THE STUDY OF ENGLISH TABOO WORD

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is twofold: 1) to collect and classify taboo words from the subtitle of the American movie 'Deadpool' and 2) to investigate strategies for translating the taboo words from English into Thai. The sample was chosen, using purposive sampling. This study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches and adopted Pinker's (2008) typology and translation strategies of taboo words proposed by Davoodi (2009). The study found a total of 154 taboo words and the results showed that the subtitle translator used 5 types of swearing functions: abusive (27.92%), cathartic (24.02%), emphatic (23.38), descriptive (14.94%), and idiomatic swearing (9.74%). The study also revealed 4 strategies for translating taboo words: taboo for taboo (51.94%), censorship (22.07%), substitution (14.94%), and applying euphemism (11.05%).

Keywords: translation strategies, taboo words, subtitle

INTRODUCTION

Language enables humans to express thoughts and makes them understand each other. However, each language has its own system and varies based on ethnicity, culture, belief, religion, etc. It is therefore of utmost importance to understand culture of the other country in order to avoid or at least minimize conflict and friction, especially when it comes to intercultural communication.

Taboo words exist in all languages and are, in other words, universal (Fromkin et al, 2017, as cited in Hien, 2019, p.1). Taboo words, also called taboo language, refer to the words themselves that are inappropriate or considered homophonous with references typically deemed immoral and socially unacceptable in a certain social setting, because they can offend and render the hearer and even bystanders awkward. This also includes a spoonerism, an occurrence in speech in which corresponding consonants, vowels, or morphemes are switched between two words in a phrase, especially when it is linked to sex and sexuality (Saralamba, 2015, as cited in Hien, 2019, p. 1). Words have different meanings in each setting, and some may be considered inappropriate in everyday language and should be avoided in polite conversion as they are offensive and even hurt other people's feelings. Generally, words and expressions are viewed as 'taboo' due to religious, cultural, and conventional reasons (Fakuade, 2013, as cited in Nedjaroen, 2015, p. 170). Typical taboo words involve profanities, common curse or swear words, insults, sexual words, excretory words, etc.

Although taboo language is avoided in conversation, it is sometimes used to express a spontaneous anger or reaction. In many cultures, taboo words such as words related to excretion, sex and sexuality, illness, birth, and death are entirely restricted. People are not allowed to say them directly and their mention is believed to bring bad luck and considered inapt (Ratanakul, 2001, as cited in Hien, 2019, p. 2).

Taboo words are unacceptable to polite society where traditions and norms are enshrined and where taboos are labelled the lowest class of language. However, such a language often appears in the movie because it can support the representation of a real life in the plot of the story. Taboo language is often used for character portrayals; it can depict a feature of the low socio-economic context/speech community as well as express the characters' feelings. In todays' globalized world, many movie plots are translated into another language, so censorship cannot be denied. The translations must therefore be adapted to conform to the culture and norm of the target language (Riangsiri, 2020, p. 2).

Movie industry in Thailand has been growing rapidly in recent years, and English-language movies are shown every day. This inevitably entails subtitling in order to help non-native English speakers understand foreign language materials, one of which is a streaming service that unleashes subtitles. However, subtitling is a type of audiovisual translation that has its own rules and specifications. It is a translation that has restrictions and certain criteria which directly affect the final result. Subtitle translators are thus required to know subtitling guidelines, avoidance of taboo language, related theories, translation shifts, cultural translation, and sociolinguistic factors so as to analyze the source text and finds a solution to yield a proper translation.

