



Translation Techniques in Literary Poetry Texts: A Systematic Literature Review

Istifani Mauladiana, Yudi Juniardi

Universitas Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa, Kota Serang, Banten, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFORMATION	A B S T R A C T
Received: August 02, 2024 Revised: November 12, 2024 Available online: December 30, 2024	Translating poetry presents a distinct challenge as it requires preserving the emotional depth, such as mood and tone of the source text while maintaining structural elements; rhyme, meter, and line count. This balance demands creativity and precision from translators to ensure equivalence in the target language. This study employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to explore the techniques used in translating literary poetry, focusing on journal articles published between 2017 and 2024. Insights from nine key publications were consolidated, highlighting essential translation techniques and their application in various contexts. The result showed that there are sixteen translation techniques found based on Molina and Albir (2002), along with ten other strategies that cater to the evolving demands of poetry translation, offering guidance for translators to adapt their approaches based on the purpose and artistic requirements of the work. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the strategies used to navigate the intricate process of poetry translation.
KEYWORDS	
Translation Technique, Systematic Literature Review, Poetry	
CORRESPONDENCE	
Nama: Yudi Juniardi E-mail: yudi.juniardi@untirta.ac.id	

Introduction

The translation of literary poetry is an important area of research within translation studies, as it involves the complex interaction of linguistic, cultural, and artistic elements. Translation itself can be simply described as the act of substituting one language into another (Juniardi et al., 2016). Meanwhile, Yesi et al., (2021) define translation as a process that seeks equivalence of meaning in the target text by taking into consideration not only the meaning but also the style, form, culture, and norms in the target language (TL). Translators face distinct challenges when translating poetry, which is characterized by its distinctive rhythm, imagery, and emotional complexity. They must navigate the complexities of language while retaining the essence of the original work. This systematic literature review (SLR) aims to explore the various translation techniques employed in the translation of literary poetry texts, particularly focusing on studies published since 2017 until 2024.

Recent studies have identified a multitude of translation strategies that translators can employ when dealing with poetry. For instance, Yédia (2023) highlights five distinct translation strategies proposed by Levefere, including metrical translation and phonemic translation, which are essential for maintaining the poetic structure in translations. Similarly, Lituaty et al. conducted a systematic literature review that identified twenty-one techniques relevant to the translation of poetry, emphasizing the adaptability of these techniques to meet the evolving needs of translators (Lituaty et al., 2022). These findings underscore the complexity of poetry translation and the necessity for translators to be well-versed in various strategies to effectively convey the original text's aesthetic and emotional resonance.

Moreover, the cultural context plays a crucial role in the translation of poetry. Translators often face challenges related to cultural references and idiomatic expressions that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Sukmaningrum et al. discuss how cultural nuances, such as self-names and local dialects, can complicate the translation process, necessitating a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures (Sukmaningrum et al., 2023). This cultural dimension is further explored by Mityagina and Volkova, who argue that translation should not only focus on linguistic fidelity but also consider the cultural implications of the text being translated (Mityagina & Volkova, 2019). Such insights highlight the importance of cultural competence in the translation of literary poetry.

In addition to cultural considerations, the aesthetic qualities of poetry must also be preserved in translation. Beauvais emphasizes the significance of engaging with the aesthetic aspects of children's poetry translation, suggesting that such engagement fosters a deeper understanding of literary qualities among learners (Beauvais, 2019). This notion is echoed in the work of Gao (2024), who discusses the role of machine translation in preserving poetic elements such as rhythm and rhyme, indicating a growing interest in the intersection of technology and literary translation. The challenge of maintaining aesthetic integrity while ensuring clarity and coherence is a recurring theme in the literature on poetry translation.

In conclusion, translating poetry is a complex process due to its unique characteristics, including its linguistic style, emotional depth, and artistic structure. As a result, translating poetry requires specific techniques that allow translators to preserve its meaning, beauty, and cultural essence while adapting it to the target language. This systematic literature review focuses on identifying the translation techniques used in literary poetry as discussed in nine journal articles. By analyzing these studies, the research aims to categorize and highlight the techniques employed by translators when working with poetry. The findings will provide a clearer understanding of the approaches utilized in the field, offering insights into the strategies applied to address the challenges of translating poetry. This study contributes to the ongoing exploration of translation techniques, enriching the discourse within translation studies.

