# TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES ADOPTED IN TRANSLATING AGRICULTURAL TERMS: (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018 PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)

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## Abstract

This study focuses on the translation techniques adopted in translating agricultural terms with special reference to the Performance Report 2018 published by the Department of Agriculture. Since translators use different translation techniques to overcome challenges in translating agricultural terms from English to Sinhalese the main objective of the study is to examine the translation techniques adopted by translators in translating agricultural terms. This study is based on qualitative research methodology and content analysis was used for data analysis. The research has identified seventeen (17) types of translation techniques and from 230 terms, the most frequently used translation technique was calque which has been used 116 times. Naturalized borrowing, generalization, borrowing with modulation, and omission with addition were the least used translation techniques which have been used only one time. Since agriculture is one of the major sections which contributes to the world economy, it is important to conduct research on the translation of agricultural terms. Further, the research expects to provide recommendations for translators, translation students, and future researchers.

**Keywords:** *Agricultural terms, Calque, Performance report, Translation techniques, Technical translation,*

**Abbreviations:**

ST: Source Text

TT: Target Text

SL: Source Language

TL: Target Language

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## Introduction

The agricultural translation is a fast-growing and demanding field in the translation services. Advanced knowledge of terminology and life sciences linked to crops, livestock, fertilizers, and soil are required in the agricultural translation. Due to the significant advancement in the agriculture industry, the demand for accurate and quality translations is increasing in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, as a multinational state, it is important to draft documents in main three languages. Respecting the national requirement, the Department of Agriculture draft and compile its documents, publications, etc. in all three languages. In this study, the researcher has decided to identify and study the most common translation techniques used by the translators in translating agricultural terms of the Performance Report 2018 published by the Department of Agriculture.

Based on the background of the study, the research attempts to identify the translation techniques adopted by the translators in translating agricultural terms from English to Sinhalese of the Performance Report 2018 published by the Department of Agriculture.

In order to focus to the study, it is also expected to find the answer for the following question.

What are the agricultural terms?

Considering the problem above, the main objective of this study is to examine the translation techniques adopted by the translators in translating agricultural terms from English to Sinhalese with special reference to the Performance Report 2018.

This study is significant and it will be useful to provide information mainly for translators who work in the agriculture sector to produce quality translations. Additionally, this study may provide knowledge for undergraduates who follow translation studies degree programme to expand their translation skills and competences in agricultural translation. Further, the researcher expects that this study will be advantageous for future researchers to conduct new research based on translation techniques from different viewpoints.

## Material and Methods

The qualitative approach was used for this study. The unit of analysis of the research is the sentences and topics which contain agricultural terms in the Performance Report 2018 and its Sinhalese translation. Content analysis was the technique of data analysis. Primary data was collected from the

Performance Report 2018 (English) and its Sinhalese translation. Secondary data was collected from relevant books, journals, online resources, etc. Collected data were categorized according to the types of translation techniques introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet, Peter Newmark, and Albir and Molina.

**Results and Discussion**

According to the theories presented by Vinay and Darbelnet (1995), Newmark (1988), and Albir and Molina (2002), 230 agricultural terms were analyzed using 17 types of translation techniques.

*1. Calque*

Calque is transferring SL's message literally into the TL without changing the structure of the ST.

The term 'open pollinated variety development' is translated with direct replacement into Sinhalese as 'විවෘත පරාගිත ප්‍රභේද සංවර්ධනය'.

*2. Pure Borrowing*

It is similar to the original word in the SL as they share the same expression and same word.

The translator has borrowed the term 'zeolite beads' directly into Sinhalese as 'සියෝලයිට් බීඩ්ස්'.

*3. Naturalized Borrowing*

These are words which are borrowed from foreign languages and made some adjustments according to the phonetic and morphological norm of the TL.

The term 'bushels' is translated as 'බුසල්' as it has been adjusted according to the TL's sound system.

*4. Addition*

Addition is used to add information to the TT which is not presented in the ST.

Under this technique, the translator has translated the term 'mereological data' as 'කෘෂි කාලගුණික දත්ත'. Generally, it means 'කාලගුණික දත්ත'. Here, the translator has added the word 'කෘෂි' in translating the term into Sinhalese. Since he has added the part 'කෘෂි', it can be taken under addition.

## 5. Literal Translation

The literal translation follows closely the form of the SL when translating into TL.

As the term 'pruning methods' is grammatically and semantically equivalent to the term 'කප්පාදු කිරීමේ ක්‍රම', it can be classified under literal translation.

## 6. Equivalence

It practices an entirely different expression to transmit the same reality into TL.

Since the term 'කුළුබඩු' is already prevalent in the TL, the translator does not need to borrow a term or follow any other technique to translate the term 'condiments'.

## 7. Description

It replaces the term in the SL with a description in the TL.

