

## Translation of *Good* in *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*

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### Abstract

Following Newmark, “often, though not by any means always, translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that author intended the text” (Newmark, 1988: 5). To accomplish this, finding appropriate and natural equivalents is of prime importance and for the translator; collocation is the most important contextual factor which usually affects translation. So, recognizing whether or not a collocation is familiar or natural is one of the important problems in translation. The Word *good* because of its broad collocational range, may have different equivalents in different contexts. This paper investigated the different equivalents of the word in the Persian translation of the English novel *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*. In order to fulfill the research purpose, all the instances of the word *good*, by means of AntConc concordancer and their Persian equivalents were extracted. After collecting data, they were classified and analyzed. Analysis of the data showed that translator, nearly in most cases, aimed at using established and typical equivalents. The study finally comes up with the conclusion that accuracy is no doubt an important aim in translation, but it is also important to bear in mind that the use of common receptor-language patterns which are familiar to the target readers plays an important role in keeping open the lines of communication

**Keywords:** translation, the English, the Persian, collocation, equivalents

### 1. Introduction

By dictionary definition ,translation consists of changing from one state or form to another ,to turn into one’s own language (Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 2006).In Newmark’s words, “often, though not by any means always ,translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text” (Newmark, 1988: 5). We may think that this rendering ought to be simple, as one ought to be able to substitute a word in the source language with another one in the receptor language. But, translation is not simply substitution of lexical items in the two languages. The translator, in the process of translation, is constantly looking for the most appropriate and natural lexical equivalents between the source and the receptor language. Following Nida, “naturalness” is a key requirement of a translation. Indeed, he defines the goal of dynamic equivalence as aiming at “the closest natural equivalent to the source language message” (Nida, 1964a: 166; Nida, & Taber, 1969: 12). The source language text may use a generic word, but the receptor language may have more specific words in that semantic area, as well as a generic word. Use of the more generic word might not be appropriate for that context, On the other hand, if one is translating, one would need to evaluate each context to decide which term would be the best choice in the receptor language, for “a word ‘acquires’ meaning through its context”(Munday, 2001: 38). Furthermore, the choice will depend on the collocational range of each of the equivalents. According to Newmark “translation is sometimes a continual struggle to find appropriate collocations, a process of connecting up appropriate nouns with verbs and verbs with nouns, collocating appropriate adjectives to the nouns and adverbial groups or adverbs to verbs”(Newmark, 1988: 213).

As an example, *good* is a generic English word. Suppose Persian as the receptor language, it is not always correct to use generic equivalents "خوب" for this English generic word. Concerning the context and the collocational range of this generic word, a translator should choose the best lexical equivalents and does not confine himself to referential meaning.

As lexical equivalents for generic words is concerned, it is a problematic issue in the field of translation and finding the closest natural equivalent is of prime importance. Recognizing whether or not a collocation is familiar,

natural, or just acceptable, is one of the most important problems in translation. However, it is believed no research has yet been done on this topic.

### 1.1 Significance of the Study

This study is an attempt to identify and categorize different equivalents of the English word *good* in the Persian translation of the English novel *The history of Tom Jones, a Foundling*. Hopefully, the findings of this research have an influential role in lifting translators' problems. Also, its results can be fruitful for translation students, teachers, classes and anyone who is working on translation. It is hoped that it creates sensitivity toward looking for the suitable equivalent way to express the meaning in the receptor language and translating as naturally, accurately and with maximum effectiveness as possible.

## 2. Method

As it was mentioned previously, an English novel by Henry Fielding, entitled *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling* (1749) and its Persian translation by Karimi Hakkak, have been selected as the literary source texts. It is one of the great masterpieces of English literature and a major force in the development of the novel form. This novel has been selected from among seventeen English literary works. The e-book of these literary works loaded in AntConc software, which is a freeware concordance program, and the freeware processed them. The result of the texts processed showed that the number of the English word *good* in the above said novel were more than in the other novels. It is worth mentioning that there are some limiting conditions which restrict generalization of the results: because of time limitation only one literary work of eighteenth century has been selected and in fact there has been no randomization in the selection of the research's sample.

## 3. Results

The data which were collected then were analyzed to accomplish the purpose of the study. The following classification summarizes the results of the study on the different equivalents of the English word *good*.

### 3.1 Good

Data which are included here are classified into five categories.

3.1.1 This category is the classification of those data in which the word *good* is an adjective (In 59.50% of data, *good* serves as an adjective). Within this category we have seven subcategories.

#### 3.1.1.1 Of Persons

Here *good* refers to a person (44.60% of adjective *good*). According to the grammatical structure, six groups are defined.

