

**The problem of meaning equivalence in the
translation of literary text: The example
of Soyinka's A Forest of a Thousand
Demons.**

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Abstract:

This study sets out to examine the gap created in translation by the non-existence of meaning-equivalence between Soyinka's A Forest A Thousand Daemons and Fagunwa's Ogboju Ode Ninu Igbo Irumale.

The examination of the meaning gap between the two texts is made through a retranslation - into - English - Via. Yoruba approach. Items from the source text, Ogboju Ode Ninu Igbo Irumale are compared with their translated counterparts in the target text, A Forest of A Thousand Daemons. It is discovered that while some of the items are adequately translated in terms of meaning, some are not.

It is also observed that the problem of non-existence of meaning equivalence in translation is attributable to both Socio-Cultural and Linguistic factors. Furthermore, the various approaches used by Soyinka to overcome the problem of meaning-equivalence in translation and their degree of success were also examined. In conclusion, it is noted that although the non existence of meaning-equivalence is a real problem in translation, it is not a total block to the process of translation. That is, the problem can be overcome if the translator takes into consideration a number of factors.

Keywords: Literary/ meaning equivalence/ culture/ linguistic

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