific terms in Sinhalese into Japanese, which had a negative impact on delivering the original meaning of *Viragaya* to a Japanese audience.

Keywords: *Culture, Issues, Language, Translation, Source Language, Target Language*