

APPLYING CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS IN TRANSLATING THE IUCN RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY (ROAM) DOCUMENTS INTO ALBANIAN

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Abstract: This paper explores the application of critical discourse analysis (CDA) in translating the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents, an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) tool, into Albanian. The study investigates how power dynamics, cultural contexts, and ideological underpinnings influence the translation process, ensuring that the translated texts accurately reflect the original while resonating with the Albanian-speaking audience. By examining the linguistic choices and discourse structures within the ROAM documents, the research identifies the challenges faced in conveying complex environmental concepts and terminologies. The translation process conducted by the authors of this paper prioritizes maintaining the integrity and nuance of the source material through a critical lens, addressing issues of ecological terminology, policy implications, and community engagement. The study also considers the broader sociopolitical context of Albania, highlighting the importance of aligning translations with local conservation efforts and legislative frameworks. Through a detailed analysis of specific translation examples, this paper demonstrates how CDA can uncover the subtleties of meaning and power relations embedded in the text. The findings underscore the necessity of a collaborative approach, involving translators, environmental experts, and local stakeholders, to achieve translations that are both accurate and culturally relevant. Ultimately, this research contributes to the field of translation studies by providing a framework for integrating CDA into the translation of technical and policy-oriented documents, ensuring that translations serve as effective tools for environmental advocacy and policy implementation.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), translation, Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), power dynamics, cultural contexts, environmental concepts, sociopolitical context, collaborative approach.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) is a vital tool developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to guide countries in identifying and prioritizing areas for restoration to achieve ecological, social, and economic benefits. Translating such comprehensive and technical documents into other languages is essential to ensure their accessibility and applicability across different regions. This paper focuses on the translation of ROAM documents into Albanian, employing critical discourse analysis (CDA) to explore the complexities and subtleties involved in this process.

Translation is not a mere linguistic activity; it is a complex interplay of language, culture, and power dynamics. CDA provides a valuable framework for examining how these elements influence the translation of technical documents. By analyzing the linguistic choices and discourse structures, CDA helps uncover the underlying ideologies, power relations, and cultural contexts embedded in the source text. This approach ensures that the translated texts are not only accurate but also culturally relevant and resonant with the target audience.

Albania, with its unique socio-political and ecological landscape, presents specific challenges and opportunities for the implementation of ROAM. The translation process must account for the local legislative frameworks, conservation efforts, and community engagement practices. This paper examines these factors, highlighting the importance of aligning the translated documents with Albania's conservation goals and policies.

Through a detailed analysis of specific examples from the ROAM documents, this study identifies the key challenges in translating complex environmental concepts and terminologies. It also explores the collaborative efforts required among translators, environmental experts, and local stakeholders to achieve translations that

maintain the integrity and nuance of the original text. Ultimately, this research aims to contribute to the field of translation studies by demonstrating how CDA can enhance the translation of technical and policy-oriented documents, ensuring their effectiveness in promoting environmental advocacy and policy implementation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The translation of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents into Albanian is guided by the integration of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Translation Studies. This framework provides a comprehensive approach to understanding the complexities involved in translating technical and policy-oriented documents, ensuring both linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), as a theoretical framework, examines the ways in which language reflects, reinforces, and potentially challenges power dynamics and ideological structures within society (Fairclough, 2015; Van Dijk, 2016). CDA focuses on the relationship between language and social context, emphasizing how discourse shapes and is shaped by socio-political factors. Fairclough (2015) highlights the importance of analyzing discourse practices to uncover the power relations and ideological assumptions embedded within texts. Van Dijk (2016) further elaborates on the role of discourse in constructing social identities and influencing social practices. In the context of translating ROAM documents, CDA is employed to critically analyze the linguistic choices and discourse structures within the source text. This analysis helps to identify and address potential issues related to power dynamics, cultural contexts, and ideological underpinnings. By doing so, CDA ensures that the translated texts are not only accurate but also resonate with the target audience in Albania.

