



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***PROCEDURES AND STRATEGIES IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
CULTURAL WORDS IN MOWLANA JALALUDDIN RUMI'S MATHNAVI***

MOZHGAN MOHAJERIN KERMANI

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By

MOZHGAN MOHAJERIN KERMANI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, University Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

June 2013

DEDICATION

To my dear parents



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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Western culture has long had a hegemonic influence on translation, resulting in the choice of strategies and procedures that favour the Western readers, for instance, domestication strategies that bring the text closer to the target reader instead of maintaining the original cultural elements. This position also influenced Persian-English translation.

This research is on the use of domestication and foreignization strategies in the translation of cultural elements from Persian into English in Jalaluddin Rumi's *Mathnavi*. Its purpose is to describe and compare the application of domestication and foreignization strategies utilized by five renowned translators in order to find out the dominant overall strategy used as well as the dominant procedures employed in translating specific categories of cultural words. The research also discusses the

socio-cultural factors contributing to the choice of strategies and procedures used by translators.

The analysis was based on Venuti's (1995) dichotomy of domestication and foreignization. Cultural words were identified and classified on the basis of Newmark's (1988) categorization of cultural words. Newmark's model had to be expanded and refined to include all cultural words found in the *Mathnavi* before the analysis could be carried out. In line with the objectives of the study, Toury's (1995) methodology of descriptive translation studies (DTS) was selected, thus locating the source and target texts in their socio-cultural and historical contexts. Translators' individual backgrounds were considered as another factor influencing translators' selection of strategies.

The findings show that the procedures employed most frequently were literal translation, cultural adjustment, and explanation; while the most dominant overall strategy used is domestication. The findings also indicated a variation in individual translators' use of the main strategies. The choice of the strategies seemed to be influenced by factors related to socio-cultural and historical contexts, such as Western cultural hegemony, and individual factors such as translators' prior familiarity with Persian culture and their interest in the culture, as well as their academic backgrounds and fields of study.

The findings of this research contribute to a more in-depth understanding of the process involved in the translation of cultural words in Rumi's *Mathnavi* within the context of Western cultural hegemony, which has hitherto been lacking. Information

on translators' choice of translation procedures for translating each category of cultural words also provides a useful guideline for translators of similar literary pieces from Persian to English.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PROSEDUR DAN STRATEGI DALAM PENTERJEMAHAN BAHASA
INGGERIS ISTILAH BUDAYA DALAM PUISI *MATHNAVI* MOWLANA
JALALUDDIN RUMI**

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Budaya barat telah lama mempunyai pengaruh hegemoni pada terjemahan, menyebabkan pilihan strategi dan prosedur yang memihak kepada pembaca barat, misalnya, strategi *domestication* yang membawa teks lebih dekat kepada pembaca sasaran dan bukannya mengekalkan unsur-unsur budaya asal. Kedudukan ini juga dipengaruhi terjemahan Parsi-Bahasa Inggeris.

Kajian ini adalah berkenaan dengan penggunaan strategi *domestication* dan *foreignization* dalam penterjemahan elemen budaya dari Bahasa Parsi kepada Bahasa Inggeris dalam karya Jalaluddin Rumi yang berjudul '*Mathnavi*'. Kajian ini bertujuan menerangkan dan membuat perbandingan tentang penggunaan strategi *domestication* dan *foreignization* oleh lima orang penterjemah terkenal untuk mengenal pasti strategi keseluruhan yang dominan serta prosedur yang paling dominan digunakan dalam penterjemahan kategori istilah budaya (cultural words)

spesifik. Kajian ini turut membincangkan factor sosio-budaya yang menyumbang kepada pemilihan strategi dan prosedur yang digunakan oleh penterjemah.

