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Navigating Cultural Sensitivity in Translation: The Role of Interpersonal Communication in Translating Sensitive Narratives

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Abstract:

This study examines the role of interpersonal communication and cultural sensitivity in shaping translation outcomes, focusing on Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas by Ramonu Sanusi, translated by Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde (2016). The objective is to analyze how translators balance fidelity to the original text by adapting it to the cultural sensibilities of the target audience, particularly regarding sensitive themes of race and violence. Through a comparative textual analysis of the original French text and its English translation, this study highlights shifts in meaning, cultural adaptation, and the impact of interpersonal dynamics between the author and translators. Interviews with translators and a framework for cultural sensitivity evaluation were employed to explore further how these dynamics influence translation decisions. The findings reveal that while maintaining fidelity to the original, the translators strategically adapted certain elements to prevent cultural misunderstandings, ensuring the narrative's accessibility to English-speaking audiences. The discussion highlights the translators' role as cultural mediators and suggests strategies for managing similar complex narratives in future translation projects. This research underscores the importance of open communication between authors and translators and calls for further

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exploration into diverse narratives where interpersonal communication plays a crucial role in translation accuracy and cultural adaptation.

Résumé

Cette étude examine le rôle de la communication interpersonnelle et de la sensibilité culturelle dans la traduction, en se concentrant sur Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas de Ramonu Sanusi, traduit par Joel Akinwumi et Kehinde Makinde. L'objectif est d'analyser comment les traducteurs équilibrent la fidélité au texte original tout en l'adaptant aux sensibilités culturelles du public cible, notamment en ce qui concerne les thèmes sensibles de la race et de la violence. À travers une analyse textuelle comparative entre le texte original en français et sa traduction en anglais, l'étude met en évidence les décalages de sens, l'adaptation culturelle et l'impact des dynamiques interpersonnelles entre l'auteur et les traducteurs. Des entretiens avec les traducteurs et un cadre d'évaluation de la sensibilité culturelle ont été utilisés pour explorer comment ces dynamiques influencent les décisions de traduction. Les résultats montrent que tout en restant fidèles à l'original, les traducteurs ont stratégiquement adapté certains éléments pour éviter des malentendus culturels, rendant ainsi le récit accessible au public anglophone. La discussion souligne le rôle des traducteurs en tant que médiateurs culturels et propose des stratégies pour gérer des récits complexes similaires dans de futurs projets de traduction. Cette recherche met en avant l'importance d'une communication ouverte entre auteurs et traducteurs et appelle à une exploration plus approfondie de récits divers où la communication interpersonnelle joue un rôle crucial dans la précision et l'adaptation culturelle de la traduction.

Mots-clés : traduction, sensibilité culturelle, communication interpersonnelle, fidélité, race, adaptation.

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Introduction

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J.P Vinay and J. Darbelnet (1977), pioneers of linguistic theory, address some of the fundamental issues in translation, including grammatical difficulties, loss of meaning, differences in linguistic genius, divergence in translated meaning, the phenomenon of intraduisibility, and the transformation of the author's style. Translating complex and sensitive narratives poses significant challenges for translators, especially when such texts involve intricate cultural and racial themes. Translating these narratives requires a careful balance between staying true to the original content and navigating the cultural sensitivities of the target audience. The translator's role becomes more than a mere linguistic mediator; it must act as a cultural bridge, navigating the complexities of language, identity, and societal values. Eugène Nida (2001), in his famous work Contexts In Translation, addressed the issue of word relationships throughout the translation process. He explains that the relationship between words in a language is frequently complex and that most beginning translators are unaware of this issue.
Many inexperienced translators see the grammatical classification of words as names, verbs, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and so on. Furthermore, they believe that the translation process entails reproducing these grammatical classes in the target language. For them, names must be translated as names, verbs as verbs, and adjectives as adjectives. For some, the challenge is omissions. These omissions occur when translators fail to translate some linguistic phrases. This has an impact on the grammatical structure, coherence, and meaning of the text in the target language. Delisle defines omissions as "a translation error that consists in failing to render an element of the meaning of the original text in the translated text without a valid reason." In this context of our work, the omission is a grammatical error since it distorts the grammatical structure of the source language and can lead to poor-quality translations.

Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, a novel by Ramonu Sanusi, exemplifies such challenges. This work, rife with neologisms, Africanisms, and linguistic innovations, creates a profound difficulty for translators aiming to render the essence of the original text in another language while maintaining the author's voice and cultural integrity. According to Bhaba (1994), the use of Africanisms in literary works by writers such as Ramonu Sanusi and Ahmadou Kourouma is a deliberate and premeditated strategy to challenge the West's dominance error African culture, thought, and world. It is also used in the context of cultural policy, namely for the re-Africanization of African society and mentality. As for neologisms, Iloh (2017) defines the term as the process of inventing new lexical units with novel forms and meanings. Ngal (1994) argues that the contact between

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African languages and French has led to the development of new vocabulary. This is a personal endeavor that causes significant changes. This is the author's linguistic interpretation and creation.