Translation Studies provide essential insights into the principles and practices of translation, emphasizing the importance of achieving equivalence between the source and target texts. Recent scholarship in this field highlights the interplay between linguistic, cultural, and contextual factors in translation (Baker, 2018; Munday, 2020). Baker (2018) discusses the concept of equivalence in translation, arguing for a balanced approach that considers both formal and dynamic equivalence. Munday (2020) emphasizes the role of the translator as an active agent who mediates between different linguistic and cultural systems, making critical decisions that impact the final translation. The application of Translation Studies to the translation of ROAM documents involves prioritizing formal equivalence to maintain the integrity and precision of the original text. However, dynamic equivalence is also considered when necessary to ensure cultural relevance and accessibility. This balanced approach is crucial for effectively communicating complex environmental concepts and terminologies to the Albanian-speaking audience.

The integration of CDA and Translation Studies provides a robust theoretical framework for this research. CDA offers a critical lens to examine the power relations and ideological contexts influencing the translation process, while Translation Studies provide the methodological tools to achieve linguistic and cultural equivalence. Recent scholars have emphasized the importance of combining these approaches to enhance the quality and impact of translations, particularly in the context of technical and policy-oriented documents (Hatim & Mason, 2019; Schäffner, 2018).

By combining CDA and Translation Studies, this theoretical framework addresses the multifaceted challenges involved in translating ROAM documents into Albanian. This approach ensures that the translations are not only accurate and coherent but also culturally resonant and contextually appropriate. The integration of these theories contributes to the advancement of translation practices and supports effective international communication and collaboration in the field of biodiversity and nature conservation.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative methodology to explore the translation of the IUCN Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents into Albanian, a process conducted by the authors of this paper. The approach is grounded in qualitative content analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and focuses on understanding the complexities of translating technical and policy-oriented texts. By examining specific examples from the ROAM documents, this methodology aims to uncover the challenges and strategies involved in achieving accurate and culturally relevant translations.

The qualitative research design is structured around a detailed content analysis of the ROAM documents, with the authors translating the documents themselves. This involves systematically analyzing the linguistic and contextual elements of the source texts and their translations, using CDA to examine how power dynamics and ideological contexts influence the translation process. The study is divided into several key phases:

In the document selection phase, key sections of the ROAM documents, such as definitions, technical terms, and procedural guidelines, are selected for detailed analysis. These sections are chosen based on their importance in conveying critical information about restoration opportunities and methodologies. During the translation analysis phase, the selected sections are translated into Albanian by the authors of this paper, who have expertise in

environmental science and policy. The translations are then analyzed to identify linguistic choices, terminological consistency, and cultural adaptations. CDA is applied to explore how these translations reflect and potentially reshape power relations and ideological stances within the Albanian context.

In the contextual analysis phase, the translations are examined within the broader socio-political and cultural context of Albania. This involves reviewing local legislative frameworks, conservation practices, and community engagement strategies to ensure that the translations align with the local context. CDA is employed to assess how well the translations resonate with local power structures and ideologies, ensuring that they are not only linguistically accurate but also contextually appropriate. Finally, during the expert review phase, environmental experts and conservationists are consulted to review the translations and provide feedback on their accuracy and relevance. This collaborative process helps to validate the translations and ensure that they effectively communicate the intended concepts.

Data is collected through a combination of document analysis and expert consultations. The primary data sources include the original ROAM documents in English, focusing on key sections related to restoration methodologies, ecosystem services, and community-based conservation; the Albanian translations of the selected sections, conducted by the authors; and input and feedback from environmental experts and conservation practitioners in Albania.

The data analysis involves several steps: The source texts and translations are subjected to a qualitative content analysis and CDA to identify key themes, terminological choices, and contextual adaptations. This analysis helps to uncover the linguistic and conceptual challenges encountered during the translation process. The translations are compared with the original texts to assess their accuracy and fidelity. This involves examining how specific terms and phrases are rendered in Albanian and evaluating the extent to which they preserve the meaning and nuance of the original text. The translations are evaluated within the Albanian socio-political and cultural context. This involves assessing the appropriateness of the translated terms in relation to local legislation, conservation practices, and community engagement efforts. Feedback from environmental experts is integrated into the analysis to refine and validate the translations. This iterative process helps to ensure that the translations are both accurate and culturally relevant.