Translating subtitles and scripts can be a challenge, especially when translators have to deal with taboo language, which develops naturally within groups of people and is deemed entirely bad. There is a huge language barrier between eastern and western cultures, and it can possibly be eliminated only if translators take into account cultural differences and adopt precise translation strategies. Still, taboo language is often used to convey some emotional messages in a certain social setting, but it does vary depending on regions and culture. One taboo word may be considered improper in one culture but has no offensive meaning at all in another culture (Chinakkharapong, 2014, as cited in Riangsiri, 2020, p. 3). In the Thai language, taboo words can be classified into 13 groups of meaning: 1) body parts, 2) animals, 3) habits and behaviors, 4) ethnicity, 5) religious beliefs and spirits, 6) dirt and waste, 7) brain abnormalities, 8) sex, sexuality, and genitals, 9) illness, 10) plants, 11) persons, 12) appearances, and 13) weapons. It should be noted that these groups of meanings are semantically complex. For instance, words for describing physical appearances or behaviors can be denotative like อ้วน (*uan*, fat), เตี้ย (*tia*, short), and ดำ (*dam*, black) or metaphorical like ปาก ตลาด (*pak talat* literally translated as market mouth, which means sharp-tongued), ลูกกะหรี่ (*luk kari*, child of a bitch, a term of contempt or abuse), and ดอกทอง (*dok thong*, golden flower, a rude term for promiscuous women). Taboo words pose a challenge for translators because, pragmatically speaking, such words express the speaker's intention and, meanwhile, affect the feelings of the interlocutor(s) as well as the communication situation.

Jay (2009, as cited in Settanyakan, 2021, p. 308) gives an example of the polysemous word "fuck". Fuck has several meanings. It can refer to the act of sexual intercourse as in "*Even when I fuck I talk*". It is also used to express the speakers' frustration, anger, or surprise as in "*What the fuck happened to my car?*". At times, it is added for emphasis as in "*I've fucking won*" or for intimacy as in "*This guy is the fucking master, don't you see?*". Moreover, it is used as a generalized term of abuse as in "*Come on in, you fuckers*" (Torres, 2014, as cited in Settanyakan, 2021, p. 308). Polysemous words give rise to problems in translation when they appear in decontextualized sentences, so translators need to consider cultural and pragmatic factors, such as intention and situation, and use translation strategies, such as literal translation, omission, softening, and change of swearword to solve those problems.

The Office of Communications, commonly known as Ofcom, is the government-approved regulatory and competition authority for the broadcasting, telecommunications and postal industries of the United Kingdom (Ofcom, 2016). In 2020, Ofcom interviewed more than 200 people across the UK on how offensive they found a vast array of rude and offensive words and insults. People were asked their opinion on 150 words in total, which included general swear words, words linked to race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, body parts and health conditions, religious insults and sexual references, as well as certain hand gestures, and were asked to rate the words as 'mild', 'medium', 'strong', or 'strongest'. The findings found that most words relating to gender and sexuality, and race and ethnicity, were seen as 'strong' and any indecent and profane content containing those terms was recommended to be shown after 9 p.m. whereas most relating to disability were seen as 'mild' or 'medium' and any content containing the terms was acceptable to be shown outside the watershed (Brown 2016 and Settanyakan 2021).

The findings implied that not all improper words were taboos for broadcasting as they depended on age groups of the viewers and broadcast time. Unlike broadcasting, showing time and movie audience are much more difficult to control as movies can be shown online, which imposes another limitation for subtitle translation. However, the study is interesting and exhaustive enough to be used as a framework for a study of taboo language in media, especially the classification of the 150 words into 7 groups (Ofcom, 2016, p.5).

The researchers reviewed Settanyakan's (2021) study on translation strategies of taboo words from English into Thai for film subtitling. She randomly selected taboo words in movie subtitles from the Box Office top-ranked 20 movies of 2019, 14 of which contained taboo words. Of the 14 movies analyzed, the researchers found that 5 of them belonged to the American entertainment company Marvel and Deadpool was finally singled out for this study because it is an R-rated American superhero movie that contains a bunch of swear words spoken by the characters. The researchers focused on strategies for translating taboo words in movie subtitles of Deadpool 2016 from English into Thai. This movie streamed on Disney+ Hotstar was directed by Tim Miller and subtitled by Saksayamkul.