Method

This research employs Systematic Literature Review (SLR). A systematic literature review (SLR) is a structured and methodical approach to reviewing existing literature on a specific topic, aiming to minimize bias and provide a comprehensive synthesis of findings. The SLR process typically involves several key stages: planning, conducting, and reporting the review, each of which is critical to ensuring the rigor and transparency of the review process (Azarian, 2023; Psomas & Antony, 2019).

A systematic search for relevant research is the first stage of the methodology. This will be accomplished by employing journals that specialize in translation studies, as well as academic databases like Google Scholar. Keywords such as "translation poetry", "translation techniques", and "translation techniques used in poetry" will be implemented to guarantee a thorough compilation of research. The review will reflect current trends and methodologies in the field by focusing on peer-reviewed articles published in reputable journals within the last two decades (Asaba, 2023). Moreover, the analysis will be enriched by studies that explicitly address the translation techniques used and the challenges faced by translators (Obeidat & Mahadi, 2019; Wang, 2014).

Research Object

The object of this study is the research that focus on translation techniques used in poetry text. There are nine journal articles that meet the criteria and published since 2017 until 2024.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Articles published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, or conference proceedings.
2. Studies focusing on translation techniques specific to literary poetry.
3. Articles written in English or with English translations available.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Non-academic sources, such as blogs or opinion pieces.
2. Studies focusing on non-literary translation.
3. Duplicate publications or studies without full-text access.

Study Selection Process

1. Initial Screening
Titles and abstracts were screened to exclude irrelevant studies.
2. Full-Text Review
Selected articles were reviewed in full to ensure they met the inclusion criteria.

3. Quality Assessment

The quality of each study was assessed using a predefined checklist, evaluating aspects such as clarity of methodology, relevance to research questions, and the robustness of findings.

Quality Assessment

In this section, the data were evaluated using the following quality assessment questions:

1. QA1 = Was the article published between 2017 and 2024?
2. QA2 = Does the article focus on the techniques used to translate literary poetry?
3. QA3 = Does the article describe the data collection methods for translating poetry texts?

Each paper will be rated as follows:

1. Yes: for articles that meet the quality assessment criteria.
2. No: for articles that do not align with the criteria.

Data Analysis

At this stage, the collected data will be analyzed to find out the translation techniques used in those nine journal articles.

Results and Discussion

In this study, nine journal articles were identified as matching the criteria through the search procedure and the application of inclusion and exclusion criteria. These criteria included journal articles that were published between 2017 and 2024, with an emphasis on issues concerning poetry translation. This data was categorized according to the type of journal and translation techniques used in the article. The selected journals are categorized as follows:

Table 1. Journal Types

No.	Name of Journal	Year of Publication	Author(s)
1	ELite Journal: International Journal of Education, Language, and Literature	2023	Yeslin Anjelina Terayanti, Fatchul Mu'in, and Nasrullah Nasrullah
2	Tomorrow's Education Journal	2023	Virga Putra Darma & Salsabila Nuravianti
3	International Journal of Innovation and Education Research	2021	R Bunga Febriani, Rohayani Rohayani, and Syafryadin Syafryadin
4	LaOgi is English Language Journal	2024	Nadika Karunia Fauziah & Ika Sari Dewi
5	Indonesian Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics	2019	Aldita Prafitasari, MR Nababan, and Riyadi Santosa
6	Indonesian Journal of Art and Culture	2024	Riska Lufiani et al.
7	UIN Syarif Hidayatullah	2017	Yuni Kartika
8	State Islamic University UINSU	2023	Risty Deswinta
9	Hill Publishing the Educational Review	2023	Kaixiang Xia

Results of Quality Assessment

A quality assessment procedure was implemented for each article in accordance with predetermined criteria. The following is a summary of the results:

Table 2. Quality Assessment Results

No	Writer(s)	Title	Year	QA1	QA2	QA3	Result
1	Yeslin Anjelina Terayanti, Fatchul Mu'in, and Nasrullah Nasrullah	The Translation Techniques of the Translation Damono's Poems in English	2023	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
2	Virga Putra Darma & Salsabila Nuravianti	An Analysis of the Translation Technique Used by Student in Translating Poetry Text Entitled "Equipment" by Edgar Albert Guest	2023	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
3	R Bunga Febriani, Rohayani Rohayani, and Syafryadin Syafryadin	An Analysis of Translation Techniques Used in Powell's Poem "You Are My Everything"	2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
4	Nadika Karunia Fauziah & Ika Sari Dewi	Technique Translation Gathering Poetry "There Isn't Any New York" by M. Aan Mansyur	2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
5	Aldita Prafitasari, MR Nababan, and Riyadi Santosa	An Analysis of Translation Technique and Translation Quality in Poem Book Entitled Love & Misadventure	2019	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
6	Harnadi, K. K., Lufiani, R., & Maulana, A. (2024)	The Translation Techniques on Rupi Kaur's The Sun and Her Flowers Based on the Lefevere's Perspective	2024	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
7	Yuni Kartika	The Translation Techniques of Emily Dickinson's Poem Hope of Two Indonesian Translations	2017	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
8	Risty Deswinta	The Students' Translation Techniques in Translating Poetry "Still I Rise" in Higher Education	2023	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted
9	Kaixiang Xia	Strategies and Techniques in Chinese Translation of English Poetry from Adjectives Aspects-On Chu Tunan's Poetry Translation "O Captain! My Captain!".	2023	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accepted

Translation Techniques Identified

The reviewed studies revealed a range of translation techniques, often employed together to address the context and linguistic challenges of the source text. The translation techniques used include:

Table 3. Translation Techniques Identified

No.	Title	Author(s) and Year of Publication	Translation Technique
1.	The Translation Techniques of the Translation Damono's Poems in English	Yeslin Anjelina Terayanti, Fatchul Mu'in, and Nasrullah Nasrullah (2023)	Adaptation, amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, discursive creation, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression,

			literal translation, modulation, and reduction.
2.	An Analysis of the Translation Technique Used by Student in Translating Poetry Text Entitled "Equipment" by Edgar Albert Guest	Virga Putra Darma and Salsabila Nuravianti (2023)	Amplification, linguistics, particularization, equivalent, and modulation. compensation, compression, established
3.	An Analysis of Translation Techniques Used in Powell's Poem "You Are My Everything"	R Bunga Febriani, Rohayani Rohayani, and Syafryadin Syafryadin (2021)	Literal translation, deletion, addition, and transposition.
4.	Technique Translation Gathering Poetry "There Isn't Any New York" by M. Aan Mansyur	Nadika Karunia Fauziah & Ika Sari Dewi (2024)	Modulation, establish equivalence, and adaptation.
5.	An Analysis of Translation Technique and Translation Quality in Poem Book Entitled Love & Misadventure	Aldita Prafitasari, MR Nababan, and Riyadi Santosa (2019)	Established equivalent, modulation, amplification, variation, compensation, discursive creation, transposition, particularization, pure borrowing, literal, and reduction.
6.	The Translation Techniques on Rupi Kaur's The Sun and Her Flowers Based on the Lefevere's Perspective	Harnadi, K. K., Lufiani, R., & Maulana, A. (2024)	Literal translation, metrical translation, rhymed translation, blank verse translation, and interpretation translation
7.	The Translation Techniques of Emily Dickinson's Poem Hope of Two Indonesian Translations	Kartika, Y. (2017).	Adaptation, elision, linguistic amplification, and compensation.
8.	The Students' Translation Techniques in Translating Poetry "Still I Rise" in Higher Education	Deswinta, R. (2023).	Established equivalent, modulation, amplification, variation, compensation, discursive creation, transposition, particularization, pure borrowing, literal, and reduction.
9.	Strategies and Techniques in Chinese Translation of English Poetry from Adjectives Aspects- On Chu Tunan's Poetry Translation" O Captain! My Captain! "	Xia, K. (2023).	Literal translation, free translation, shift, conversion, replacement, and amplification

