

False Friends in Technical Translations between Sinhala and Tamil

Jayasinghe, Dhammika

Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna

dhammikajayasinghe211@gmail.com

Technical translation is one of the main types in the field of translations. The process of technical translation raises various kinds of problems; lexical issues being one such. This paper outlines the false friends as problem of lexical level involved in Sinhala and Tamil technical translation. The observation method was used to collect primary data and secondary data were collected through library based documents. Sinhala is an Indo-Aryan language mainly spoken in Sri Lanka. Tamil is a Dravidian language mainly spoken in Tamilnadu and Sri Lanka. Both languages are closely related culturally and geographically. As a result of this, there are a number of common lexical items used in these two languages which indicate the same meaning. Such kind of lexical items can be termed as 'true friends'. But we are able to find a set of common lexical items used in these two languages which display divergent meanings. Such kind of lexical items are termed as 'false friends'. False friends are words or expressions which have the same form in two or more languages but convey different meanings. This creates a problem in translation. Since the same form conveys different meanings in the above two languages, the translators find it very difficult to handle such lexical items. They face difficult problems in identifying such vocabulary items with correct meanings in the translation process. In this paper, false friends as lexical problems in Sinhala and Tamil are discussed and how to identify and classify those lexical items are described.

Key words: *False Friends, Lexical Items, Problems of Translations*