The researchers had watched this movie and found a vast array of taboo words in its content, including words linked to sex and religion and general swear words that were all spoken by the characters. Further, the main character starred by Ryan Reynolds is portrayed as crude, rude, lewd, and violent and some scenes are even graphic and unseemly. It is thus classified as an R-rated movie unsuitable for viewers aged under 20. Nevertheless, it gained

popularity, received numerous nominations, and earned two Golden Globe nominations for Best Motion Picture: Musical or Comedy. With conflict between taboo and popularity, its subtitles are worth examining.

In this study, the researchers collected and classified taboo words from the subtitles of the American movie Deadpool according to their functions. It aimed at investigating strategies for translating the taboo words from English into Thai since there are not many studies under the heading of translation strategies of taboo words in Thailand and the existing ones are not up to date. For all these reasons, this study was conducted to further promote and extend knowledge for those interested in the area.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To collect and classify taboo words from the subtitles of the American movie 'Deadpool' according to their functions
2. To investigate strategies for translating the taboo words in the subtitles of 'Deadpool' from English into Thai

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this study on strategies for translating taboo words in movie subtitles of Deadpool from English into Thai, the researchers reviewed concepts, theories, and related studies and classified this section into 3 parts: concepts and theories of taboo language, concepts and theories of translation, and related studies.

Definitions of taboo words

This part concerns meanings and definitions of taboo words and provides in brief their basic concepts. All the definitions below were given by scholars in the field as follows:

Letrakul (1978) states that taboo words are to be avoided and prohibited by society. However, in some circumstances, they, though seen as hurtful and harsh words that can leave scars to the interlocutor(s) and stereotype the speaker as being rude, are used to express the speaker's anger and frustration.

Brown (1961) suggests that taboo words associate with social values of a society which determine what is appropriate or not. If a word is considered improper, it becomes a taboo word. Taboo words thus can reflect a social value system of a society.

Fraenkel (1967) states that the origin of taboo words is influenced by religious and supernatural beliefs. One will be punished if he/she breaks the taboo by either saying repulsive words or misbehaving. One of the noticeable prohibitions is avoidance of some words that later becomes a ban.

Fromkin (1983) states that taboo words are unacceptable to polite society because some involve forbidden behavior. In this case, the society will first determine what is inappropriate behavior and then clearly states that its mention is prohibited, resulting in taboo words.

According to the definitions above, it can be concluded that taboo words are a social group's prohibited words based on the group's sense that they defy social values, social norms, religious and supernatural beliefs, and decorum.

Functions of taboo words

Pinker (2008) argued that swearwords can be distinguished based on the way it is used, which is in other words it is distinguished based on its function of aiming. There are 5 types of swearwords as follows:

1. Descriptive
   Descriptive swearing is the use of swear words to convey their literal meaning.
2. Idiomatic
   Idiomatic swearing is the use of swear words as idioms, where idioms refer to expressions in the form of phrases which have a different meaning if they are translated as individual words.
3. Abusive
   People use swear words in order to offend or abuse other people. Mostly, this kind of expression is used to express the speakers' emotion, especially anger.
4. Emphatic
   The role of this type of expression is to give a stronger emotion from the speaker.
5. Cathartic
   Pinker argues that swear words are used to spontaneously express the emotional burst of the speaker in response to something that happens to him/her. People tend to swear when they are surprised or shocked. In this case, the speaker does not address their swearing to others. For instance, a person can swear by stating *oh, fuck!* to express a sudden pain or frustration.

Definitions of translation

Barnwell (1978) defines translation as the re-narration in another language in the way that the original meaning is conveyed accurately through the natural syntax structure of the new language. However, mere substitution of the original word with the new word does not count as translation.

Newmark (1981) defines translation as "a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or a statement in one language by the same message.

Nida (1974) defines translation as the re-expression of messages from the source language (SL) in the target language (TL) with the closest and fair equivalent, in terms of meaning and language style.

According to the definitions given, it can be summarized that translation is a type of art because it requires in-depth understanding of the nuances of two languages and the ability to artfully convey the meaning and feel of writing in one language in terms of the other.

