THE TRANSLATING OF ENGLISH EXTRAPOSITION CONSTRUCTIONS INTO AZERI

Parisa FARROKH,
Associate Professor, Ph.D.
(Islamic Azad University of Lahijan, Iran)

Abstract

The aim of the research is to run the gamut of English extraposition constructions involving copular verbs, followed by "that-clause" and infinitive. Providing some evidence of the use of these constructions and comparing their translation in Azeri and investigating of linguistic properities are the purposes of this study. To this aim, the English fictions and their Azeri translations considered as sources of the data. The researcher classifies the data into two main categories:the extraposition constructions followed by "that"-clause and the extraposition constructions followed by "infinitive". Based on 200 data, it has been cleared that in Azeri, the dummy subject "it" is not translated at all. Moreover, instead of copular verbs in Azeri translation, there are some expressions called "modal words", functioning like verb phrases, are used according to the meaning of copular verbs. The total number of these sentences using modal words is 185 sentences. Regarding extraposition constructions followed by that-clause, it can be said that most of them translated as complex sentences in Azeri, with the percentage of 70%. However, extraposition constructions which involve infinitive, are translated as simple sentences with the percentage of 65%. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method.

Keywords: *translation, extraposition constructions, copular verbs, "that-clause", infinitive.*

Rezumat

În articol, ne propunem să cercetăm construcțiile extrapoziționate în engleză şi traducerea lor în azeră, adică construcțiile care înglobează verbe copulative, urmate de subordonata „that-clause" sau un verb la infinitiv. Drept exemplificare a postulatelor teoretice au servit texte literare în limba engleză şi traducerea lor în limba azeră. Autoarea identifică două tipuri de construcție extrapoziționată: construcția cu subordonata „that-clause" şi construcția cu verbul la infinitiv. În baza celor 200 de exemple analizate, autoarea demonstrează că în azeră, subiectul impersonal „it" nu are echivalent de traducere, iar în locul verbelor copulative, sunt întrebuințate, de cele mai dese ori, „cuvinte modale" care au funcția unor verbe copulative. Cu referire la construcțiile englezeşti extrapoziționate cu subordonata „that-clause", se poate spune că 70% dintre ele se tradus, în azeră, prin propoziții compuse, iar 65% dintre construcțiile englezeşti extrapoziționate cu verbul la infinitiv sunt traduse, în azeră, prin propoziții simple. La baza acestui studiu a fost pusă metoda calitativ-descriptivă.

Cuvinte-cheie: *traducere, construcții extrapoziționate, verbe copulative, „that-clause", verb la infinitiv.*

1. Introduction

Nowadays there is a tremendous interest in translation, since it is a channel through which ideas and cultures pass. In more recent time, translation comes to play a significance role in the politics, public and private organizations and many other aspects. It can be said that translation

is a profession besides being art. According to B. Hatim and J. Munday[1] translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everybody's life. P. Newmark defines translation as the attempt to produce approximate equivalence or respectable synonymy between two chunks of different languages on various levels of which two main ones are thought and linguistic form. This researcher adds that translation is partly an exercise in the art of writing as well as a field of comparative applied linguistics[2]. He believes that grammatical meaning is more significant, less precise, more general and sometimes more elusive than lexical meaning[3]. Basically, it will have attained this fact that syntactic differences existing among languages, may cause problem in translation. The translating of English extraposition constructions involving copular verbs, followed by that-claues and infinitive, into Azeri is the aim of this paper. Since the syntactic pattern of Azeri and English is completely different in this respect, the translation of these constructions may cause some problems for Azerbaijanian translators, translator trainees and English learners. So having complete knowledge about structure of these sentences may be useful for them.