Also, the novel's title embodies the intersection of racial and cultural issues and heightens the stakes for any translator attempting to adapt it for different audiences. The translators undergo considerable challenges in the translation of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas by Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde. Sanusi's work incorporates a deliberate disruption of linguistic norms, mixing genres and subverting traditional structures, a technique that inherently defies straightforward translation. This novel contains "ruptures, coupures, africanismes, emprunts, inventivités, déformations" (p.5-7), presenting obstacles for those tasked with translating it while respecting its original meaning and stylistic innovations. In the process, the translator will undoubtedly face a challenge, particularly if he has no experience translating African works. The reason is that African works often contain elements of oral literature and express African thought, culture, and philosophy. Arowolo (2016) reinforces our viewpoint when he explains that:

…They express African traditional thoughts and philosophy in more or less adequate forms in the foreign tongues they use. In the light of observations, one can ask the following questions: how much of our socio-cultural realities get translated into English or French through the translation of African novels?

Moreover, the novel's provocative racial themes, amplified by its title, necessitate cultural sensitivity in translation, as direct translation could potentially trigger varied reactions based on the cultural contexts of the readers. Thus, the role of the translator extends beyond linguistic transfer; it involves an acute awareness of cultural nuances and potential sensitivities. Translators must carefully mediate between staying faithful to the provocative nature of the original text and considering the perceptions of their target audience. This tightrope walk requires skill in interpersonal communication, where understanding the author's intent and anticipating the audience's reaction plays a critical role in determining the final translation choices.

While there is extensive research on translation strategies, much of it focuses on technical aspects such as equivalence and fidelity. Bassnett (2005), in her work on Translation Studies, provides his viewpoint on some of the issues that translators experience during the translation process. She worked on the issue of equivalence when translating idioms and calendars. Indeed, an inexperienced translator will have a tough time translating them since idiom and calendar

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translation is a cultural phenomenon. The truth is that translating these two phenomena entails identifying stylistic equivalence and replacing idioms and calendars in the source language with functional equivalents in the target language.

However, there remains a gap in the scholarly exploration of how interpersonal communication principles—particularly between the author, translator, and the target audience—can influence the outcome of translations involving sensitive cultural and racial themes. According to Loock (2009), the translator is not required to be too faithful to the syntax of the source language during the translation process. This is because each language has its system and set of rules. Loock says:

Il va de soi de dire que toute structure syntaxique n'a pas d'équivalent direct dans la langue cible. Le traducteur est alors soumis à une contrainte forte qui l'oblige à choisir une autre structure afin de véhiculer le même contenu informationnel. Le maintien des structures peut également parfois aboutir à des maladresses, lourdeurs ou approximations stylistiques.

No grammar structure has an immediate equivalent in the target language. The translator is then subjected to a strong constraint, forcing him to use a different framework to convey the same informational content. Structure maintenance can also result in incorrect addresses, loud noises, or stylistic approximations.

Bassel Al Zboun (2015) agrees with Loock (2009), stating that languages have different syntactic structures that serve the same communication purposes. However, they do not have the same grammatical structures to meet this need. The interaction between the author and translator, often an overlooked element in translation studies, plays a pivotal role in shaping how sensitive content is conveyed across cultures. For instance, when translating Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, translators like Akinwumi and Makinde had to engage deeply with the author's use of language and the cultural implications embedded in the text. The document suggests that they faced a scenario where the "bonne compréhension des génies des deux langues" (p.5) became critical to overcoming the challenge of transferring meaning without distorting the author's style or cultural messages. Moreover, the dynamics between the translator and the target audience can influence the translation process. The audience's cultural background, preconceived notions, and sensitivities must be considered to ensure the translation resonates without misinterpretation or offense. This research aims to address the gap by examining how these interpersonal dynamics—between the author, translator, and audience—impact the translation process and, ultimately,

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the reception of complex, culturally charged narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas.

In conclusion, this study will contribute to the understanding of how interpersonal communication between key players in the translation process can enhance or hinder the balance between fidelity to the original text and cultural sensitivity. By focusing on this often-overlooked aspect, the research will provide insights that can improve translation practices, particularly when dealing with sensitive or controversial content.