Since the translator was unable to find any definite equivalence for the term 'fertigation technology', he has used the description technique to render it as 'පොහොර මිශ්‍රිත ජලය යෙදීමේ තාක්ෂණය'.

## 8. Transposition

Transposition is used to move from one grammatical category to another grammatical category without changing the meaning of the text.

In the term 'callus regeneration media', the word 'regeneration' which is a noun is translated as 'පුනර්ජනනය වන' which is a transitive verb. Since there is a change in the grammar, it can be taken under transposition.

## 9. Modulation

It is used to change the semantics and point of view of the SL.

The term 'climate hot spots' is translated as 'කාලගුණික උපද්‍රවශීලි ස්ථාන'. Here the word 'hot spots' means a small are with high temperature. The translator has used the term 'උපද්‍රවශීලි ස්ථාන' for 'hot spots' by changing the point of view.

## 10. Omission

Omission means ignoring a word or phrase in the ST when it translates into TT.

In the term 'Genetic Diversity Assessment', the translator has omitted the word 'diversity' and translated it as 'ජාන තක්සේරු කිරීම'.

## 11. Loan Blend

It is joining a loan word and an already remaining word in the language.

The translator has borrowed the ST term 'sigatoka' into Sinhalese as 'සිගටෝකා' and used the word 'රෝගය' as the equivalence to the word 'disease'.

## 12. Generalization

This is used to make information in the ST less detailed when it is translated into TT.

The term 'Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability Testing' is translated as 'DUS පරීක්ෂණය' to make the meaning is more general.

## 13. Borrowing with Modulation

In the term 'poly-tunnel', the word 'poly' is borrowed from the ST and the word 'tunnel' is translated as 'ගෘහය'. Generally, tunnel means 'උමඟ' or 'බිම්ගෙය'.

## 14. Calque with Compensation

Compensation can be used where something cannot be rendered from SL to TL, and the meaning that is lost in the immediate translation is expressed someplace in the TT.

The term 'induced mutation agents' is translated as 'ප්‍රේරිත විකෘතිකාරක'. Here, the words 'induced' and 'mutation' are translated according to the calque technique and the word 'agents' is translated by expressing the meaning of that word and connecting it with the word 'mutation'.

## 15. Calque with Modulation

The translator has translated the term 'invasive aquatic weeds' as 'ආක්‍රමණික ජලජ ශාක'. Here, the words 'invasive' and 'aquatic' are translated as per the calque technique and the word 'weeds' is translated as 'ශාක' with the use of modulation.

## 16. Calque with Naturalized Borrowing

In the term 'allelochemicals', the word 'allele' is borrowed from the ST and changed as per the TL as 'ඇලීල' and the word 'chemical' is rendered as 'රසායන'.

*17. Omission with Addition*

In the term 'Potato Dextrose Agar Media', the translator has omitted the word 'dextrose' and added the word 'රෝපණ' and formed the TT term as 'අර්තාපල් ඒගාර් රෝපණ මාධ්‍යය'.

The below-mentioned table demonstrates the translation techniques which are found in the Performance Report 2018 published by the Department of Agriculture.

**Table 1:**

*Percentages of Translation Techniques*

| Translation Technique | Number of Data | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Calque | 116 | 50.4% |
| Pure Borrowing | 3 | 1.3% |
| Naturalized Borrowing | 1 | 0.4% |
| Addition | 4 | 1.7% |
| Literal Translation | 29 | 12.6% |
| Equivalence | 30 | 13.0% |
| Description | 5 | 2.2% |
| Transposition | 4 | 1.7% |
| Modulation | 9 | 3.9% |
| Omission | 5 | 2.2% |
| Loan Blend | 9 | 3.9% |
| Generalization | 1 | 0.4% |
| Borrowing with Modulation | 1 | 0.4% |
| Calque with Compensation | 2 | 0.9% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Calque with Modulation | 3 | 1.3% |
| Calque with Naturalized Borrowing | 7 | 3.0% |
| Omission with Addition | 1 | 0.4% |
| Total | 230 | 100% |

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The analysis of translation techniques in translating the Performance Report 2018 published by the Department of Agriculture presented that 17 types of translation techniques were adopted by the translators to translate the Performance Report 2018. The applied translation techniques are calque, pure borrowing, naturalized borrowing, addition, literal translation, equivalence, description transposition, modulation, omission, loan blend, generalization, borrowing with modulation, calque with compensation, calque with modulation, calque with naturalized borrowing, and omission with addition.

The most frequently used translation technique is calque which occurred 116 times. Naturalized borrowing, generalization, borrowing with modulation, and omission with addition occurred only one time which can be considered as the most hardly used translation technique.

This research is expected to expand the knowledge of the translation techniques used in agriculture sector and to provide theories and examples based on translation techniques for translation students. Further, future researchers can carry out researches on translation techniques using different types of documents.

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