

**School of Languages Postgraduate Conference  
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**Theme of the Conference:  
*In Between Wor(l)ds – Transformation and Translation***

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**Title of my research:** A Study on the Translation of Metaphors in Malay Poetry into the English Language.

**Abstract :**

For over two thousand years metaphors have been of critical interest to rhetoricians, grammarians, linguists and increasingly so in recent days with philosophers, sociologists and anthropologists owing to their vibrant ubiquity in all contexts of human communication. In sports articles for example, hyperbolic metaphors are exploited to quite an obvious extent that the language of sports news is as vigorous as the sports it describes. Even in a context as technical and statistical as economic or financial reports, metaphors have become part of the register to serve multiple purposes. In the context of literary works and specifically in poetry, they abound in an even greater degree in a range of fluid forms consciously forged by the poet to lay meaning upon meaning that go beyond the denotative level. Metaphors are in poetry, a dynamic semantic, conceptual tool, the wordsmith's joy, near indispensable.

The versatility of metaphors evident in the varied syntactical forms and grammatical categories that they manifest themselves in and the infinite range of source domains that they can be drawn from makes meaning interpretation not always the easiest task. As such, these affective, ambiguous figures of speech pose a gamut of challenges in the context of translation activity and acutely so, if they are metaphors used in poetry and which in the source language (SL) are profoundly culture-bound.

The sole objective of this paper is therefore to explore the strategies translators employ when shifting metaphorical language in poetry particularly between the Malay and English language pair. Three pantuns ( a popular form of classical Malay poetry) have been selected for the analysis here. Each of these *pantuns* has more than two translated versions in English. This will allow for a comparison of the various options open to a translator when translating metaphors and a discussion on the range of interpretations that the translators represent in the target language (TL) as well as the possible reasons that influence the particular choices made by each of the translators concerned.