Based on the analysis of translation techniques found in nine journal articles, a total of 16 techniques defined by Molina and Albir (2002) were identified. The frequency of each technique was recorded as follows:

1. **Literal Translation:** Identified 6 times, making it the most frequently used technique.
2. **Modulation:** Used 5 times, emphasizing shifts in perspective or structure during translation.
3. **Amplification:** Also noted 5 times, often used to provide additional details for clarity.
4. **Compensation:** Found 4 times, highlighting its role in addressing losses in meaning or artistic form.
5. **Established Equivalent:** Observed 4 times, showing its importance in maintaining linguistic and cultural accuracy.
6. **Discursive Creation:** Identified 3 times, showcasing creativity in translating poetic meaning.
7. **Transposition:** Found 3 times, reflecting structural changes between languages.
8. **Linguistic Amplification:** Appeared 2 times, often used to explain concepts in greater detail.

9. **Reduction:** Also noted 2 times, applied to condense content without losing meaning.
10. **Adaptation:** Identified 2 times, used to localize cultural references.
11. **Particularization:** Found 2 times, focusing on more specific translations.
12. **Pure Borrowing:** Used 2 times, directly transferring words from the source text.
13. **Linguistic Compression:** Found 2 times, condensing ideas for brevity.
14. **Generalization:** Observed 1 time, translating specific terms into more general ones.
15. **Variation:** Identified 1 time, altering tone or style for effect.
16. **Calque:** Appeared 1 time, translating expressions literally but adapting structure.

The findings demonstrate that Literal Translation is the most frequently used technique in the translation of literary poetry, likely due to its straightforward approach to maintaining the original text's form and meaning. However, its dominance may also highlight the challenge of preserving the artistic and aesthetic qualities of poetry, as literal translation alone often fails to capture the nuances of tone, mood, and cultural significance. However, it is essential to recognize that while literal translation can preserve meaning, it may also lead to awkward phrasing or loss of idiomatic expression in the target language (Newmark, 1988).

The techniques of Modulation and Amplification, each recorded five times, highlight the translators' efforts to enhance clarity and adapt perspectives. Modulation involves a shift in viewpoint or structure, which can be crucial when cultural or contextual differences necessitate a rethinking of the original message. This technique reflects the translator's role as an intermediary who must navigate between the source and target cultures (Baker, 2011). Similarly, Amplification serves to provide additional context or detail, ensuring that the target audience fully comprehends the nuances of the source material. The frequent use of these techniques indicates a conscious effort to bridge cultural gaps and enhance reader understanding, which is particularly vital in scholarly communication.

In addition, the identification of Compensation and Established Equivalent, both appearing four times, underscores the challenges of preserving meaning and cultural significance in translation. Compensation allows translators to address losses that may occur due to linguistic or cultural differences, enabling them to maintain the artistic and emotional impact of the original text (Vinay & Darbelnet, 1995). The use of Established Equivalent further emphasizes the importance of cultural accuracy, as it involves finding terms or phrases in the target language that resonate with the source's intent. This technique is particularly relevant in translating idiomatic expressions or culturally specific references, where a direct translation may fail to convey the intended meaning.

Furthermore, the presence of Discursive Creation and Transposition, identified three times each, illustrates the creative aspects of translation. Discursive Creation allows translators to innovate and adapt poetic or artistic elements, ensuring that the translated text resonates with the target audience while preserving the essence of the original. This technique is particularly relevant in literary translation, where the aesthetic qualities of the text are paramount. Transposition, on the other hand, reflects necessary structural changes between languages, which can enhance readability and coherence in the target text. The application of these techniques indicates a recognition of the translator's role as a creative agent, capable of shaping the text to fit the cultural and linguistic context of the target audience.