3.1.1.1.1 *Good* + person have been translated as an adjective + person. According to equivalent adjective which translator has used, data are classified into 3 groups.

##### 3.1.1.1.1.1 Cultural Equivalent

For example:

E: she's a true good lady (p. 330)

P: راسي راسي خانوم ماهيه (ص. 398)

##### 3.1.1.1.1.2 General Adjective

For example:

E: that's a good girl (p. 615)

P: اينومينگن دختر خوب (ص. 764)

##### 3.1.1.1.1.3 An Unmarked Equivalent

Translator, according to the context and collocational range of words, has used a typical equivalent for *good*.

For example:

E: the good woman gave Black George to the evil (p. 200)

P: زنان آبرودار جورج سپاهه را به دست ابليس خبيث مي سپردند (ص. 233)

E: the good lady could not forbear (p. 24)

P: خانم نيكو خصال نتوانست خودداري كند (ص. 10)

3.1.1.1.2 so/this/that/ the + *good* + (a) + person has been rendered as a proper noun. Translator has selected this proper noun according to the context.

For example:

E: nor did that good lady depart without learning some wholesome admonition (p. 185)

P: (212) خانم و سترن این موقعیت را بلا استفاده نگذاشت (ص. 212)

3.1.1.1.3 *Good*+ person has been rendered as person + noun. Here, the equivalent of adjective *good* is a noun which indicates the profession of that person and has been selected according to the context.

For example:

E: after the departure of that good woman (p. 318)

P: (381) بعد از خروج زن مهمانخانه‌دار از اتاق (ص. 381)

3.1.1.1.4 *Good* + noun indicating persons and their professions have been translated as an adjective+ noun.

For example:

E: having behaved himself always like a good valiant soldier (p. 241)

P: (284) همیشه رفتار سربازی جانباز و جسور را از خود نشان داده است (ص. 284)

E: good writers will, indeed, do well (P. 379)

P: (462) راستی را، نویسندگان چیره دست نیز باید (ص. 462)

3.1.1.1.5 *Good* + person have been translated into a noun.

For example:

E: He knew the nature of that good man (p. 154)

P: (148) می‌دانست که نهاد این نیکمرد (ص. 148)

E: I am sure we are very good friends to the government (p. 234)

P: (275) ما که خدمتگزار این حکومتیم (ص. 275)

3.1.1.1.6 Determiner "the" + *good* have been translated in to a plural noun.

For example:

E: even to the good (P. 611)

P: (758) حتی نیک سرشتان (ص. 758)

3.1.1.2 Of qualities or attributes (38.40% of adjective *good* refer to qualities or attributes). Data in this category are classified into 13 groups.

3.1.1.2.1 Of actions, intentions, offer, offices, opinion, principals, qualities and wishes.

For example:

E: for this one good action forgive her all her sins (p. 600)

P: (743) به خاطر همین یه کار نیک همه گناهانشو ببخشه (ص. 743)

E: you are sincere in such good intentions. (p. 597)

P: (739) شما در این نیت صواب خودتون پابرجا و استوارید (ص. 739)

E: a lecture to the person on good manners (p. 501)

P: (617) موعظاتی خطاب به کشیش در باب آداب معاشرت (ص. 617)

E: it was not so good an offer (p. 560)

P: (693) پیشنهاداون شخص تااین اندازه چشمگیر نبود (ص. 693)

E: the good offices which that grateful fellow had promised (p. 533)

P: (658) خدمات مفیدی که این مرد قدرشناس قول داده بود (ص. 658)

E: For the good opinion he had professed of his nephew (p. 171)

P: (196) به خاطر نظر مساعدي که به خواهرزاده‌اش ابراز کرده است (ص. 196)

E: among other good principals (P. 492)

P: در میان دیگر اصول حسنه‌ای (ص. 606)

According to Persian equivalents which translator has used, in this category data are classified into 3 groups.

3.1.1.2.1.1 *Good* + nouns in 1.1.2.1 has been translated into an adjective + noun.

For example:

E: you good intentions (p. 534)

P: نیت خیر خواهانه شما (ص. 658)

3.1.1.2.1.2 *Good* + nouns in 1.1.2.1 have been translated into a noun.