2. Literature Review

Translation Theories:

Several translation theories provide valuable frameworks for addressing the challenges of translating sensitive themes. Equivalence Theory, a foundational approach introduced by Eugene Nida, emphasizes the importance of achieving a similar response from the target audience as the original text did for its original readers. This takes into consideration formal equivalence and grammatical (parts of speech equivalence) which demand paying attention to False Friends (Faux amis). To avoid the trap of fake friends, the sentence “I traveled to Lagos to attend the traditional marriage of my cousin”, should be translated as “j’ai voyagé à Lagos pour assister au marriage traditionnel de mon cousin” instead of “ j’ai travaillé à Lagos pour attendre le marriage traditionnel de mon cousin”. Thus, Seleskovitch and Lederer (1986) explain that:

Or, il ne suffit pas qu’une parole soit correcte par rapport aux normes pour être claire, il lui faut en outre être conforme au génie de la langue, il faut que les idées s’associent à des énoncés dont la composition de la langue d’expression. Pour que la traduction soit claire, elle doit donc se faire discours.

To be comprehensible, a phrase must not only meet requirements but also represent the genius of the language. Ideas should be paired with expressions that reflect the language's composition. Clear translation requires communication.

In the case of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, the formal equivalence method might seem straightforward in translating the text’s words directly. However, dynamic equivalence becomes more appropriate when considering the cultural sensitivities surrounding the title and racial themes. Nida argues that "the response can never be identical for cultural and historical settings are too

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different," but the translator must aim for a "high degree of equivalence". This theoretical framework encourages translators to prioritize the emotional and cultural effect of the text, particularly when translating provocative narratives like this one.

In contrast, Skopos Theory, proposed by Hans Vermeer, suggests that the purpose of the translation should guide the translator's decisions. Given the racially charged themes of the novel, translators Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde had to focus on how the work's content would be received by an English-speaking audience, especially in different cultural contexts. Vermeer's approach is valuable here because it allows the translators to adapt the text based on the cultural sensitivities of the target audience, even if this means departing from strict fidelity to the original. Therefore, translation must allow the recipient to best receive the message and intention of the author which implies that cultural adaptation is necessary to ensure the novel's themes resonate with the target readers.

Finally, Postcolonial Translation Theory sheds light on the power dynamics involved in translating texts from colonized cultures into the languages of former colonizers. This theory is particularly relevant to Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, as it addresses the risk of reinforcing stereotypes or marginalizing the original culture's voice in translation. The document emphasizes that translations should avoid "la surimposition de la culture de la langue cible" (p.5-6), highlighting the need for translators to be aware of the historical and cultural power imbalances that may influence their choices. Translating sensitive themes, especially those dealing with race and colonial histories, requires a careful balance of preserving the original's cultural identity while making the text accessible to readers in a different linguistic and cultural framework. Overall, we will consider the following translation theories: equivalence, linguistic, skopos, and post-colonial. According to Maria Perez (2017):

Comparative Translation and Interpreting Studies (CTIS) compare theories, products, and methods used by translators and interpreters. It is a key analytical tool.

It sharpens our descriptive abilities and plays an important role in idea creation by highlighting suggested parallels and contrasts across examples. Indeed, the comparison is critical for translation studies, to the point that it may be claimed that a huge area within TIS is intrinsically comparative.

By applying these theories to the translation of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, this research can explore how translators navigate the tension between linguistic fidelity and cultural sensitivity.

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Cultural Sensitivity in Translation

Cultural sensitivity plays a critical role in determining the success of a translation, especially in narratives involving themes of race, violence, or politically charged content. The importance of considering cultural nuances cannot be overstated, as failure to do so can result in mistranslation, cultural misrepresentation, or even offense.

Existing studies have shown that cultural context heavily influences how certain themes are perceived. When translating sensitive narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, translators must navigate the complex terrain of how different cultures interpret issues of race and violence. The title itself, provocative in any cultural context, takes on varied meanings depending on the target audience's history and social experiences regarding race relations. As indicated in the document, translators must understand "les défis d'ordre stylistiques et culturels" (p.6) to effectively communicate the themes without alienating or shocking the audience unnecessarily.

Cultural sensitivity involves a nuanced understanding of both the source and target cultures. Translators must not only comprehend the linguistic aspects of the text but also the underlying cultural messages. This includes understanding the societal norms, historical contexts, and cultural taboos that may shape the way a text is received. In the case of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, it is essential to grasp how issues of racial violence and the portrayal of African identity will resonate with audiences from different backgrounds, and how these depictions could be misinterpreted or deemed inappropriate without careful adaptation.

Studies in cultural translation have emphasized the role of the translator as a cultural mediator who must strike a balance between fidelity to the source text and the need for cultural adaptation. The document illustrates this by noting that certain "particularités de la langue" (p.6-7) must be carefully handled to ensure that the translated text remains true to the original and culturally appropriate for the target audience. Failure to do so may lead to what Eugene Nida calls "loss of meaning," a common pitfall in translating culturally sensitive materials. To address the issue of faithfulness to the writer's message, Eugène Nida (1964) established the foundation of his functional and formal equivalence theory. He explains that the translator should focus on the linguistic function of the original

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text and produce a translation that retranscribes it. That is, the translator's focus must be on the message itself, while also taking into account its form and content.

