

Translating Feminine Voice Across Languages: A Narratological Analysis of Three Persian Translations of *To the Lighthouse*

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The study of narrative categories has long been centered on the analysis of original texts, often overlooking how these categories operate when transferred across languages and media. Translation, as a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural act, involves not only linguistic transformation but also the reconfiguration of narrative voice, focalization, and discursive presence. This paper examines the transferability of Woolf's feminine voice in three Persian translations of *To the Lighthouse*, analyzing whether and how gendered nuances of narration are preserved, altered, or reinterpreted in translation.

Employing a narratological framework, this study engages with the theoretical models of Chatman (1978, 1990), Hermans (1996), and Schiavi (1996) to explore how the translator's discursive presence shapes the reception of the original narrative's gendered voice. A comparative analysis of three Persian translations—two by female translators and one by a male translator—demonstrates that translation is not merely a linguistic transfer but a site of negotiation where gendered subjectivities influence textual representation. Surprisingly, findings indicate that S. Hosseini, the male translator, renders Woolf's feminine voice with greater sensitivity than his female counterparts, raising questions about the role of translator identity in cross-gender narrative mediation.

By positioning translation as a form of cross-media adaptation that extends beyond linguistic equivalence, this paper underscores the possibilities and limits of transferring narrative categories across linguistic and cultural boundaries. It highlights how translation acts as both a constraint and an opportunity for reinterpreting gendered discourse, ultimately reshaping the reader's encounter with Woolf's feminist poetics.

Keywords:

Narrative transferability, translation and gender, feminine voice, Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, discursive presence