Theory of translation

Davoodi (2009) and Behzad and Salmani (2013) proposed the same 4 strategies for translating taboo words as follows:

1. Taboo for taboo

Although the translator knows the expressions are not acceptable to target people and society, he/she prefers to translate them into taboo.

2. Censorship

In this case, the translator ignores the term easily and censors it as an extra term. But it is not a proper and acceptable way, because in some occasions, the taboo term is a key term in the source text and the omission of it will distort the meaning of the text.

3. Applying euphemism

Euphemism is the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression to replace one that offends or suggests something unpleasant.

4. Substitution

The other way to translate a taboo term is by substituting the term with another term in L2, but it often certainly distorts the meaning.

These 4 strategies aided the researchers to analyze the translation more methodically because each strategy suits a certain group of audience and gives different effects.

Related studies

The researchers reviewed different studies on taboo language and the analysis of translation strategies in Thailand and in other countries as follows:

Settanyakan (2021) focused on strategies popularly used by professional translators for translating taboo words in film subtitles from English to Thai. The results of her study showed that the translators used 6 strategies, in the following order of the highest to lowest frequency: communicative translation, free translation, non- translation, semantic translation, faithful translation, and idiomatic translation, respectively. In addition, it was found that there were 5 local strategies used by the translators, in the following order of the highest to lowest frequency: taboo for taboo, taboo with euphemism, censorship, applying euphemism, and substitution, respectively.

Nedjaroen (2021) studied the strategies for translating taboo words used in "*Chua Chee Wit Khong Phom*" translated by Khamrawee-Baitoey from an English literature "*The Catcher in the Rye*" by J.D. Salinger and the factors affecting the translation of taboo words. The results indicated that there were 11 groups of taboo words and there were 5 main strategies employed for translating taboo words from English literature, namely, literal translation, modified literal translation, equivalent translation, interpretative translation, and ellipsis. Moreover, there were 2 sub- strategies for configuring taboo words in Thai version, namely, the use of Thai taboo words to replace non- taboo words in English novel and adding more taboo words. As for the factors affecting translation, there were 2 factors affecting the translation of taboo words, namely, the language usage and the translator's intention.

Taowan) 2021) investigated translation strategies of taboo words used in the Thai subtitles of adult animated series entitled *Big Mouth* including season 1, 2, and 3 since it represented taboos such as sex, diseases, and addressing, leading to frequent occurrences of taboo words in the characters' conversations. The results revealed that there were 8 translation strategies, arrayed from the highest to lowest frequency: using cultural substitution, using a more neutral/less expressive word, literal translation, using a more general word, omitting words, paraphrasing with unrelated words, paraphrasing with related words, and using a loan word or loan word plus explanation, respectively.

Januarto's (2017) sociolinguistic study focused on swearing in Miller's Deadpool. The findings of the study suggested that 6 categories of swearing were found in the movie, i.e., emphatic swearing, abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, cathartic swearing, dysphemistic swearing, and humorous swearing. In addition, there were only 7 out of 9 motivational factors for swearing revealed: anger/tension-release, emphasis, part of personality, storytelling, intimacy, vulnerability, and a way to shock. The 2 motives were not found because there was no single utterance portraying swearing which was done unconsciously and practiced as influenced by social pressure. Moreover, 3 new motives emerged from the data of the study, namely, aversion, pain, and surprise.

Cuenca (2016) studied different translation strategies used to translate taboo words from English to Spanish in film subtitles. The results of the study showed that there were 5 strategies employed in translating film subtitles from English to Spanish, in the following order of the highest to lowest frequency: literal translation, omission, softening, change of swearword, and transposition.