Ethical considerations are paramount in this study. The confidentiality and anonymity of the experts consulted are maintained throughout the research process. Informed consent is obtained from all participants involved in the expert review phase. Additionally, the translations are conducted with a commitment to maintaining the integrity and intended meaning of the original ROAM documents.

The qualitative methodology employed in this study provides a comprehensive framework for exploring the translation of ROAM documents into Albanian. By combining content analysis, CDA, contextual evaluation, and expert feedback, this approach ensures that the translations are accurate, coherent, and culturally relevant. The findings from this methodology will contribute to the field of translation studies and support the effective implementation of biodiversity and nature conservation strategies in Albania.

4. DISCUSSION

The translation of the IUCN Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents into Albanian, analyzed through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Translation Studies, reveals several key insights into the complexities of translating technical and policy-oriented texts. This section discusses these findings, integrating recent scholarly perspectives to highlight the implications for translation practices in the context of biodiversity and nature conservation.

One of the central themes identified through CDA is the influence of power dynamics and ideological contexts on linguistic choices. Fairclough (2015) argues that language is a social practice that both reflects and shapes power relations. In the translation of ROAM documents, this is evident in the careful selection of terms that align with local legislative and conservation frameworks. Van Dijk (2016) further emphasizes that discourse plays a critical role in constructing social identities and influencing social practices. The translation process must therefore consider the socio-political context of Albania to ensure that the documents are not only linguistically accurate but also socially and politically appropriate. This consideration helps to empower local communities by providing them with access to international conservation strategies in a language and context they understand.

The importance of cultural relevance in translation is underscored by recent scholarship in Translation Studies. Munday (2020) highlights the role of the translator as an active mediator who navigates between different linguistic and cultural systems. Baker (2018) discusses the balance between formal and dynamic equivalence in translation. While formal equivalence maintains the structure and terminology of the original text, dynamic equivalence adapts the content to be more accessible and relevant to the target audience. In the context of ROAM translations,

achieving this balance is crucial for effectively communicating complex environmental concepts and encouraging local community involvement in conservation efforts.

The challenge of maintaining semantic precision while addressing novel terms and definitions is a recurrent theme in translation studies. Hatim and Mason (2019) argue that translators must navigate the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of language to achieve accurate and coherent translations. This is particularly relevant for technical documents like ROAM, where precise terminology is essential for effective communication. The collaborative nature of the translation process, involving translators, environmental experts, and local stakeholders, is vital for achieving high-quality translations. Schäffner (2018) emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in translation, particularly for policy-oriented documents. By engaging with subject matter experts, the translation process benefits from specialized knowledge that ensures the accuracy and relevance of the translated text.

The need for training translators and establishing standardized terminology is a critical finding of this study. Fairclough (2015) and Van Dijk (2016) both underscore the importance of linguistic training in ensuring that translators are equipped to handle the complexities of discourse and power relations in translation. The development of a standardized glossary for biodiversity and nature conservation terms in Albanian would provide a valuable resource for translators, educators, and policymakers, facilitating consistency and clarity in future translations.

The integration of CDA and Translation Studies in analyzing the translation of ROAM documents into Albanian provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges of translating technical and policy-oriented texts. By considering linguistic choices, cultural relevance, semantic precision, and collaborative processes, this study highlights the importance of a nuanced and contextually aware approach to translation. Recent scholarship underscores the value of training and standardization in enhancing translation quality, ultimately contributing to improved international communication and the effective implementation of global conservation strategies.

5. FINDINGS

The translation of the IUCN Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents into Albanian by the authors of this paper has revealed several significant findings. These findings illustrate the challenges and successes in accurately translating technical and policy-oriented texts. Concrete examples from the ROAM documents demonstrate how these challenges were addressed and highlight the importance of maintaining accuracy, clarity, and cultural relevance, while also reflecting the influence of power dynamics and ideological contexts.

Ensuring terminological consistency and alignment with Albanian legislative frameworks was a key challenge. This alignment is crucial for the translated documents to be legally appropriate and easily understood by local stakeholders. For example, the term "protected areas" is consistently translated as "zona të mbrojtura." This translation is in line with the terminology used in Albanian environmental laws and policies, ensuring legal relevance and clarity for policymakers and conservationists.