A. Miremadi believes that all languages show signs of noun phrases, events, prepositional phrases and etc., but they show differences in their formal distributions[4]. E.A. Nida[5] argues that "in no two languages one can find exactly identical systems of structural organization based on which symbols can be related to meaning on the one-to-one correspondence basis". According to E.A. Nida word classes, grammatical relations, word order, style and pragmatic features are different from language to language[6]. A feature which may cause problems in translation is English extraposition constructions. According to B. Chocholoušova, among the constructions involving dummny subject, extraposition constructions are the most frequent type in materials in languages like English, Norwegian and German[7]. Therefore it seems necessary to have complete knowledge about this construction and it's translation in Azeri. To this end English fictions are studied to identify these structures in English and their Azeri equivalents. In this relation, the following research questions have been formulated:

(1) How are English extraposition constructions translated into Azeri?

(2) Is English dummy subject "it" kept/replaced or omitted in Azeri translation?

---

[1]Hatim *et alii*, 2004, p. 38.

[2]Newmark, 1988, p. 26.

[3]*ibidem.*

[4]Miremadi, 1991, p. 67.

[5]Nida, 1975, p. 24.

[6]*ibidem.*

[7]Chocholoušova, 2007, p. 49.

2. Translation and Translation Problems

According to E.A. Nida[8], "translation is the reproduction in a closest natural equivalent of the source language message". It means that a translation should tell the content and some meaning of the original text[9].

Translation itself means a process of replacing/reproducing /transferring from the source language of written text/material concept into it's target language[10]. W. Wilss believes that translation is a transfer process which aims at the transformation of a written source language into an optimally equivalent target language and which requires the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic understanding and analytical processing of the source language. Generally, it can be said that in the present era of globalization, translation plays a major role in conveying messages frome one language to another. However translation is not an easy task. Since languages express grammatical and lexical relationships in different ways, therefore, in rendering texts, the translators are always surrounded by a number of problems which are to be tackled consciously and accurately. A. Miremadi believes that the first problem is how to get access to adequate comprehending of the original text with all it's complexities[11]. According to Kopezynski[12], the translator should posses a transcoding mechanism to enable him:

(a) to make accurate interpretation of the totality of the source and target language;

(b) to carry out an adequate conversion of the source language grammar into the target language grammar;

(c) to make generalization based on intertraffic between the two languages to seek equivalents.

The second problem is the existence of lexical, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic and the word perspective imbalance between languages. Because of differences between languages, there is no completely exact translation between any two languages. According to Werner[13], "the degree of similarity between the systems of any two languages determines the efficacy of the translation made".

The other problem in translation is lexical problem. Words are entities which refer to object or concepts.

There is no an identical object in the two cultures. Thus in translating texts, all differences have to be taken into accountand must be considered as

---

[8]Nida, 1975.

[9]*idem*, p. 41.

[10]Karnadidjaya, 2001, p. 4.

[11]Miremadi, 1992, p. 98.

[12]Kopezynski, *apud* Miremadi, 1992.

[13]Werner, *apud* Golestani, 2006.

an important factor. In this case the denotative meaning, connotative meaning and ironical meanings are so important and translator's misunderstanding of any of these words and elements may end in a translation reality and moral sense.

Another factor which may cause problem in translations is syntactic problem. It can be said that syntax is the study of the rules to form or to make grammatical sentences in a language or the study of pattern of sentences and phrase formation from word[14]. Furthermore, grammar is studied in syntax and it is an important aspect of a language. According to A.S. Hornby, grammar is defined as the rules in a language for changing the form of words and combining them into sentences[15]. Every language has own grammatical rules and through contrastive studies of authentic syntactic patterns in context, new possibilities open up for additional insights, methodological renewals and empirical theory developments based on the study of sentence form. As S. Hunston and F. Sinclair put it: "There are gaps in the coverage of grammatical structures achieved by a generalisable system of structural analysis […]"[16].

Basically, grammar and translation skill are very important in learning another language. Some differences of grammatical systems between two languages can cause problems in translation process.