Khoiyirah (2017) analyzed taboo words translation in the Of *Mice and Men* novel written by John Steinbeck. The results of the analysis showed that there were 4 strategies employed in the translation of taboo words. They were translation by more general words (18 data), translation by neutral words (36 data), translation by cultural substitutions (10 data) and translation by omissions (33 data). For the quality of translation, the results showed that 45 data had very good quality, 29 data had good quality, and 23 data had poor quality. For the quality of each strategy, it presented that translation by more general words had 15 data with very good quality and 3 data with good quality; translation by neutral words had 20 data with very good quality, 13 data with good quality and 3 data with poor quality; translation by cultural substitutions had 10 data with very good quality; and translation by omissions had 13 data with good quality and 20 data with poor quality.

After literature review, it was found that studies on taboo words translation in Thailand and in other countries adopted many different theories of translation strategies. Most studies in Thailand employed just general strategies for analyzing taboo words translation while those in other countries adopted specific translation strategies of taboo words. Therefore, this study was conducted to present specific translation strategies for translating taboo words from English into Thai.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study entitled "A Study of Strategies for Translating Taboo Words in Movie Subtitles from English into Thai: A Case Study of Deadpool" aimed at collecting and classifying taboo words from the subtitles of the American movie 'Deadpool' according to Pinker's (2008) typology and investigating strategies in translating the taboo words as proposed by Davoodi (2009).

Research data

The data of this study were taken from the English-Thai subtitles in R-rated Deadpool streamed on Disney+ Hotstar.

Sample

The sample of this study was taboo words in the subtitles of the American movie Deadpool.

Data collection

The researchers collected taboo words in the subtitles of Deadpool streamed on Disney+ Hotstar by watching the movie with subtitles and pausing it to jot taboo words as well as timecode. The taboo words selected were based on the 150 offensive words surveyed by Ofcom (2016) and were defined as offensive and disapproving by online dictionaries as follows:

1. Cambridge Dictionary
2. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries
3. Macmillan Dictionary
4. Wordreference
5. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

Data analysis

1. Taboo words in the movie subtitles were collected and classified according to Pinker's (2008) typology.

2. Taboo words translation strategies proposed by Davoodi (2009) were used to analyze the strategies for translating the taboo words from English into Thai.

Data analysis formula

$$P = \frac{f}{N} \; x \; 100$$

Whereas:

P = Percentage
f = Frequency of the strategies used to translate taboo words
N = Total number of the strategies used to translate taboo words

Data presentation

This study presents the collection and classification of taboo words in the movie subtitles according to their functions and illustrates the analysis of strategies for translating

taboo words from English into Thai. The results will be shown in percentage tables and the descriptive analysis will be given with examples.

FINDINGS

This study entitled "A Study of Strategies for Translating Taboo Words in Movie Subtitles from English into Thai: A Case Study of Deadpool" aimed to collect and classify taboo words from the subtitles of the American movie 'Deadpool' according to their functions and investigate strategies in translating the taboo words from English into Thai.

After compiling taboo words in the movie subtitles, the researchers found 154 words in the source text. The analysis was divided into 2 parts: the classification of taboo words according to their functions and the strategies used in translating taboo words from English into Thai.

The classification as shown in Table 1 below was performed based on Pinker's (2008) typology.

Table 1 Percentage of types of taboo words in the subtitles of Deadpool

No.	Types of taboo words	Data (Frequency)	Percentage
1	Abusive	43	27.92
2	Cathartic	37	24.02
3	Emphatic	36	23.38
4	Descriptive	23	14.94
5	Idiomatic	15	9.74
	Total	**154**	**100**

As can be seen in Table 1, there are 5 types of taboo words in the following order from the highest to lowest frequency: abusive (27.92%), cathartic (24.02%), emphatic (23.38%), descriptive (14.94%), and idiomatic (9.74%), respectively. The detailed explanations and examples of these 5 types are given below.

1. Abusive type covers swear words used to offend or abuse other people such as "*Fuck you, stupid*" and "*motherfucker*".

Example 1

Timecode: 17.34

Character: a man

ST: "Oh. ***Fuck you***, Wade."

"*Fuck you*" in Example 1 is abusive in this context. It is the scene where Wade walks past a man and teases him. The man then turns his head, cursing and giving Wade the finger.