For example:

E: I am certain he hath many good qualities (p. 603)

P: اطمینان دارم محسنات بسیاری داره. (ص. 747)

3.1.1.2.1.3 To conceive/to have + *good* + opinion has translated into a verb.

For example:

E: waters had in truth, not only a good opinion of our hero (p. 313)

P: خانم و اترز نه تنها از قهرمان ها خوشش آمده بود (ص. 375)

3.1.1.2.2 Of Immaterial Things

For example:

E: who hath generally a good nose (p. 91)

P: که معمولا شامه تیزی دارند (ص. 95)

E: the squire gave him a good curse at his departure (p. 114)

P: ارباب فحش آبداری بدرقه راه تام کرد (ص. 122)

3.1.1.2.3 Of Fortune and Luck

According to Persian equivalents that translator has used, we have 3 groups.

3.1.1.2.3.1 To have + (the) + *good* + luck or fortune has been translated into an adverb.

For example:

E: he had the good fortune to prevent. (p. 326)

P: خوشبختانه او سر رسیده و جلوی این کار را گرفته است (ص. 392)

3.1.1.2.3.2 *Good* + fortune /luck has translated into an adjective +noun.

For example:

E: betokens much good fortune. (p. 259)

P: حکایت از بخت و اقبال خوش داره (ص. 310)

3.1.1.2.3.3 To have + (the) + *good* + luck / fortune has translated into a sentence.

For example:

E: he had the good fortune to miss his men (p. 239)

P: بخت یاری کرد و تیر به هدف نخورد (ص. 281)

3.1.1.2.4 Of News, Night and Journey

For example:

E: well, but what is your good news (p. 519)

P: خوب حالا خبر خوشت چیه (ص. 640)

E: wished his companion a good night (p. 410)

P: برای همپاله خود شب خوشی را آرزو کرد (ص. 504)

E: a good journey (p. 34)

P: سفری خوش (ص. 23)

## 3.1.1.2.5 Of Health and State of Mind

For example:

E: your honor is seemingly in perfect good health (p. 420)

P: شما ظاهراً صددرد سالم و سر حالین (ص. 515)

E: which a good mind enjoys (p. 410)

P: که نشون دهنده ذهنی آرام و نیک اندیشه (ص. 503)

## 3.1.1.2.6 Of Material Things

For example:

E: a good blade (p. 237)

P: تیغهای بیرا (ص. 279)

E: not to part one good thing (p. 574)

P: نمیخواست یک چیز قیمتی را از دست بدهد (ص. 710)

## 3.1.1.2.7 Of Security, Reason, Authority

According to Persian equivalents that translator has used, two groups are defined.

## 3.1.1.2.7.1 Good + security/ reason/ authority has rendered into an adjective + noun.

For example:

E: might be called pretty good security (p. 48)

P: می توان وثیقه بسیار معتبری نامید (ص. 40)

E: for some other reasons equally good (p. 216)

P: دلایل قانع کننده دیگری در کار بود (ص. 253)

3.1.1.2.7.2 A preposition + *good* + security / reason/ authority has been translated into an adverb.

For example:

E: he was with good reasons offended at the treatment he received (p. 266)

P: حقاً از رفتاری که کد بانو ثبت به او در بیش گرفته بود سخت آزرده خاطر شد (ص. 218)

## 3.1.1.2.8 Of Book, Advice, Lesson

For example:

E: may learn one good lesson (p. 115)

P: یک درس بسیار مفید را می آموزد (ص. 124)

## 3.1.1.2.9 Of Fame and Reputation

For example:

E: the house is well known to be a house of good reputation as any on the read (p. 310)

P: مهمونخونه ما توی مهمونخونه های سر راه جای ایرومندیبه (ص. 371)

## 3.1.1.2.10 Of Purpose and Effect

For example:

E: to many good purposes (p. 31)

P: در راه هدفهای متعالی بسیار (ص. 19)

E: must at least have this good effect (p. 210)

P: دست کم این فایده را در بر دارد (ص. 246)

## 3.1.1.2.11 Of Countenance and Teeth

For example:

E: a good countenance is a letter of recommendation (p. 274)

P: یک چهره خوشایند کار یک توصیه نامه را می کند (ص. 329)

E: he had good teeth. (p. 36)

P: دندانهاي درخشاني داشت (ص.25)

### 3.1.1.2.12 Of Family

For example:

E: enquire after the good family (p. 264)

P: از روز و روزگار اين خانواده شريف جويبا شد (ص.316)

### 3.1.1.2.13 Of an Animal

For example

E: have are two or three good horses in the stable (p. 337)

P: اينجا هم دوسه تا اسب قيراق توي اصطبلشون هست (ص.406)

### 3.1.1.3 Of Things

Within this category 2 groups are classified.