Interpersonal Communication in Translation

Interpersonal communication between authors and translators is a vital but often overlooked aspect of the translation process, especially when dealing with complex narratives that involve sensitive themes. The relationship between the author and translator can significantly influence the outcome of a translation, particularly in how cultural and emotional nuances are handled.

Research on interpersonal communication in translation highlights that open, collaborative dialogue between the author and translator can enhance the accuracy and cultural sensitivity of the translated text. In the case of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, effective communication between Ramonu Sanusi and his translators, Akinwumi and Makinde, would have been crucial to ensuring that the complex racial and cultural themes were appropriately handled. As the document explains, the novel presents "des néologismes, des ruptures, des africanismes" (p.6-8), all of which require the translators to engage with the author’s intentions and style to maintain the integrity of the original narrative while also making it accessible to a different cultural audience.

Studies suggest that a translator’s ability to accurately convey the author’s intended message often hinges on their ability to understand not just the linguistic components of the text, but also the emotional and cultural subtext. For instance, when dealing with a text that explores sensitive racial issues, interpersonal communication helps the translator navigate delicate themes and avoid potential missteps that could arise from cultural misunderstandings. In some cases, authors may provide insight into their motivations or clarify ambiguous passages, allowing translators to make more informed decisions about how to best convey the meaning without compromising cultural sensitivity.

This dynamic also extends to the relationship between the translator and the audience. Translators must anticipate how different cultural contexts will affect the reception of certain themes, and their interpersonal understanding of both the author’s intent and the audience’s expectations becomes key. According to the document, the translator's role involves ensuring that "le message passe clairement" (p.4-5), which can only be achieved when there is a strong communicative link between the author, translator, and audience.

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In conclusion, the role of interpersonal communication in translation is integral to managing the cultural sensitivities inherent in complex narratives. By fostering a dialogue between authors and translators, and by anticipating the cultural responses of the target audience, translators can create more accurate and culturally appropriate translations, particularly when dealing with sensitive or controversial subject matter.

.3Research Questions

How do interpersonal communication dynamics between the author and translator influence the cultural sensitivity of a translated work?

The interpersonal communication between an author and a translator plays a pivotal role in ensuring the cultural sensitivity of a translated text. This dynamic becomes especially critical when translating complex narratives that deal with sensitive themes like those found in Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The nature of communication between Ramonu Sanusi, the author, and his translators, Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde, exemplifies how these interactions shape the outcome of the translation process.

The novel contains "des néologismes, des ruptures, des africanismes, des emprunts" (p.4-7), which require translators to engage deeply with the author's stylistic and cultural intentions. These elements present challenges that demand a close understanding of how the author perceives cultural issues and how they want these to be conveyed in another language. The more open and clear the communication between the author and translator, the better the translator can make informed choices that respect the cultural nuances embedded in the text.

For example, the provocative title of the novel might be interpreted differently depending on the cultural context of the readers. Effective interpersonal communication allows the translator to understand the author's motivations behind using such a title and how to navigate its translation to minimize potential misinterpretations. A failure in this communication could lead to a translation that unintentionally distorts the message or sparks controversy. The document notes the importance of the translator’s ability to grasp the "bonne compréhension des génies des deux langues" (p.5), a skill that is enhanced through continuous dialogue with the author.

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In what ways can the translator's choices affect the reception of complex narratives in different cultural contexts?

The choices made by the translator directly impact how a complex narrative is received by audiences across different cultural contexts. In translating sensitive works like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, the translator must carefully decide which linguistic and cultural elements to prioritize to ensure that the message is accessible and appropriate for the target audience. These decisions involve evaluating how themes of race, violence, and identity are perceived in the target culture and how best to adapt the text without losing its core meaning.
The translator's role in handling cultural sensitivities is evident, as Akinwumi and Makinde had to address "perturbation de l'écriture" and "mélange des genres". This required a thoughtful approach to preserve the text's integrity while making it accessible to an English-speaking audience. In such instances, the translator's decisions, including whether to retain or adjust specific cultural references or idiomatic expressions, significantly shape how the narrative is perceived and interpreted by the target audience. During the translation process, the translator is frequently confronted with the challenges of translating fixed expressions and proverbs. These two phenomena occur at the level of equivalence and provide several challenges for translators. Oye (2014) believes that the translation of proverbs is the more difficult of the two issues.
For instance, racial dynamics are central to the novel, and the translator's handling of these themes can either amplify or mitigate their impact. Translators must anticipate how their audience might interpret racially charged language and adjust their approach accordingly. As the document suggests, "les défis stylistiques et culturels" (p.8) are ever-present, and the translator's choices in managing these challenges are crucial to how the narrative is received.

How can translators ensure fidelity to the original text while adapting the content for audiences with different cultural sensibilities?