3. Dummy Subject

The concept of subject originally came from the study of Indo-European language family. Subject is obligatory in English with the exception of imperatives,and it plays syntactic and semantic roles, or just syntactic role as in the case of dummy subjects. In contrast, subject may be optional as in pro-drop languages such as Azeri, Persian and other. "It" as a dummy subject, it is semantically empty, has no referential function, no referent either in the discourse context or in the outside world. No thematic role can be assigned to it, and yet it keeps the most prominent thematic position of the sentence, i.e. the one of a subject. And to complicate things even further, no informative value or pragmatic prominence is directly encoded in the presence or absence of the dummy subject[17].

D. Biber *et alii*[18] identifies both semantically empty "it" and referentially empty "there" as formal grammatical subjects that appear in specific clause types. These are as follows:

(1) *prop it*, denoting weather distance and time:

---

[14]Yerkes, 1989, p. 1443.

[15]Hornby, 1995, p. 517.

[16]Hunston *et alii*, 2000, p. 75.

[17]Chocholoušova, 2007, p. 27.

[18]Biber *et alii,* 1999.

It starts raining.

(2) *existential clauses* (i.e.presentatives), introducing new information, and using verbs denoting existence, appearance and motion:

There are flagstones, garden gates, hedges, garages.

(3) *clefting*-structural clause division that brings focus to the clefted element:

It's mostly just rich folks who can afford a movin company.

(4) *extraposition*–clauses where dummy subjects anticipate another finite or non-finite clause:

It takes a great effort to watch the moon for any length of time.

D. Biber *et alii* postulates that: «[…] the predicates here do not suggest any participant involved semantically, but […] are obligatory inserted simply to complete the structure of the clause grammatically".

Existential clauses, or presentative constructions, are the only constructions types that employ existential *there* as their formal, grammatical subject; the others use *it.* So is the case of "agentless processes" that are not listed in Biber *et alii*, nevertheless structurally possible in English:

It does not smell particularly great at Grandfather's.

The only exception here are "impersonal passives"[19] that are structurally not allowed to be formed with intransitive verbs in English, hence, another types of subject must be inserted:

A commission of public inquiry was set up to study the incident, too.

4. Extraposition

Posponement which involves the replacement of the postponed element by a substitute form is termed *extraposition.* It operates almost exclusively on subordinate nominal clauses. The most important type of extraposition is that of a clausal subject-i.e. a subject realized by a finite or non-finite clauses[20]. According to Quirk *et alii*, the subject is moved to the end of the sentence and the normal subject position is filled by the anticipatory pronoun "it".The resulting sentence thus contains two subjects, which may identify as the postponed subject, the one which is notionally the subject of the sentence and the anticipatory subject "it". Simple rule for deriving a sentence with subject extraposition from one of more orthodox ordering is: *Subject + predicate ~ it + predicate + subject.* Thus: *To hear him say that + surprised me ~ It + surprised me + to hear him say that.*

---

[19]Quirk *et alii,* 1985, p. 1391.

[20]*ibidem.*

Some examples of this construction are shown as follows:

(1) Type SVC: *It is a pleasure to teach her.*
(2) Type SVA: *It was on the news that income tax is to be lowered.*
(3) Type SV: *It does not matter what you do.*
(4) Type SVO: *It seems that you have made a mistake.*
(5) Type SVOC: *It makes him happy to see others enjoying themselves.*
(6) Type SVpass: *It is said that she slipped arsenic his tea*[21].

J. Herriman[22] argues that the extaposition constructions are mainely used to express attitudinal meaning. In this research the Azeri translation of English extraposition constructions involving copular verbs and followed by *that*–clause and infinitive has been investigated.

5. Research Method
The purpose of this study is to investigate and analyze Azeri translation of English extraposition constructions involving copular verbs and followed by *that*–clause and infinitive.This research deals with analyzing of data in order to study Azeri translation of dummy subject *it, infinitive* and *that*-clause of English extraposition constructions.

5.1. Materials
The materials chosen for the analysis are English fictions which involve the novels of "For Whom the BellTolls" written by Hemingway, "400 Subjects in English" written by Vitalyevna, "Life Essays" written by Gurbanov, "The Alchemist" written by Coelho and Joyce's Dubliners (short stories).

