

Intangible Cultural Heritage and Cultural Untranslatability in English Translations of Sinhalese Literary Texts: A Comparative Study of the Trilogy by Martin Wickramasinghe and its English Translation

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Translating literary texts highly embedded with intangible cultural capital is an utmost challenge to a translator. Vocabulary that represents intangible cultural capital encapsulates a massive cultural background. Consequently, despite the words are replaced with different morphological processes in the translation, the main purpose of translating the target text into another language can be unsuccessful as the target audience does not possess the cultural knowledge of source cultural background. Thus, translations generally hinder the original cultural essence. The main purpose of this comparative study is to discuss the limitations in translated literary texts in terms of intangible cultural heritage, with reference to Martin Wickramasinghe's trilogy and its English translation. The complete methodological process of the research was qualitative. The methods of desk review and interviews were used to collect primary data. The main source texts of the research; *Gamperaliya-Uprooted*, *Kaliyugaya-Age of Kali* and *Yuganthaya-Destiny*, and various other sources were referred as primary data collection sources. The study arrives at a conclusion that loss of connotation, deletion of information, meaning change, and unfamiliarity are the major limitations found in the translation, resulted by lack of equivalents, cultural gap, and having different values in the equivalents. The study brings three suggestions; (i) borrowings, hybrid compounds, and familiar calques should be used to reflect the lexical items, (ii) implied meaning of the idiomatic expressions should be given rather than paraphrasing the surface meaning and (iii) the meaning of borrowings, hybrid compounds, and calques, and the background behind cultural practices should be given as footnotes or end notes, to make the translations even subtle.

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