Ensuring fidelity to the original text while adapting it for audiences with different cultural sensibilities is a key challenge in translation, particularly when the narrative touches on sensitive themes. In Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, fidelity to Sanusi's original text involves preserving the novel's provocative style, linguistic innovation, and cultural commentary. However, adapting these elements for an English-speaking audience requires careful consideration of the target culture's values and sensibilities.

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The document outlines the complexity of translating Sanusi's work, describing it as filled with "déformations du style" and "africanismes" (p.7-8), which create a unique linguistic and cultural texture that is difficult to reproduce in another language. Akinwumi and Makinde had to balance staying faithful to the original text with making sure the narrative resonated with readers from a different cultural background. This balance often requires translating the "message" of the text, rather than sticking rigidly to the words themselves.

One effective strategy for maintaining fidelity while adapting to different cultural sensibilities is the concept of dynamic equivalence, where the focus is on conveying the same effect or meaning in the target language, even if the form differs. For example, in the translation of culturally specific idioms or metaphors, the translator might choose equivalent phrases in the target language that evoke the same response or understanding in the reader, thus maintaining the spirit of the original text. The document highlights the importance of achieving "une recréation du style de l'écrivain" (p.5), emphasizing that the goal is to reproduce the effect of the original, not necessarily its literal structure.

In summary, translators can ensure fidelity to the original text while adapting to the target audience by prioritizing the meaning and emotional impact of the narrative, engaging in close communication with the author, and carefully navigating cultural differences to avoid misinterpretations. By doing so, they preserve the integrity of the original work while making it accessible and relevant to new audiences.

.4.Methodology

Textual Analysis

This research will employ a textual analysis to compare the original French text Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas with its English translation by Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde. The focus of this analysis is to examine the shifts in meaning, the treatment of cultural elements, and how interpersonal dynamics between the author and translators have influenced the translation outcomes. The novel presents numerous linguistic challenges, with its "néologismes, ruptures, africanismes, et emprunts" (p.4-7), which complicate the task of preserving its original intent and stylistic uniqueness in another language. Key to this comparative analysis will be how the translators navigated the provocative racial themes of the novel. The title itself, Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, presents immediate cultural and linguistic hurdles, as it carries

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different connotations in French-speaking and English-speaking contexts. Shifts in meaning will be closely examined, especially in how the translators chose to adapt sensitive racial language to maintain the integrity of the original while ensuring it is understood and accepted by a broader audience. The document highlights the complexity of translating Sanusi's unique style, particularly the "perturbation de l'écriture" (p.4-5), which could lead to significant shifts when rendered in English. These shifts are essential for understanding how translators balance fidelity to the source text with the necessity of cultural adaptation.
This analysis will also focus on the presence or absence of certain cultural markers in the translation. Translators often have to decide whether to retain or replace culturally specific references to make the text more accessible to the target audience. The document suggests that "la bonne compréhension des génies des deux langues" (p.5) is critical to resolving such challenges. By examining how Akinwumi and Makinde approached these elements, we will gain insights into the decisions made to either preserve or adapt cultural content.

Interviews

To complement the textual analysis, this study will include interviews with translators who have worked on this or similar projects. These interviews will provide insights into how interpersonal communication between the author and translator can shape the translation process, particularly in navigating sensitive themes such as race and identity. The document emphasizes the intricacy of working with "africanismes et des inventivités" (p.5-7), which require careful handling to avoid cultural erasure or misrepresentation.
Through these interviews, translators will be asked to discuss their experiences in communicating with authors to ensure that the translation remains true to the original intent. The goal is to understand how translators engage with authors, especially when the text contains culturally charged content that may be received differently by audiences in various regions. This aspect of the methodology will help uncover how the personal dynamics between the author and translators directly influence the final translation choices, as well as how these dynamics may lead to shifts in meaning or emphasis.

Cultural Sensitivity Evaluation

Without a doubt, translation goes much beyond the scope of linguistics and literary translation. This is why Nida and Taber (1882) defined translation as "the

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closest equivalence in the target language of the message from the source language." That is, a translation is considered good when the sense of the source text is reflected in the target text, even if the words in the two texts are not the same. Lederer (1996), an important precursor of the Interpretative Translation Method, completely agrees with Nida and Taber's (1982) point of view and explains that the meaning of the text in the first language must be expressed in the second language while taking into account its constraints and stylistic preferences. This process makes translation complex and systematic. According to Sherry Simon's (1996) book Gender in Translation: Cultural Identity and the Politics of Transmission, cited by Zuzana Raková:(2013)

La traduction n'est pas un simple transfert, mais une véritable création et une diffusion de sens dans un ensemble de textes et de discours au sein de la société.

Translation is more than just a transfer of meaning; it is a true creation and dissemination of meaning in a collection of texts and discourses inside society.

Sherry Simon (1996) attempts to explain the level of complexity of translation by using this concept. For the majority of newcomers to the translation field, translation is simply translating a message from one language to another, although the process is more complex than it appears.