#### 3.1.1.3.1 Of Food and Drink

For example

E: with a tankard of good ale (p. 90)

P: يك ليوان بزرگ آبجو اعلا (ص.93)

#### 3.1.1.3.2 Of a Place

For example:

E: I have several good rooms for that matter. (p. 330)

P: چندين و چند اتاق خيلي شيك داريم (ص.397)

E: kept a good house (p. 19)

P: خانه‌اي منظم و مرتب داشت (ص.5)

#### 3.1.1.4 Good in the Address Form

In this category adjective *good* comes before the names of persons whom have been addressed.

For example:

E: good Honour, let me know it without any longer preface (p. 214)

P: آنرجان! ديگه مقدمه چيني بسه، بگو ببينم خبرت چيه (ص.250)

E: my good friend (p. 290)

P: دوست عزيز (ص.348)

#### 3.1.1.5 Those data in which we have determiner "a" + *good* + deal (of) are classified under this category.

E: a good deal of religion (p. 518)

P: دينداري وافر (ص.638)

3.1.1.6 In this category, adjective *good* is applied to god, sometimes in the wide sense, as containing moral perfection generally, and sometimes with more restricted reference to his benevolence and in exclamation containing the name of god or some substituted expressions as *good god!* good lord! and good heaven!.

For example:

E: good heavens! (p. 594)

P: يارالها (ص.736)

#### 3.1.1.7 Idiomatic Expression Good- *Lack- a-day*

For example:

E: good-lack-a-day (p. 233)

P: بعله، ديگه (ص.274)

3.1.2 In this category, the word *good* serves as a noun (*good* as a noun constitute 5.74% of all the data).

For example:

E: for the good of my family (p. 502)

P: (618) به خاطر مصلح خانواده (ص. 618)

3.1.3 This category involves the combinations of the word *good* with nouns such as sense, nature, breeding, will, humor and temper (14.23% of all the data are the combinations of *good*). According to Persian equivalents that translator has used, data are classified into 5 sub categories.

3.1.3.1 Those data in which *good*+ aforesaid nouns has translated into a noun.

For example:

E: her good humor deserve so much commendation (p. 546)

P: (674) خوشر ذوقی فلان کس جای اینهمه ستایش دارد (ص. 674)

3.1.3.2 *Good* + aforesaid nouns has translated into an adjective. In Persian equivalent adjectives are called compound adjectives.

For example:

E: this was accorded with more good – will than it was. (p. 414)

P: این اجازه هم با لحنی دلپذیر صادر شد و پاتریج و جوان  
راهنما هم بالاخره در برابر آن تسلیم شدند (ص. 508)

3.1.3.3 To have + (a) + *good* + aforesaid nouns has translated into an adjective.

For example:

E: had so much with and good breeding (p. 522)

P: (733) خیلی خوش مشرب و با تربیت (ص. 733)

3.1.3.4 *Good* + aforesaid nouns + -ed has been translated into an adjective. In Persian these equivalent adjectives may be simple or compound adjectives.

For example:

E: good – natured accident (p. 308)

P: (369) رویدادی شیرین (ص. 369)

E: she is a very friendly, good – natured woman (p. 263)

P: (315) این زن بانویی است زود آشنا و خوش طینت (ص. 315)

3.1.3.5 *Good* + aforesaid nouns has translated into an adjective + noun.

For example:

E: with all the good humor he could master in his countenance (p. 506)

P: نهایت روی خوش و خوی نیکویی که بانو در او یافته بود و دوست می داشت به چهره آورد (ص. 124)

3.1.4 Idiomatic Phrases Containing the Word *Good* (10.94% of all data are idiomatic phrases)

3.1.4.1 As Good As

For example:

E: as good a gentleman as Mr. Jones himself (p. 265)

P: از نظر درجه و مرتبه اجتماعی به همان اندازه آقا زاده و بزرگزاده است (ص. 377)

3.1.4.2 To Be As Good As (one's word)

For example:

E: he was as good as his words (p. 72)

P: به این قول خود وفا هم کرد (ص. 69)

3.1.4.3 To Be Good at Something

For example:

E: I pray you are good at capping verses (p. 253)

P: (شعر و شاعریت هم که بدک نیست، گل مولا (ص.302))

#### 3.1.4.4 To Be Good For

For example:

E: but what is their fondness good for (p. 447)

P: (ولی علاقه چه فایده دارد (ص.550))

#### 3.1.4.5 To Be Good Enough for Some One

For example:

E: what ever happens to them, it is good enough for them (p. 119)

P: (هر بلایی هم سرش بیاد، حالا کاری نداریم، حقشه ها(ص.129))

#### 3.1.4.6 Many's the Good Time and Often

For example:

E: he hath injured any bed many's the good time and often (p. 58)

P: (اینقدر بستر عفت منو آلوده کرده که نگو و نپرس (ص.52))

