



Hindi Translation Of *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret To A Long And Happy Life*: Syntactical And Semantical Analysis

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Abstract

Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life written by Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles originally written in Spanish and published in 2016, is one of the internationally best selling non-fictions. It has been translated into 70 languages and more than 5 million copies of this book have been sold. This book has been translated into Hindi too. In this paper I delve into the Hindi translation of this book translated and compare it with the English translation of the same and in certain cases, wherever necessary, also refer to the original text written in Spanish. With the help of a systematically curated list of errors in the Hindi translation, I try to analyse the type and quality of translations. Theoretical view and practical annotation will benefit the readers as well as translators. This is a technical and descriptive research paper.

Keywords: *Ikigai, translation, non-fiction, Hindi.*

Introduction

Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life written by Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles originally written in Spanish was published in 2016.¹ It is one of the international selling non-fiction. This book explains the art of staying young with growing age and leading a happy life in context of Japanese people. As per latest records, it has been translated into 70 languages and more than 5 million copies of this book have been sold.² This book has been translated into Hindi too.³

References in this paper have been taken mainly from its English version translated by Heather Clearly, published by Hutchinson London in 2017 and Hindi version translated by Prasad Dhapare, Published by Mymirror Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., Pune, India in 2020 (2nd reprint). References have also been taken from the original version in Spanish published by Urano, Barcelona in 2016.

¹hectogracia.org

² ibid

³ Dhapare, Prasad, *Ikigai*, Mymirror Publishing House, Pune, 2020

As mentioned in Health benefits of *Ikigai: A Review of Literature (2021)*, *Ikigai* (lit. ‘a reason for being’) is a Japanese concept referring to something that gives a person a sense of purpose, a reason for living. Online Oxford English dictionary confirms the earliest use of the noun ‘*Ikigai*’ in the 1970’s. And its earliest evidence for ‘*Ikigai*’ is from 1972, in *Japan Christian Quarterly*. The term ‘*Ikigai*’ has been formed by combining two Japanese words - *iki* and *kai*. Literally *iki* means *life, alive* and *kai* means *effect, result, worth* etc. Thus, we generally mean ‘*Ikigai*’ - ‘a reason for living’.

As published in a magazine named *Kizuna Linking Japan and the World* (Spring 2022) with title “*Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Joyful Life*” and available on the website of the Government of Japan – “The Japanese word *ikigai*, which has gained attention worldwide and enjoys widespread use, refers to a passion that gives value and joy to life.” Hector Garcia, co-author of the book *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* says, “There is no word like it anywhere in the world”⁴.

Comparative analysis of the source text and the target text

Generally a popular book is translated into many languages to reach to a large number of readers. *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* has also been translated into 70 languages with an ambition to catch readers at the global level. Owing to a huge market of readers of Hindi, this non-fiction has also found its ways into the market of translated books. Main motto of this paper is to highlight a wide gap between the Source Language Text and Target Language Text with translation view. English version of the book *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* is equally to be worth mentioning as its readers are available worldwide. After a side by side comparison of the text in Spanish, English and Hindi, I have found that the Hindi version reads closer to English version as it matches the sequence of its contents. In this research paper, it has been tried to focus on syntactical and semantical aspects of Hindi translation.

Let us ponder over some other points worth mentioning. Here I mention the systematically curated translation errors that have caught my eye. These references are from *Ikigai*, Hutchinson London, 2017 (English version) and *Ikigai*, Mymirror Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., Pune, 2nd reprint, 2020.

PAGE NO.(P), LINE NO.(L) & SOURCE TEXT ENGLISH	PAGE NO.(P), LINE NO.(L) & TARGET TEXT HINDI	TYPE OF ERROR	SUGGESTION
CONTENTS	P7,8 –Not translated fully	Omittance	विषय-क्रम आधी-अधूरी की जगह पूरी अनुवाद की जाए।
P1,L1 - mysterious	P10- जादुई	Semantic error	रहस्यपूर्ण, रहस्यमयी
P1,L1- night	P10-शाम	Semantic error	रात
	P10- । टोक्यो में।	Syntactical error	टोक्यो में मधुशाला/बार में चर्चा कर रहे थे।
	P-10- हम दोनों जापान की राजधानी से हजारों मील दूर रहते थे।	Syntactical error	एक लेखक टोक्यो तथा दूसरा बार्सिलोना में रहते थे।
P1-L10- The next time...in downtown Tokyo	टोक्यो का जिक्र नहीं	Syntactical error	मिलन-स्थल की जगह टोक्यो का जिक्र किया जाए।