A cultural sensitivity evaluation framework will be developed to assess how effectively the translation of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas handles its sensitive themes. This framework will be designed to systematically evaluate the original and translated texts to determine how the treatment of race, violence, and identity is maintained or altered through the translation process. Given the novel's controversial and provocative nature, such an evaluation is crucial for understanding how well the translators navigated the cultural context of the target audience while maintaining the text's original tone and intent.

The evaluation will consider elements such as the use of racial epithets, representations of cultural identity, and the portrayal of violent acts. As noted in the document, the text includes "des déformations du style de l'écrivain" (p.5-6), which require careful translation to ensure that the narrative's cultural integrity is not lost. By applying this framework, we will analyze the choices made by Akinwumi and Makinde, exploring how they adapted or retained culturally sensitive elements to make the text accessible to an English-speaking audience without compromising its authenticity.

This framework will also assess whether the translation successfully communicates the underlying cultural and political messages embedded in the

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original text. The document's emphasis on "l'équivalence dynamique" (p.5) suggests that the goal of the translation is to recreate the same impact on the target audience, even if linguistic changes are necessary. Therefore, the cultural sensitivity evaluation will focus on how well the translation achieves this equivalence without distorting the original's message.

Case Study Analysis

The primary case study for this research will be Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. This novel presents an ideal case due to its complex racial and cultural themes, as well as the challenges it poses for translators working to maintain fidelity while adapting the text for a different cultural audience. The case study analysis will incorporate both the textual analysis and the findings from the cultural sensitivity evaluation to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the translation process has shaped the reception of this work.

The case study will be supplemented by analyses of other literary works with similarly complex cultural themes if needed. These may include texts that explore issues of race, violence, or postcolonial identity, allowing for a broader understanding of how these themes are handled in translation. By comparing Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas with other works, this research aims to highlight common strategies employed by translators when working with culturally sensitive material and to identify best practices for maintaining the balance between fidelity to the original text and cultural adaptation.

In conclusion, this methodology combines textual analysis, interviews, and cultural sensitivity evaluation to provide a thorough examination of the translation process for Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The research will focus on how interpersonal dynamics and translation choices influence the cultural reception of complex narratives, offering insights that apply to other works dealing with similarly sensitive themes.

.5Analysis

Translation Fidelity vs. Cultural Adaptation

The balance between maintaining fidelity to the original text and adapting it to suit the cultural sensibilities of the target audience is at the heart of the translation process, especially when handling complex and sensitive narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The novel's title itself represents a significant challenge for translators. Its blunt phrasing and provocative racial undertones are

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bound to provoke different reactions depending on the cultural context. The translators, Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde, had to navigate the fine line between staying true to the provocative nature of the original and ensuring that the cultural context in which the translation would be received did not lead to misinterpretation or offense.

The document emphasizes that Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas includes "des néologismes, des ruptures, des africanismes, des emprunts" (p.5-7), which makes a direct, literal translation difficult. Translators must decide whether to adapt certain elements to make the text more relatable to the target audience while preserving the intent and meaning behind the original narrative. In their translation, Akinwumi and Makinde may have opted for a more dynamic equivalence approach, prioritizing the impact of the text over its literal fidelity to the source language. This strategy, which the document describes as "l'équivalence dynamique" (p.5), allows the translators to adapt culturally specific references without losing the text's original power.

Specific examples of this balance can be found in how racial and cultural themes are expressed in the translation. For instance, the depiction of racial tension and identity in the novel is deeply tied to the cultural context of the original French audience. In translating these themes, Akinwumi and Makinde had to ensure that these depictions resonated with English-speaking readers while not deviating too far from the original narrative. This balance between fidelity and adaptation is critical for ensuring that the message of the novel remains intact, even if certain linguistic or cultural elements are altered to better suit the sensibilities of the target audience.

Role of Interpersonal Dynamics

Interpersonal dynamics between the author, Ramonu Sanusi, and his translators played a crucial role in shaping the final translation of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The document stresses that the novel's use of "africanismes" and "perturbation de l'écriture" (p.5) posed a significant challenge for the translators, requiring close collaboration and communication with the author to ensure that these stylistic innovations were preserved in the translation.

Communication between the author and translators would have been key in addressing how to handle sensitive themes, such as race and identity, in a way that remains faithful to Sanusi's intent while ensuring the translation is culturally sensitive. The document suggests that the translators needed to have a deep understanding of the author's goals for the narrative, which likely involved regular

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dialogue to clarify ambiguous or culturally specific aspects of the text. This form of collaboration ensures that the translators do not inadvertently misrepresent the author's original message or make translation choices that could lead to misunderstanding.