200 extraposition constructions involving copular verbs and followed by infinitive and *that*–clause along with their translation into Azeri taken from Hajiyev (2006),Vitalyevna (2006), Gambarov (2010), Qojabayli (2006) and Nijat (2011) have been analyzed.

5.2. Procedures
The data are classified into two main categories:extraposition constructions followed by *infinitive* and extraposition constructions followed by *that*-clause.

5.3. Extraposition constructions followed by *infinitive*
The constructions which are translated as simple sentences without infinitive in Azeri:

(1) *They seemed to be a happy couple at first.*
[əvvəlcə elə bil xoşbəxt cütlük idilər].

(2) *It seemed to him to repeat itself throughout all the books.*

---

[21]*ibidem.*
[22]Herriman, 2004, p. 204.

[sanki bütün kitablarda elə hey eyni şey təkrarlan□rd□r].

(3) *It seems to me to remember things incorrectly.*
[məncə hər şeyi yaxş□ saxlaya bilməmisəm].

(4) *It seemed to him to admire the horses.*
[sanki atlar□ tərifləməlidir].

(5) *It seems to me to know everything is useful for you.*
[elə bil hər şeyi bilməin sənə faydal□d□r].

(6) *It wonders me to see a gypsy a war.*
[*m*əncə qaraç□ mühar□bədə görməini □nan□las□ şey dir].

(7) *It seems to agree with you.*
[görünür sənən şərik olmal□d□r].

(8) *It seems to be sensitive and kind.*
[görünür həssas və yumşa□ adam d□r].

(9) *It sounds me to be interesting.*
[nə isə elə bil maraql□ d□r].

(10) *It seemed to him to be little better guarded.*
[görünür düşərgənin müdafiəsi yaxş□ təşkil olunmayib].

The constructions which are translated as simple sentences involving infinitive in Azeri:

(1) *It pleases thee to carry it, he said.*
[□nd□ ki *da*ş*maq* istəyirsən, al… dedi].

(2) *It seems to the boy to flee.*
[a□l□na *qa*ç*maq* gəlmiş*di*].

(3) *It seems to me to exterminate the post at the sawmill.*
[məncə taxta zavodundak□ postu *m*ə*hv etm*ə*k* laz□md□r].

(4) *It seemes to him to go out.*
[görünür ç□*xmaq* laz□md□r].

(5) *It seems to keep down is the best.*
[görünür *uzanmaq* yaxş□ d□r].

5.4. Extraposition constructions followed by *that*-clause
The constructions which are translated as complex sentences in Azeri:

(1) *It seems to me that we might as well eat the hares.*
[*m*ənə görünür ki dovş*anlar*□ isə bu gün yemək laz□md□r].

(2) *It sounds me that it would be good to see Duran again.*
[yaxş□ olard□ ki Dürana bir də görüşəydim].

(3) *It seems that you have an important intention.*
[görünür ki sənin belə bir mühüm niyyətin var].

(4) *It seems that it is allright to stay here.*
[görünür ki burada qalmaq daha yaxş□ d□r].

(5) *It wonders me that the old swine will go.*
[*maraql*□d□r görəsən bu donuzo□lu hara gedir].

(6) *It wonders me that one pays as in the days of the church.*
[maraql□d□r ki biz kilsəyə pul verdiyimiz kimi, haqq versinlər].

(7) *It seems that the Respublic is preparing an offensive.*
[görünür ki Respublika hücüma hazirlaş□r].

(8) *It seems that I am barbarous.*
[görünür ki vəhşiyəm].

(9) *It wonders me that he might not understand.*
[maraql□d□r ki məni başa düşməz].

(10) *It seems that I can never bear either a son or a daughter.*
[görünür ki sənə o□lan və ya q□z do□a *bilməyəcəyəm*].

The constructions which are translated as simple sentences in Azeri:

(1) *It seems to me that it is better not to speak of it.*
[*m*əncə bu barədə dan□şmasaq yaxş□d□r].

