

**Difficulties encountered by a translator engaged in the
process of dubbing
(A Linguistic approach giving preference to phonological
problems and difficulties in translating culture specific
concepts)**



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Abstract

This thesis explores “Dubbing Translation” in terms of difficulties encountered by a dubbing translator by applying a linguistic approach. The two hypotheses are: a) dubbing translators face difficulties in the fields of phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics and b) cultural differences in different language societies are a difficulty a translator encounters. The research mainly employs original audio visual scripts of dubbing programmes telecast in the Film and Dubbing Unit of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation focussing mainly on ‘Oshin’, ‘Mysterious Island’, ‘Famous Five’, ‘Hotels’, ‘Dala Rala Paura’ and ‘Anapanman’ as its primary sources. Critical analysis of the identified core linguistic problems such as Lip Synchronisation and Jaw Movements and the socio linguistic issues such as Translating Native Expressions and the identified remedial measures reveal that every problem is caused due to differences in the language structures and cultures. Interestingly, the issues and the techniques do not frequently operate on one specific language layer. The research offers a novel interpretation to Dubbing Translation by concluding that it is a creative process and dubbing translator a re-creator. The study presents creativity, proficiency in SL and TL, understanding of SLC and TLC and a sense of appropriateness as four major requirements for a dubbing translator to be a successful re-creator. Theme based translation with ‘tone’ transfer is found the most effective to manoeuvre literal translation. The recommendations such as providing the Sri Lankan dubbing translators and dubbing artists with some background knowledge on phonetics are also presented. The study is thus a juxtaposition of Translation Theories and their application in a practical scenario.

Keywords: Dubbing Translation, difficulties, language structures, cultures, re-creator