Analisis telah dijalankan berdasarkan dikotomi di antara *domestication* dan *foreignization* Venuti (1995). Istilah budaya dikenalpasti dan dikelaskan berdasarkan kategori istilah budaya yang digubal oleh Newmark (1998). Model Newmark telah diperkembangkan dan dimurnikan untuk mencakupi semua istilah yang terdapat dalam *Mathnavi* sebelum analisis dijalankan. Selari dengan objektif kajian ini metodologi deskriptif kajian terjemahan yang diutarakan oleh Toury (1995) telah digunakan supaya mengaitkan teks asal dan teks yang diterjemahkan dengan konteks socio-budaya dan sejarah. Selain itu, latar belakang penterjemah juga diambil kira sebagai faktor yang mempengaruhi pemilihan strategi penterjemahan.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan bahawa prosedur yang paling banyak digunakan adalah prosedur penterjemahan literal, perubahan budaya dan penerangan, manakala strategi keseluruhan yang paling banyak digunakan adalah *domestication*. Dapatan kajian juga menunjukkan variasi dalam penggunaan strategi oleh para penterjemah. Pemilihan strategi dipengaruhi oleh faktor yang berkait dengan konteks budaya dan sejarah seperti hegemoni budaya penjajah Barat serta faktor individu seperti pemahaman dan minat terhadap budaya Parsi, latar belakang akademik dan bidang pengajian.

Dapatan kajian ini menyumbang kepada pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang proses penterjemahan istilah budaya dalam karya Rumi yang berjudul *Mathnavi*, dalam konteks hegemoni budaya barat kerana setakat ini, maklumat tersebut agak

berkurangan. Maklumat tentang pilihan prosedur yang dibuat penterjemah dalam menterjemahkan kategori istilah budaya tertentu juga sangat berguna sebagai panduan untuk penterjemah yang ingin menjalankan kerja penterjemahan dari Bahasa Persi kepada Bahasa Inggeris.



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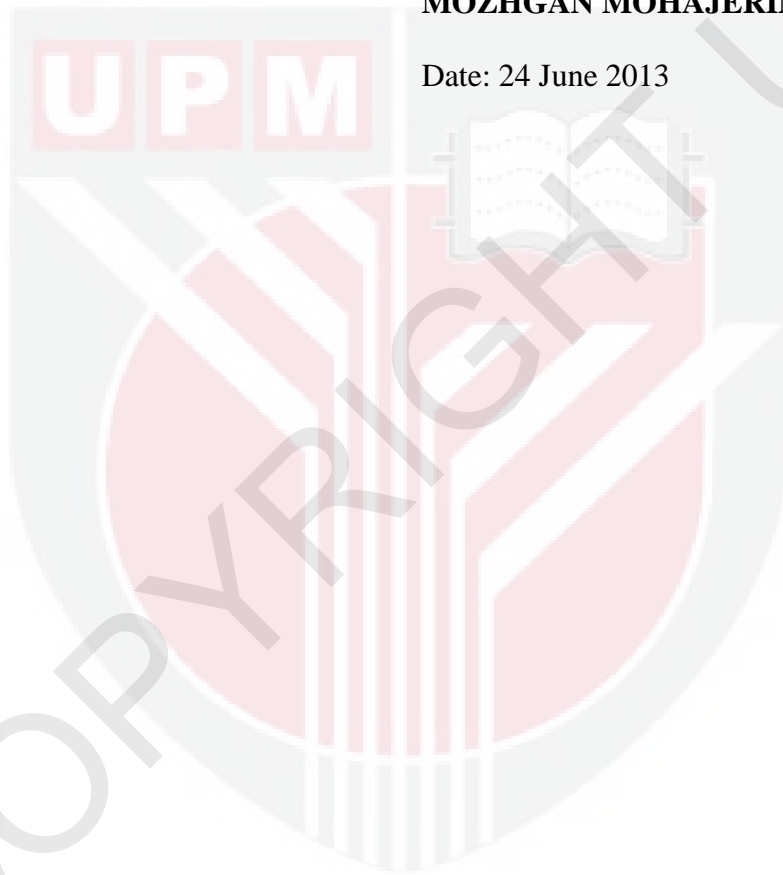
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

MOZHGAN MOHAJERIN KERMANI

Date: 24 June 2013



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