

Translating Colloquial Idioms from English into Persian

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Abstract

Considering idiom translation a challenging job for the translators, this research was conducted with the aim of investigating Baker's (1992) suggested strategies of idiom translation on three Persian translations of “The Catcher in the Rye”, Salinger's (1919) novel, which was full of idioms. The most important characteristic of the language of this novel was its free use of idioms in a colloquial sense used specially among youngsters, so the translators of this novel must take into account this main characteristic of its language when translating it, in order to preserve naturalness. 45 examples were collected to compare the use of these strategies and to find the most sufficient strategy for rendering idioms used in daily speech. Najafi (1969) was found to be the most successful in doing the task of transferring the main character's slangy and colloquial idiolect by applying Baker's third strategy more than the other suggested strategies which was translation using equivalence.

Key words: translation, translation strategies, colloquial idioms, the catcher in the rye, Salinger