However, other techniques, including Linguistic Amplification, Reduction, Adaptation, Particularization, Pure Borrowing, Linguistic Compression, Generalization, Variation, and Calque, each serve specific purposes within the translation process. The varied application of these techniques demonstrates the multifaceted nature of translation, where different strategies may be employed based on the text type, audience, and purpose of the translation. For instance, Adaptation is particularly relevant in localizing content for specific cultural contexts, while Pure Borrowing reflects a trend towards globalization and the incorporation of foreign terms into the target language.

On the other hand, the findings reveal that, aside from the techniques outlined by Molina and Albir (2002), other techniques or strategies are also employed by translators in poetry translation. These include Addition, Deletion, Free Translation, Shift/Conversion, Replacement, Elision, Metrical Translation, Rhymed Translation, Blank Verse Translation, and Interpretation Translation. These strategies are often used when the official techniques alone are insufficient to capture the nuances of the original text. Those strategies allow translators to approach poetry more creatively, adapting the content to better suit the target language and

audience. For instance, free translation enables a looser interpretation of the original, focusing on conveying the meaning and emotions rather than strict linguistic equivalence. Similarly, shift/conversion helps adjust grammatical structures or stylistic elements, while addition and deletion are used to clarify or streamline the message. These strategies highlight the flexibility and creativity required in poetry translation. They demonstrate how translators navigate the challenges of preserving both the poetic essence and the cultural nuances of the original text, especially in cases where a direct translation is not feasible.

To sum everything up, Literal Translation become the most common translation technique used in poetry in the journal articles analyzed, while calque appears only once, making it the least frequent. There are also others techniques or strategies used such as Addition, Deletion, Free Translation, Shift/Conversion, Replacement, Elision, Metrical Translation, Rhymed Translation, Blank Verse Translation, and Interpretation Translation. The findings indicate that the translation of literary poetry is a delicate process that demands a balance between preserving meaning, maintaining aesthetic value, and adapting to the cultural and linguistic norms of the target audience. Translators rely on a combination of techniques to address the unique challenges presented by poetry, demonstrating the complexity and creativity involved in this field.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the translation techniques employed in nine journal articles, it was found that translators predominantly use techniques as outlined by [Molina and Albir \(2002\)](#) to address the challenges of translating poetry. The analysis of nine journal articles reveals that Literal Translation (6 occurrences) is the most frequently used technique, followed by Modulation and Amplification (5 occurrences each), reflecting efforts to maintain meaning while adapting to cultural and linguistic differences. Techniques such as Compensation, Established Equivalent, Discursive Creation, and Transposition further demonstrate creative and context-sensitive approaches. However, it is also found that techniques or strategies such as Addition, Deletion, Free Translation, Shift/Conversion, Replacement, Elision, Metrical Translation, Rhymed Translation, Blank Verse Translation, and Interpretation Translation are employed, particularly when direct translation is insufficient to convey the nuances of the original text. These other techniques enable translators to creatively adapt the source text while maintaining its meaning, tone, and emotional impact. They provide flexibility in cases where literal translation or more structured techniques fall short. These findings highlight the diverse techniques used to balance fidelity to the original text with the need to convey aesthetic and cultural nuances, underscoring the complexity and artistry involved in poetry translation.

References

- Azarian, M., Yu, H., Shiferaw, A. T., & Stevik, T. K. (2023). Do we perform systematic literature review right? a scientific mapping and methodological assessment. *Logistics*, 7(4), 89. <https://doi.org/10.3390/logistics7040089>
- Baker, M. (2011). In *Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. Routledge.
- Beauvais, C. (2019). An emergent sense of the literary: doing children's poetry translation in the literature classroom. *Journal of Literary Education*, (2), 8. <https://doi.org/10.7203/jle.2.14827>
- Darma, V. P., & Nuravianti, S. (2023). AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION TECHNIQUE USED BY STUDENT IN TRANSLATING POETRY TEXT ENTITLED "EQUIPMENT" BY EDGAR ALBERT GUEST. *Tomorrow's Education Journal*, 1(1), 31-45.
- Deswinta, R. (2023). *THE STUDENTS' TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES IN TRANSLATING POETRY "STILL I RISE" IN HIGHER EDUCATION* (Doctoral dissertation, STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY).
- Fauziah, N. K., & Dewi, I. S. (2024). TECHNIQUE TRANSLATION GATHERING POETRY "THERE ISN'T ANY NEW YORK BY M. AAN MANSYUR. *La Ogi: English Language Journal*, 10(2), 08-16.
- Febriani, R. B., Rohayani, R., & Syafryadin, S. (2021). An Analysis of Translation Techniques Used in Powell's Poem "You Are My Everything". *International Journal of Innovation and Education Research*, 1(1), 53-59.
- Gao, R. (2024). Machine translation of chinese classical poetry: a comparison among chatgpt, google translate, and deepl translator. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03363-0>
- Harnadi, K. K., Lufiani, R., & Maulana, A. (2024). The Translation Techniques on Rupi Kaur's The Sun and Her

