

## The Universality of Explicitation in Sesotho Translation

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**KEYWORDS** Explicitation. Simplification. Normalisation. Implication. Universal

**ABSTRACT** This paper presents a critical account of the explicitation hypothesis which claims that translated texts in general, and the Sesotho translated texts in particular, are characterised as inherently universal. The researcher challenges the proposition that explicitation is an inherent universal feature of translation. Relative to this proposition, there is also a controversy among the translation critics regarding the universality of explicitation in translation. Some critics maintain that explicitation is an inherent translation universal as determined by the lexical and grammatical items that are implicit in the source text (ST). The big question that forms part of the argument in this paper is whether these items are always available in all source texts for explicitation to be reckoned as universal. It is for this purpose that critics present another different dimension of the argument. The explicitation hypothesis is perceived differently by other critics maintaining that explicitation is voluntary and optional as determined by the stylistic patterns employed by the translator. The paper aims to reflect on this argument around the universality of explicitation with a view to put it in its proper perspective. The results in this study reflect instances where explicitation appears to be inherent and universal whereas in some instances the Sesotho translation tends to be longer than the source text in accordance with the stylistic preferences of the translator. Novice translators as well as experienced translators are recommended to utilise explicitation to promote the meaningful translations that are culturally acceptable and linguistically accessible to the target readers.