Maintaining conceptual clarity while preserving the technical nuances of the original text is essential. This is particularly important for terms that encapsulate complex ecological and conservation concepts. For instance, the term "ecosystem services" is translated as "shërbimet e ekosistemit." This translation retains the comprehensive role of ecosystem services in supporting human well-being and biodiversity, ensuring that the concept is accurately conveyed in Albanian.

Balancing formal equivalence with dynamic equivalence ensures that the translated text is both accurate and relatable to local communities. This is crucial for concepts related to community engagement and cultural relevance. An example is the phrase "community-based conservation," which is translated as "ruajtja e bazuar në komunitet." This translation emphasizes the involvement of local communities in conservation efforts, making the concept more relatable and understandable for Albanian-speaking audiences. CDA highlights how such translations not only convey technical information but also reflect and potentially shift power relations and ideological stances within the Albanian context.

Addressing the translation of novel terms and definitions requires a careful approach to maintain semantic precision. Collaboration with subject matter experts is essential to ensure that new terms are accurately defined and clearly understood. For example, the term "restoration opportunities" is translated as "mundësitë për restaurim," effectively conveying the idea of potential restoration projects. Similarly, "landscape restoration" is translated as "restaurimi i peizazhit," emphasizing the broader ecological context and ensuring semantic precision.

The collaborative translation process, involving the authors, environmental experts, and local stakeholders, is crucial for achieving accurate and contextually relevant translations. This collaboration facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise, ensuring that the translations meet high standards of quality and relevance. For instance, translating the IUCN Green List criteria into Albanian required input from local conservationists to ensure the criteria were both technically accurate and applicable within the Albanian context. CDA emphasizes the importance

of understanding how these collaborative processes reflect broader power structures and influence the ideological underpinnings of the translations.

The findings highlight the importance of training translators and establishing a common platform for terminology specialists. This initiative is essential for the standardization and harmonization of biodiversity and nature conservation terminology across Albania. Establishing a standardized glossary of terms for biodiversity and nature conservation in Albanian provides a valuable resource for translators, educators, and policymakers. For example, terms like "habitat fragmentation" and "biodiversity hotspots" have been standardized as "fragmentimi i habitatit" and "pikat e rrehta të biodiversitetit," respectively, ensuring consistency and clarity in future translation efforts and educational materials.

The findings from the translation of ROAM documents into Albanian underscore the complexities involved in translating biodiversity and nature conservation texts. By addressing terminological consistency, conceptual clarity, cultural relevance, semantic precision, and collaborative processes, and incorporating insights from CDA, this study provides valuable insights into effective translation practices. The emphasis on training and standardization further highlights the need for ongoing efforts to improve translation quality and facilitate international communication and collaboration in the field of biodiversity and nature conservation.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The translation of the IUCN Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) documents into Albanian highlights the intricate process of translating technical and policy-oriented texts. This study underscores the critical importance of maintaining terminological consistency, conceptual clarity, cultural relevance, and semantic precision in translations. Through a collaborative approach involving translators, environmental experts, and local stakeholders, the project successfully navigated the complexities inherent in such a specialized field.

The integration of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Translation Studies provided a robust framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges encountered during the translation process. CDA revealed the influence of power dynamics and ideological contexts on linguistic choices, while Translation Studies emphasized the balance between formal and dynamic equivalence, ensuring both accuracy and relatability. The examples from the ROAM documents demonstrated how specific translation strategies can effectively convey complex environmental concepts in a culturally resonant manner.

Furthermore, the findings highlight the necessity of training translators and establishing standardized terminology. The development of a standardized glossary for biodiversity and nature conservation terms in Albanian will serve as a valuable resource for future translations, facilitating consistency and clarity.

Ultimately, this study contributes to the advancement of translation practices, particularly in the field of biodiversity and nature conservation. By emphasizing the importance of linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and collaborative processes, the research supports the effective implementation of international conservation strategies. The insights gained from this translation project can inform and enhance future efforts to translate technical documents, promoting better international communication and collaboration in addressing global environmental challenges.

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