(2) *It seems that she is perfectly normal.*
[elə bil onda eybi yoxdur].

(3) *It sounds me that it is interesting.*
[elə bil *maraql*□ söhbətdir].

(4) *It seemed to him that they laugh at him.*
[elə bil Ehramlar ona gülümsədilər].

(5) *It seemed to him that he had made the long journey for nothing.*
[deməli boş yerə səyahətə ç□xm□şd□].

The constructions in which copular verbs have not translated in Azeri:

(1) *It sounds me that I am not good to receive thee as I wish to.*
    Ø səninlə istədiyim kimi ola *bilməyəcəyəm*.

(2) *It seemed to him to see stars on the desert itself.*
    Ø səhran□n□n səmas□nda yüzlərcə ulduz parlay□d□.

(3) *It seemed to him that time stood still.*
    Ø kainat□n Rohu cavan o□lan□n önündü.

(4) *It seemed to him to be very busy .*
    Ø işləri başlar□ndan aş□rm□ş kimi görünürdülər.

(5) *It seemed to me that you have to cross the entire Sahara desert.*
    Ø böyük saxara səhras□n□ keçmək laz□md□r.

6. Data Findings

In this research, there are two main categories,namely, extraposition constructions followed by that-clause and the other one extraposition constructions followed by infinitive. Analyzing of 100 data related to the Azeri translation of English extraposition constructions followed by *that*-clause show that most of them are translated as complex sentences in Azeri with the percentage of 70%, and some translated as simple sentences with the percentage of 30% (*Table 1*). According to *Table 2* it has been cleared that 65% English extraposition constructions followed by infinitive, translated as simple sentences without infinitive and 35% translated as simple sentences involving infinitive in Azeri. *Table 3* shows that in Azeri dummy subject is not translated at all. Regarding the translation of copular verbs in Azeri, as shown in *Table 4*, they have either been replaced by some expressions called *Modal Words* or been omitted.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

Based on 200 data, it has been cleared that in Azeri ,dummy subject of English extraposition constructions is not translated. Regarding copular verbs, it should be mentioned that the copular verb "seem" is the most frequent one in this corpora, that is in 138 constructions this verb has been used. Results of analyzing of Azeri translation show that instead of copular verbs, there are some expressions in Azeri which are named *Modal Söz* like *Görünür, məncə, elə bil* […] and according to the meaning of copular verbs, these expressions are used such as *görünür ki Respublika hücüma hazirlaşr.* Of course in some cases copular verbs are omitted as in:

(1) *It sounds me that I am not good to receive thee as I wish to.*
   Ø   səninlə istədiyim kimi ola *bilməyəcəyəm.*

Moreover, if there is an object after copular verbs, it is used before modal words, i.e in the beginning of the clause like "*m*ənə görünür ki dovşanlar isə bu gün yemək lazmdr".

According to the results of this research, English extraposition constructions followed by *that*-clause translated as complex sentences as in "*m*ənə görünür ki dovşanlar isə bu gün yemək lazmdr", and in some cases translated as simple sentences such as "*m*əncə bu barədə danşmasaq yaxşdr".

Most of the English extraposition constructions followed by infinitive ,are translated as simple sentences without infinitive like *əvvəlcə elə bil xoşbəxt cütlük idilər*, however it should be mentioned in some constructions, infinitive translated as infinitive in Azeri, as in:

It seems to me to exterminate the post at the sawmill.
*m*əncə taxta zavodundak postu *məhv etmək* lazmdr.