⁴hectogracia.org

P2- At some point ...ikigai came up	जादुई	Semantic error	रहस्यमयी
P2- This Japanese ... translates roughly	ऊपरी अर्थ	Semantic error	साधारणया शाब्दिक अर्थ
	11- 'इकिगाई'शब्द ... रहस्य बताता है।	Syntactical error	मूल पाठ के जैसा लिखना अपेक्षित है।
P2and other pages-longevity	P11-आयुर्मान	Semantic error	दीर्घायु
P2-L18- average	11-अनुपात	Semantic error	औसत
P2-L12-The Japanese...	11- जापान में ...	Syntactical error	जापान के दक्षिण में इस द्वीप पर रहने वाले या ओकिनावा में
P3- Para 1- While researching...in the field ... West	No word given for Psychology, Personal Development and Philosophy to the West	Omittance (Syntactical error)	स्रोत पाठ के अनुसार तथ्य का उल्लेख किया जाए।
P3- L9- Ogimi- north end of the island	12-दक्षिणी जापान	Semantic error	द्वीप के उत्तरी छोर पर
P7-Ikigai (Filosopia Ikigai)	इकिगाई	Omittance (Semantic error)	इकिगाई दर्शन
P9- Name of diagram	Diagram not published as in the Source Text	Semantic error	आरेख को यथावत रखा जाए।
	17- ...पक्का पता चलेगी	Syntactical error	पक्का पता चलेगा
P12-L12- The Blue Zone (book)	Not mentioned	Omittance (Semantic error)	द ब्लू जोन (पुस्तक) का उल्लेख किया जाए।
P12-L14- northern part	20-दक्षिण का इलाका	Semantic error	उत्तरी भाग
P12-L21-One or two glass of wine (not in Spanish version)	20-मूल पाठ से भिन्न	Addition (Semantic error)	स्पैनिश मूल पाठ के अनुरूप लिखा जाए।
	20- दीर्घायु	Spelling error	दीर्घायु
	28- स्थिती	Spelling error	स्थिति
	32-कठिन गणित के प्रश्न	Sequence of words	गणित के कठिन प्रश्न
	32-लडने	Spelling error	लड़ने
P19-L1 and other places- Ageing's escape velocity	26- उम्र बढ़ने के परे की कहानी	Semantic error	उम्रकी तेज रफ्तार
P19- Diagram missing	Diagram missing	Omittance of information	स्पैनिश में लिखित मूल पुस्तक के अनुरूप आरेख रखे जाएं।
P23-L1- Researchers at Heidelberg	32-हिडलबर्ग यूनिवर्सिटी के डॉक्टरों ने	Facts changed (Semantic error)	हाइडेलबर्ग विश्वविद्यालय अस्पताल

University Hospital			के अनुसंधानकर्ताओं ने
P24-Chart title-modern humans	34-प्रगतशील लोग	Semantic error	आधुनिकलोग
	35- यादाशत	spelling error	याददाशत
P39- Chart title-Psychoanalysis	50-अनालिसिस	Semantic error	मनोविश्लेषण
P39-Chart line no. 6-psychology	50-मानवशास्त्र	Semantic error	मनोविज्ञान
P39- Chart line no. 6-includes a spiritual dimension	50-अध्यात्म का धागा खोजा जाता है।	Semantic error	आध्यात्मिक आयाम से जोड़ा जाता है।
	60- का	Syntactical error	को
	61- उसका	Syntactical error	उसको
	61- का	Syntactical error	को
	86-जापान के लोग छोटे से छोटे काम में भी तन-मन लगाकर काम करते हैं।	Syntactical error	जापान के लोग छोटे से छोटे काम भी तन-मन से करते हैं।
	89- आंखों से पता चली	Syntactical error	चला
P73- L17-1980s	89- 1980 में	Semantic error	1980 के दशक में
P73-L17-visit to Sony factories	89- सोनी कंपनी को एक भेंट दी थी	Incorrect sentence	सोनी के फैक्टरी का भ्रमण किया था।/देखने गए थे।
P74-L1-Kyoto exhibition	90-क्योटा	Incorrect spelling	क्योटो
	90-प्रदर्शन	Semantic error	प्रदर्शनी
	118- सहमती	Spelling error	सहमति
	137- दिर्घायु	Spelling error	दीर्घायु
	141- यानि	Spelling error	यानी
	142- पद्धती	Spelling error	पद्धति
	142- लोगोंको पता थे	Syntactical error	लोगों को पता था
P101-Name of the title changed	As in English	Different title (Semantic error)	शीर्षक के नाम यथावत रखे जाएं।
P128-SUBTITLE-Sanpin Cha:The reigning infusion in Okinawa	144- सैनपिन छा: मन जीतनेका प्रभावी तंत्र	Different meaning (Semantic error)	सैनपिन छा: ओकिनावा में प्रचलित पेय
P130-L1-Vitamins C	146- 'क'जीवनसत्व	Translation rule not followed*	विटामिन सी
P131-L6-Vitamins C and B ₁	147-'क' और 'ब'जीवनसत्व	Translation rule not followed*	विटामिन सी तथा बी ₁
P131-L20-Vitamins	जीवनसत्व	Translation rule not followed*	विटामिन
P132-L3- Vitamins	जीवनसत्व	Translation rule not followed*	विटामिन