The translators' decisions to preserve or adapt certain elements of the text would have been influenced by the guidance provided by Sanusi. For instance, specific terms or phrases that carry significant cultural weight in the original text may have been adapted in the translation to align with the cultural norms of the target audience. The nature of these interpersonal dynamics and how they shaped the translation process highlights the importance of collaboration in maintaining the integrity of complex narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas.

Impact on Audience Reception

The reception of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas by the target audience is significantly influenced by how well the translation manages the balance between fidelity to the original and cultural adaptation. As highlighted in the document, the novel's "déformations du style de l'écrivain" (p.8-9) presents a challenge for translators trying to ensure that the narrative is accessible to a wider audience without compromising its original meaning.

Audience reception is directly tied to the cultural sensitivity embedded in the translation choices. The cultural, racial, and ethical challenges presented by the novel's themes may evoke different reactions depending on the target audience's historical and cultural context. For instance, the novel's portrayal of racial violence and identity politics could be interpreted in vastly different ways depending on whether the reader is familiar with the specific cultural dynamics of the original context or reading it through the lens of their own experiences with race and identity.

Akinwumi and Makinde's decisions to adapt or maintain certain aspects of the text would have had a direct impact on how readers engage with the narrative. The document discusses the necessity for translators to achieve "bonne compréhension des génies des deux langues" (p.8), suggesting that understanding the cultural norms and sensibilities of the target audience is critical for ensuring the translation is well-received. For example, certain racial epithets or culturally specific references that are powerful and thought-provoking in the original French text may need to be adapted in the English translation to avoid unintended offense or misinterpretation.

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The reception of the translation likely hinges on how effectively the translators managed to convey the themes of the novel while making them relevant and accessible to English-speaking audiences. The document notes that the translators faced "défis d'ordre stylistiques et culturels" (p.5), and the success of their efforts is reflected in the audience's ability to engage with the text's complex themes without losing the nuances that made the original so impactful. By analyzing how the translation was received, this study will assess whether the cultural adaptations made by the translators enhanced or hindered the audience's understanding of the novel's core messages.

In conclusion, the balance between translation fidelity and cultural adaptation, the role of interpersonal dynamics, and the impact on audience reception are key factors in the analysis of Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. These elements provide valuable insights into how complex narratives can be translated in ways that remain faithful to the original while respecting the cultural sensibilities of the target audience.

.6.Discussion

Challenges in Translating Sensitive Narratives

Translating sensitive narratives, particularly those that address complex and controversial themes such as race and violence, presents unique challenges for translators. Works like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas are rife with cultural and racial nuances that make direct translation difficult. These challenges arise not only from the linguistic content of the text but also from the social and cultural weight carried by certain words and themes. The document highlights the novel's use of "néologismes, ruptures, africanismes, emprunts" (p.4), which signify linguistic innovations deeply tied to the African cultural context. These elements complicate the task of transferring the text into another language while preserving the same impact.

One of the key challenges in translating such a sensitive narrative is ensuring that the emotional and political power of the original work is not lost in the process. The document mentions that the translators were faced with "déformations du style" (p.5-8), a technique that disrupts conventional writing norms and requires careful handling to ensure the integrity of the narrative. Translators must navigate the tension between staying faithful to the original text's controversial elements and adapting the language to make it appropriate for the target culture, where certain racial or violent themes may be interpreted differently.

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The linguistic choices in the original, such as the racial epithets and provocative references to violence, force the translators into a delicate balancing act. On one hand, they must retain the original's intensity and confrontational nature. On the other, they need to ensure the translation doesn't alienate or offend readers in a way that diverges from the author's intent. The document underscores the importance of cultural sensitivity, pointing out that Akinwumi and Makinde had to grapple with "perturbation de l'écriture" (p.6) and other stylistic disruptions, which add complexity to translating such a politically charged narrative. These disruptions require translators to make decisions that balance fidelity with accessibility, a challenge inherent in translating sensitive works.

The Translator's Role as a Cultural Mediator

Translators working on texts like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas are not just transferring words from one language to another; they act as cultural mediators. The role of the translator in these instances extends beyond linguistic concerns to encompass broader cultural considerations. Translators must bridge the gap between the source and target cultures, ensuring that the meaning, tone, and cultural references of the original are faithfully represented while being mindful of the target audience's cultural context.

The document emphasizes that Akinwumi and Makinde, as translators, had to manage "les défis stylistiques et culturels" (p.5), which demanded an understanding of both the original cultural context and how these elements would be received by English-speaking audiences. This role as a mediator is especially pronounced when dealing with texts that address sensitive racial or violent themes. For example, the translators had to interpret the novel's use of "Africanismes" (p.5-6), expressions rooted in African linguistic and cultural traditions, and find ways to render them in English without erasing their cultural significance.