It can be concluded that English extraposition constructions which can be written as:

It + verb +(object)+that-claues translated as *(object)+modal words +that claues*

in Azeri:

It +verb+(object)+infinitive translated as *(object)+modal words +......+verb.*

In this case it is necessary to mention that through contrastive studies of authentic syntactic patterns in context, new possibilities open up for additional insights, methodological renewals and empirical theory developments based on the study of sentences form. The main advantage of a bilingual or even multilingual parallel corpus is that the languages interrelate with each other. Moreover, it seems that in the literature of translation studies and in translation classrooms, students and learners are required to compare and contrast translations with their originals. It is useful for language learning, translation education, translation studies, lexicography, finding equivalents for SL expressions, terms, structures and so on. It is hoped that the results of the research may be used as additional information for the teachers especially in teaching English grammar and translation courses. Also, the results may help Azerbaijanian translators, English learners and translator trainees for being able to provide the best translation of English extraposition constructions.

References

BIBER, D., JOHANSSON, G., LEECH, S., CONRAD, E., FINEGAN, E. *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. London: Longman, 1999. pp. 89-110 [=Biber *et alii*, 1999].

CHOCHOLOUŠOVA, B. *Norwegian Det-constructions and their Translation Correspondences in English and German: A Contrastive Corpus based Study of Dummy Subjects*. Master's Diploma Thesis, 2007 [=Chocholoušova, 2007].

GAMBAROV, V.A. *Life Essays*. Baku: Mushfigh Brocjhali Publication, 2010. pp.174-288 [=Gambarov, 2010].

GOLESTANI, G. *The Translating of Problems of Pro-forms from English into Persian*. Islamic Azad University Science and Research Fars Branch, 2006 [=Golestani, 2006].

HAJIYEV, H. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Baku: Avrasiya Press, 2006. pp. 14-294 [=Hajiyev, 2006].

HATIM, B., MUNDAY, J. *Translation: An Advanced Resource Book*. London: Routledge, 2004 [=Hatim *et alii*, 2004].

HERRIMAN, J. *The Functions of Extraposition in English Texts*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2004 [=Herriman, 2004].

HORNBY, A.S. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English* (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995 [=Hornby, 1995].

HUNSTON, S., SINCLAIR, F. *Pattern Grammar: A Corpus-driven Approach to the Lexical Grammar of English*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2000 [=Hunston *et alii*, 2000].

KARNADIDJAYA, M. *The Translation Process*. Indonesia: National Publication, 2001 [=Karnadidjaya, 2001].

MIREMADI, A. *Theories and Principles in Translation*. Tehran: Samt Publication, 1991 [=Miremadi, 1991].

NEWMARK, P. *A Textbook of Translation*. Perntice Hall, 1988 [=Newmark, 1988].

NIDA, E.A. *Toward a Science of Translating: With Special Reference to Principles and Procedures involved in Bible Translation* (2nd ed.). Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1975 [=Nida, 1975].

NIJAT, A. *Dubbliners*. Baku: Ghanun Publication, 2011. pp. 250-307 [=Nijat, 2011].

QOJABAYLI, N. *The Alchemist*. Baku: Chinar Publication, 2006. pp. 8-92 [=Qojabayli, 2006].

QUIRK, R., GREENBAUM, S., LEECH, G., SVARTVIK, J. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (5th ed.). London and NewYork: Longman, 1987 [=Quirk, 1987].

VITALYEVNA, K.Y. *400 Subjects in English*. Baku: Sorghu and Encyclopediya Publication, 2006. pp. 152-355 [=Vitalyevna, 2006].

WILSS, W. *The Science of Translation: Problems and Methods*. Tubingen: Gunter Narrvelag, 1982 [=Wilss, 1982].

YERKES, P. *Teaching and Learning a Second Language*. London: Longman [=Yerkes, 1989].

Tables

Table 1: *The translation of the extraposition constructions followed by that-clause*

	Total	Percentage
Complex sentences	**70**	**70**
Simple sentences	**30**	**30**

Table 2: *The translation of the extraposition constructions followed by infinitive*

	Total	Percentage
Simple sentences without infinitive	**65**	**65**
Simple sentences involving infinitive	**35**	**35**

Table 3: *The translation of dummy subject*

	Total

Dummy Subject	0

Table 4: *The translation of copular verbs*

	Total
Using modal words	**185**
Deletion of copular verbs	**15**