Flowers Based on the Lefevere's Perspective. *JOMANTARA*, 4(1), 39-65.

- Juniardi, Y., Pahamzah, J., & Harimurti, D. (2016). An Analysis of Students' Phrasal Verbs Translation at English Department of Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University. *Trans Con Proceedings*.
- Kartika, Y. (2017). The translation techniques of emily dickinson's poem hope of two Indonesian translations. Jakarta: UIN Syarif Hidayatullah.
- Litualy, S., Wenno, E., & Serpara, H. (2022). Systematic literature review of scientific journal: translation technique of literary text of poetry. *Jurnal Tahuri*, 19(1), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.30598/tahurivol19issue1page1-9>
- Mityagina, V. and Volkova, I. (2019). Localization in translation theory and practice: historical and cultural view (the case of fiction adaptation). *SHS Web of Conferences*, 69, 00129. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20196900129>
- Molina, L., & Albir, A. H. (2002). "Translation Techniques Revisited: A Dynamic and Functionalist Approach" *Meta: Journal des Traducteurs*, 47(4), 498-512.
- Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall.
- Obeidat, A. and Mahadi, T. (2019). The translation of arabic religious - cultural collocations in literary texts into english: an application of domestication and foreignization translation strategies. *International Journal of Humanities Philosophy and Language*, 155-165.
- Prafitasari, A., Nababan, M. R., & Santosa, R. (2019). An analysis of translation technique and translation quality in poem book entitled Love & Misadventure. *IJELTAL (Indonesian Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics)*, 3(2), 313-333.
- Psomas, E. and Antony, J. (2019). Research gaps in lean manufacturing: a systematic literature review. *International Journal of Quality & Reliability Management*, 36(5), 815-839. <https://doi.org/10.1108/ijqrm-12-2017-0260>
- Sukmaningrum, R., Setyaji, A., & Hawa, F. (2023). Students' challenges in translating poetry. *Borneo Educational Journal (Borju)*, 5(2), 192-203. <https://doi.org/10.24903/bej.v5i2.1314>
- Terayanti, Y. A., Mu'in, F., & Nasrullah, N. (2023). The Translation Techniques of the Translation Damono's Poems in English. *ELite Journal: International Journal of Education, Language, and Literature*, 3(1), 1-19
- Vinay, J. P., & Darbelnet, J. (1995). *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation*. John Benjamins Publishing Company
- Wang, F. (2014). An approach to domestication and foreignization from the angle of cultural factors translation. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 4(11).
- Xia, K. (2023). Strategies and Techniques in Chinese Translation of English Poetry From Adjectives Aspects- On Chu Tunan's Poetry Translation" O Captain! My Captain!". *The Educational Review, USA*, 7(2), 204-208.
- Yesi, Y., Juniardi, Y., & Baihaqi, A. (2021). Translation of Indonesian Cultural Terms in Rainbow Troops Novel: Investigating Translation Procedures. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Cultural Studies*, 4(1), 22-33.
- Yédia, D. (2023). Investigating translation strategies of lyrics: a case study of english and french versions of the song unstoppable by sia and sara'h. *Taduction Et Langues*, 22(1), 276-295. <https://doi.org/10.52919/translang.v22i1.941>