#### 3.1.4.7 To Be Too Good to Some One

For example:

E: oh, sir, you are too good to me (p. 73)

P: (آه ، آقا، شما بیش از حد به من محبت می کنید (ص.70))

#### 3.1.4.8 To Have Some Good in Someone

For example:

E: so you like wise have some good in you (p. 170)

P: (تو هم چندان بی مصرف نیستی (ص.194))

#### 3.1.4.9 To Have Good Mind

For example:

E: I have good mind to punish the rascal for being a coward (p. 243)

P: (باوجود این میل دارم مردک را به خاطر بزدلی تنبیه کنم(ص.287))

#### 3.1.4.10 Good for Nothing

For example:

E: I told him there were men that were good for nothing else but to be killed (p. 347)

P: (بهبش گفتم اینقدر آدم هستن که فقط به درد کشته شدن می خورن (ص.419))

#### 3.1.5 This Category Involves Those Data in Which Good Has Not Translated (9.60%)

For example:

E: even before I heard the good news. (p. 367)

P: (حتی پیش از اینکه اون خبر به گوشم برسه (ص.443))

In the case of the word *good*, in almost more than half of the instances (59.50%), it serves as an adjective. In about 17.30% of all cases in which *good* is an adjective, translator has used Persian equivalent "خوب". This means that almost in most cases (82.07%) translator has rendered *good* into a typical and unmarked Persian equivalent. In nearly all cases (92.58%) which the word *good* is a noun, translator has replaced *good* with a typical and unmarked Persian equivalent.

Generally we can say that the translator may be translated according to context and collocational range, aimed at using established and typical equivalents. *Good* is a general word and the more general a word is, the broader its collocational range. As we know words rarely occur on their own; they almost occur in the company of other words. In a given language, certain words tend to co-occur regularly and as a result there are differences in collocational patterning both within and across languages. The important thing is the naturalness or the typicality of the resulting combinations. Differences in the collocational patterning of the source and receptor language can



pose various problems in translation. So translators should bear in mind that what a word means often depends on its association with certain collocates and in different context. As far as translation is concerned, taking account of collocational meaning rather than substitution individual words with their dictionary equivalents is crucial. In fact a translator would be aiming at finding a collocation in the receptor language which conveys the same or similar meaning to that of the source collocation. In rendering unmarked source language collocation into the receptor language, a translator ideally aims at producing a collocation which is typical and natural in the target language while, at the same time preserving the meaning and effect associated with the source collocation; for example a “good/ bad law” is typically a “just/ unjust law” in Persian. It is important to keep in consideration that the use of common target-language patterns which are familiar to the target readers plays an important role in readability of translation and keeping the communication channels open, as the translator of *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling* has done so.

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusion

This research was an attempt to identify and classify the different equivalents of the English word *good* in the Persian translation of the English novel *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*. To accomplish the purpose of the study, the data were collected and then were analyzed. Analysis of the data showed that nearly in most cases which *good* served as an adjective or a noun, translator has used typical, familiar, natural and acceptable equivalents in Persian. As far as we know, this word is a general word both in Persian and English. Given the fact that general words have a broader collocational range than other words, it collocates with many words and according to the context in which they are, they may have different equivalents. Also we should take in consideration that collocations of lexical items will differ from language to language; In fact, in two languages the meaning is the same but different words are combined to indicate the meaning. Based on what is said above, it seems that translator according to the context and collocational range of the words which collocate with *good* has used common patterns of collocation in Persian. Indeed, it is worth mentioning that our sample was very small and the results of this study are confined to the aforesaid English novel, which is a literary work of eighteenth century, and its Persian translation. The same research on other works may produce different results and for generalization from the results more studies will be needed.

Although our sample was very small, it is hoped that its interesting findings produce practical assistance for translators, students of translation and anybody who is interested in translation studies field; furthermore, they are of major importance for pedagogical purposes in translation classes. These findings are:

- 1) Collocation is the most contextual factor for the translator.
- 2) As far as translation is concerned, translators should recognize the familiarity, naturalness and acceptability of a collocation and consider the acceptable collocational range of any lexical words.
- 3) Context and collocational range play a significant role in finding natural and common collocational patterning of the receptor language.
- 4) English-Persian dictionaries themselves are translations and their capability in term of presenting equivalents is subject to restrictions.
- 5) Translators should not entirely rely on dictionary equivalents.
- 6) Translators should not always translate *good* in "خوب". In different contexts, they should use suitable equivalents for them.
- 7) In the process of translation, translator should make use of the receptor language potentials and translation strategies.

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