2. Cathartic type means swear words used to spontaneously express the emotional burst of the speaker in response to something that happens to him/her such as "*Fuck!*" exclaimed when one spills hot water on his/her lap or "*Shit!*" exclaimed when one is in trouble.

Example 2

Timecode: 05.53

Character: Wade

ST: "Oh ***shit***. I forgot my ammo bag."

From the example, "*shit*" is spontaneously exclaimed to express frustration when Wade forgets his ammo bag.

3. Emphatic type means an expression used to give a stronger emotion from the speaker such as "This is *fucking* amazing" and "*fucking* mutant".

Example 3

Timecode: 57.28

Character: a man

ST: "God, he's so ***fucking*** gnarly."

From the example, "fucking" is used to intensify Wade's ugliness. It is said after a man sees Wade's face.

4. Descriptive type means swear words used to convey their literal meaning such as "Let's *fuck*" and "I've *fucked* her".

Example 4

Timecode: 04:11

Character: Wade

ST: "Like two hobos fucking in a shoe filled with ***piss***."

As can be seen in the example, "*piss*" has literal meaning. However, it is offensive and not as euphemistic as "urine" and "pee". It is in Wade's answer to Dopinder's question "What does Miss Mama June taste like?"

5. Idiomatic type means swear words used as idioms which have a different meaning if they are translated as individual words such as "*I don't give a fuck*" and "*I don't give a shit*" that both have the same meaning which is "not interested or not care about what others do or say".

Example 5

Timecode: 17.17

Character: a teen girl

ST: "Hey, think you could ***fuck up*** my step-dad?"

From the example, the speaker uses the idiom "*fuck up*" that has more offensive meaning than "beat up". It is said when the teen girl asks Wade to beat her stepfather.

The analysis of the strategies for translating taboo words in the movie subtitles from English into Thai was based on the translation strategies proposed by Davoodi (2009). The results are given in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Percentage of strategies used to translate taboo words in the movie subtitles from English into Thai

No.	Translation strategies	Data (Frequency)	Percentage
1	Taboo for taboo	80	51.94
2	Censorship	34	22.07
3	Substitution	23	14.94
4	Applying euphemism	17	11.05
	Total	**154**	**100**

As can be seen in Table 2, there are 4 translation strategies for translating taboo words in the movie subtitles from English into Thai, in the following order from the highest to lowest frequency: taboo for taboo (51.94%), censorship (22.07%), substitution (14.94%), and applying euphemism (11.05%), respectively. The detailed explanations and examples of these 4 taboo words translation strategies are given below.

1. Taboo for taboo

By taboo for taboo, it means that although the translator knows the expressions are not acceptable to target people and society, he/she prefers to translate them into taboo. In this case, some pairs may be equivalent in the sense that the ST and the TT are only close in meaning. In addition, the translators may use non-literal translation instead of literal translation if the primary meaning of the ST is extremely offensive; this strategy is used to preserve the offensiveness of the ST by using proper equivalent words in the TL. Taboo for taboo is the most common as it is closest to the source text, compared to other strategies.

Example 6

Timecode: 05.42

Character: Warlord

ST: "***Fucking*** Mutant"

TT: "*ไอ้*มนุษย์กลายพันธุ์"

From the example, the translator translates "*fucking*" in the ST as "ไอ้", "*ai*", which is a designation used in contempt or abuse before a proper name, or before a common name of a man or a male, in the TT.

2. Censorship

Censorship means that the translator ignores the term easily and censors it as an extra term.

Example 7

Timecode: 14.47

Character: a merchant

ST: "The ***fuck*** you doing in my crib."

TT: "มาทำอะไรในห้องของฉัน"

As can be seen in the example, the translator censors the word "*fuck*" by not translating it.

3) Substitution

Substitution is another way in translating a taboo term by substituting the word with another one in target language. This strategy is by far different from the other three strategies because it completely distorts and removes the offensive meaning of the ST. In this case, the word used to substitute the original word is always a neutral or funny word that fits the translation, at least to a degree.