		followed*	
P101-Title of the chapter VI as per translator's desire	117-Translation of English title	Translation rule not followed**	मूल स्पैनिश पाठ का अनुवाद किया जाए।
	151- कुछ न कुछ	Grammatical error	कुछ- न- कुछ
	155- रेडियो	Spelling error	रेडियो
	155- रेडियो ताईसो .. कि	Syntactical error	'कि' हटाये
	162- 12 कदम	Semantic error	12 चरण
	163- ऐडियाँ	Spelling error	एडियाँ
P150,151-regulating(6places)	173- नियोजन, विनियमन	Inappropriate word	नियंत्रण
	182- शरीर की	Syntactical error	शरीर का
	187- उनका स्वीकार करने का	Syntactical error	उनको स्वीकार करने का
	198,199- यानि	Spelling error	यानी
	206- दिन ब दिन	Grammatical error	दिन-ब-दिन

Some of the major shortcomings in Hindi version text are as under:

1. Contents (Index page) has not been fully translated into Hindi. The translation here cannot classify under the category of translation by omission, as the body of text omitted from translation is too big to be considered, and also important.
2. Chapter III of the original Spanish version appears as Chapter V in English and Hindi version. Sequence of the chapters has been hence changed. Although some translation strategies do allow for a change in sequence of facts, but they are limited to the sentence level, such big portions of texts like entire chapters are not advised to be moved around. In case of non-fiction books like this may cause confusion. Sequence of the chapters may not be advisable to manipulate in the target text as it may cause ambiguity in understanding the facts to the reader, and sometimes may also lead to non prior context, for understanding the later facts.

Findings

The analysis of the data presented in the table above reveals several key insights regarding the translation process, errors, and recommendations:

1. Translation related Errors:

- Syntactical Errors:** The Hindi translation shows numerous syntactical discrepancies, including awkward sentence structures, incorrect word usage, and deviations from the source text. For example, terms like "longevity," "average," and "northern part," were translated inaccurately, leading to altered meanings.
- Omissions:** The Hindi version often omits crucial information present in the original Spanish and English versions. We can notice omissions of names of certain books, diagrams, and specific facts that are essential for maintaining the context. Also certain location references and technical terminologies were either missing or mistranslated.
- Inappropriate Word Choices:** Selection of incorrect or inappropriate words in the Hindi translation have led to ambiguities and changes in the intended meaning. Words like "जादुई" (magical) in place of "रहस्यमयी"

(mysterious) and incorrect representation of concepts such as "Ikigai" or names of diagrams have distorted the intended message.

iv. **Spelling Mistakes:** The data points out several spelling errors that affect the readability and accuracy of the Hindi translation.

v. * As per Principles For Evolution of Terminology Approved by the Commission for Scientific and Terminal Technology, International terms like names of elements and compounds should be adopted in their current English forms. Hence, Vitamin C and B₁ may be transliterated as विटामिन सी and बी₁ and not as जीवनसत्व सी and बी₁.

vi. **Bholanath Tiwari states under translation procedure that the translation may not be expressing less, more or something different from the original text.⁵ Chapter VI in the original Spanish text has been placed as Chapter VII in its English version which must have been avoided to maintain the sequence and flow of the text. It tells about *The Ikigai Diet*. In Hindi version it has been translated as 'लंबी आयु के जापानी लोगों की सीख' which does not justify its meaning.

2. Structural Deviations:

i. Sequence of chapters is not maintained in the Hindi translation as per the original Spanish text. It indicates that the translation was done from the English version rather than the primary source text. This could lead to a misrepresentation of content and loss of essential context as it is generally not an ideal case of translation.

ii. Some chapter titles were changed at the translator's discretion; e.g., *Inspiracions de los centenaries Tradiciones y lemas vitales de Ogimi para una existencia larga y dichosa* was translated into English version which reads *Lessons from Japan's Centenarians Traditions and proverbs for happiness and longevity*. It deviates from maintaining the fidelity of the original content.

Recommendations:

a. The translation should preferably be done directly from the original Spanish version to ensure accurate interpretation and presentation of concepts.

b. There should be strict adherence to translation rules, particularly when handling technical terms and names. Maintaining the integrity of diagrams and examples from the source text is also crucial for a better understanding of the readers.

c. Improvements in syntactical structuring, correct usage of terminology, and elimination of spelling errors are necessary for enhancing the quality of the translated work.

Conclusion:

The Hindi translation of *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* exhibits numerous linguistic challenges, ranging from incorrect word usage, syntactical errors, and omissions, to significant deviations from the source text structure. They lead to a loss of clarity and accuracy of meaning which are essential for the readers to grasp the original ideas. It is recommended that future translations be performed with close reference to the primary source Spanish and follow strict translation guidelines to preserve the semantic essence and syntactical integrity. By addressing these errors, translators can produce a more faithful and effective rendition that resonates well with the target audience.

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