

Chaatiporl Muangkote 2010: An Analysis of Translation Techniques Used in Subtitles of Comedy Films. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Napasri Timyam, Ph.D. 138 pages.

This study is an analysis of translation techniques used when translating English comedy films into Thai language subtitles. The theory of translation techniques applied in this study is based on Newmark (1988). The purposes of the study were: 1) to investigate the techniques used in translating subtitles from English into Thai of comedy films; and 2) to examine the possible linguistic and cultural features that influence the use of these techniques. The sample of comedy films was categorized into three genres, i.e., action comedy, romantic comedy and workplace comedy films. The results showed that the categories of translation techniques most frequently found in translating comedy films were *the literal translation technique, the transference technique, the cultural equivalent technique, the reduction technique* and *the sentence adjustment technique*. These five techniques could be generally grouped into two basic types of translation methods, namely 1) literal translation and 2) free translation. The study recorded 12 linguistic features, e.g., *sentence types by structures and purposes, phrases, voices* and *syntactic functions* that influenced the use of the techniques. Additionally, there were also 10 cultural features, e.g., *proper nouns, cultural expressions, idioms* and *slang*, associated with the use of such techniques. The study concludes by suggesting that the most suitable translation method applied in translating film scripts is free translation. The reason is that free translation is best suited to convey most of the cultural aspects associated with the comedy films, hence applying the free translation method renders the closest naturally meaning into the TL text, enabling the TL audience to receive an equivalent feeling and understanding of the original text.

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