Example 8

Timecode: 26.13

Character: Wade

ST: "***Jesus Christ***. It's like I made you in a computer."

TT: "***ได้ดั่งใจ*** เหมือนผมสร้างคุณจากคอมพิวเตอร์เลย"

From the example, the translator substitutes "*Jesus Christ*" in the ST with "*ได้ดั่งใจ*", "*dai dang chai*", which means fitting in exactly with one's wishes, in the TT, thus neutralizing the translation.

4) Applying euphemism

Euphemism is the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression to replace one that offends or suggests something unpleasant. However, this strategy may airbrush the feel of the ST.

Example 9

Timecode: 34.40

Character: Wade

ST: ***Shit***. "We're within 500 yards of a school."

TT: "***แย่ละ*** แถวนี้มีโรงเรียนในระยะห้าร้อยหลา"

As can be seen in the example, the translator replaces "*shit*" in the ST with the neutral expression "*แย่ละ*", "*yae la*", which means being in trouble, in the TT.

DISCUSSION

This study reveals that there are 5 functions of taboo words in the following order from the highest to the lowest frequency: abusive, cathartic, emphatic, descriptive, and idiomatic. The results are consistent with those of Januarto's (2017) sociolinguistic study that focuses on swearing in Miller's Deadpool. This might be because the researchers' study and hers analyzed the same movie and used the same typology.

In addition, it shows that there are 4 strategies in translating taboo words in the movie subtitles from English into Thai in the following order from the highest to lowest frequency: taboo for taboo, censorship, substitution, and applying euphemism. The findings are parallel to those of Settanyakan (2018)'s study that investigates strategies popularly used by professional translators for translating taboo words in film subtitles from English to Thai. This could be due to the fact that the two studies are under the same heading of taboo words translation strategies for translating film subtitles from English to Thai.

Furthermore, the findings also parallel those of Pongprasit and Petcharathip's (2021) study on strategies for translating prohibited words in the Chinese to Thai subtitles of the Chinese boys' love series. Their study also found the same 4 strategies in translating prohibited words. This might probably be because the two studies used the same strategies proposed by Davoodi in the analysis.

However, the findings are not consistent with those of Taowan's (2021) study on subtitle translation of English taboo words into Thai in the adult animated series *Big Mouth*, which reveals that there are 8 translation strategies used: using cultural substitution, using a more neutral/less expressive word, literal translation, using a more general word, omitting words, paraphrasing with unrelated word, paraphrasing with related words, and using a loan word or loan word plus explanation. Similarly, the results of study are also inconsistent with those of Khoiriyah' (2019) that explores taboo words translation in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* that reveals that there are 4 strategies employed in the translation of taboo words: translation by more general words, translation by neutral words, translation by cultural substitutions, and translation by omissions. This inconsistency might result from the use of the different theory, i.e., Khoiriyah used the theory from Baker (1992).

This study reveals that the abusive function is the most common, not least because Deadpool is an antihero movie, and most characters are portrayed as crude. As for the translation strategy, taboo for taboo is the most frequently used strategy simply because the translator wants to preserve the feel of the original text, yield a natural translation, and make the TT as closest to the ST as possible, resulting in an equivalent effect.

Recommendations

This study aimed at collecting and classifying taboo words from the subtitles of the American movie 'Deadpool' according to Pinker's (2008) typology and investigating strategies for translating the taboo words as proposed by Davoodi (2009). On this basis, its findings can be applied in other related studies or possibly used as a useful reference. Here are recommendations for future research.

1. Future research could further examine taboo words from other interesting and modern materials, such as new movies of other genres and songs; the research from a different data source tends to represent novel findings. Moreover, it is recommended to compare taboo words translation by translators in the past and in present to explore the development.

2. Future research may focus on translation of taboo words in movie subtitles from Thai into English to analyze translation shifts between the source and target texts.

3. Future research could further focus on other topics, such as neologisms, compound words, and culturally specific words in movies.

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