The challenge for the translator, then, is to remain faithful to the original text while simultaneously adapting it to meet the cultural expectations of the target audience. This requires a deep understanding of both cultures involved in the translation. Akinwumi and Makinde, in translating Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, had to ensure that the novel's cultural specificity—particularly its reflection on African identity and its engagement with race relations—was preserved. At the same time, they had to consider how these themes would resonate with an English-speaking audience, some of whom might be unfamiliar with the intricacies of African cultural references.

In acting as cultural mediators, translators play a crucial role in shaping how a work is received by its new audience. They must anticipate potential cultural

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misunderstandings or misinterpretations that could arise from direct translations of culturally specific material. The document suggests that this mediation process is complex and requires the translator to make judgments about how much of the original cultural content should be retained and how much should be adapted to fit the target audience's expectations. The aim is to ensure that the translation not only communicates the story but also captures the cultural and emotional depth of the original, without losing the narrative's intended impact.

In conclusion, the role of the translator as a cultural mediator is essential in navigating the challenges of translating sensitive narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The translator's responsibility extends beyond linguistic accuracy to encompass cultural fidelity and audience sensitivity. By carefully balancing these aspects, translators can preserve the integrity of the original text while making it accessible and relevant to a new audience.

.7.Conclusion

This study has highlighted the crucial role that interpersonal communication and cultural sensitivity play in shaping the outcome of translations, particularly when dealing with complex narratives like Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas. The interactions between the author, Ramonu Sanusi, and his translators, Joel Akinwumi and Kehinde Makinde, significantly influenced how sensitive cultural and racial themes were handled throughout the translation process. The document emphasizes that the novel's use of "néologismes, ruptures, africanismes, emprunts" (p.9) created unique challenges, requiring close communication between the author and translators to maintain the integrity of the original narrative while adapting it to resonate with an English-speaking audience.

The balance between fidelity to the original text and cultural adaptation was a central theme in this analysis. Akinwumi and Makinde's translation choices illustrate how translators must constantly negotiate between preserving the provocative and challenging aspects of the original work and making it accessible and culturally appropriate for the target audience. The document highlights the translators' ability to manage "les défis stylistiques et culturels" (p.9), showing that their success in translating this work relied on their capacity to interpret and adapt cultural elements without diminishing the original's power. This dynamic demonstrates the importance of both interpersonal communication and cultural awareness in ensuring that the translation is sensitive to the target audience's context while remaining faithful to the author's intent.

Translators working on sensitive and complex narratives can employ several strategies to ensure both fidelity to the original text and cultural sensitivity. First, open and continuous communication between the author and translator is

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essential, particularly when the narrative involves sensitive themes such as race or violence. This dialogue allows translators to gain a deeper understanding of the author's intentions and how certain themes should be interpreted for different cultural contexts. As indicated in the document, successful translations often result from a "bonne compréhension des génies des deux langues" (p.4-5), which can be fostered through close collaboration between the author and translator.

Another strategy involves using dynamic equivalence as a guiding principle, allowing translators to focus on conveying the meaning and emotional impact of the original text rather than adhering strictly to literal translation. This approach helps ensure that the cultural nuances and complexities of the original narrative are effectively communicated to the target audience, even if certain linguistic or stylistic elements are modified. In Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas, Akinwumi and Makinde likely employed dynamic equivalence to handle "déformations du style de l'écrivain" (p.6-8), ensuring that the narrative's impact remained intact despite necessary adaptations for the English-speaking audience.

Finally, translators should prioritize cultural research and sensitivity, thoroughly understanding the cultural background of both the original text and the target audience. By doing so, translators can anticipate potential misinterpretations or cultural clashes and adjust their approach to mitigate these risks. The document underscores the importance of handling "Africanismes et des inventivités" (p.5) with care, reflecting the need for translators to be deeply aware of how cultural markers are perceived in different contexts.

This study opens the door for future research into how interpersonal communication and cultural sensitivity continue to shape translation practices across a wider range of narratives. One area of interest could involve exploring how these factors influence translations of narratives from various cultural backgrounds, such as Indigenous or underrepresented voices, where cultural identity and linguistic uniqueness are deeply embedded in the narrative structure. Research could investigate how translators navigate the complexities of preserving cultural authenticity while adapting narratives for mainstream audiences.

Another promising direction for future research lies in examining how digital communication tools affect author-translator interactions. As translation becomes increasingly globalized, digital platforms allow for more immediate communication between authors and translators, potentially fostering stronger interpersonal dynamics. Understanding how these technologies influence the decision-making process in translation, particularly for sensitive or complex

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narratives, could provide valuable insights into the evolving nature of the translator's role.

In conclusion, this research underscores the importance of interpersonal communication and cultural sensitivity in translating complex narratives, with Un Nègre A Violé Une Blonde À Dallas serving as a compelling case study. The findings point to the need for translators to engage deeply with cultural contexts, employ adaptive strategies, and maintain open communication with authors to ensure that their translations honor the integrity of the original work while resonating with diverse audiences.

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