

In this example, the sentence is comprised of the generic action verb ཟེད་, “to do” or “to make,” in a passive construction along with two additional elements: a nominative object, མཚན་ཉིད་དེ་ནམས་ (functioning as the passive “subject” in this construction), and an adverbial qualifier, མདོ་མྱེ་པའི་དབང་དུ་. Depending on context, the base portion of the phrase དབང་དུ་ connotes the meaning of “through the force of ...,” “from the perspective of ...,” or “to be/come under the influence of ...” and takes a modifier prefixed to it with a genitive connective particle (Wilson case 6.3). When mapped into English, however, the adverbial phrase translates into an ablative (in this example), instrumental, or prepositional phrase.

Another type of divergence seen in Tibetan is conflation. Conflation occurs when certain semantically necessary arguments of a given action are incorporated into a single word in a different language. In Dorr’s example,³ the single English word *stab* equates to the two Spanish words *dar* (give) and *punhaladas* (knife-wounds); that is, the two Spanish words are conflated into one word in English. Algorithmically, a conflational divergence is characterized by the suppression of a structural element (or conversely, the generation of one) during translation.

In Tibetan-English contexts, this type of divergence is readily seen in domains where one of the two languages possesses a paucity of innate terminology resulting in phrasal neologisms being constructed. In the literature of Tibet, this is reflected most clearly in Sanskritic compounds and in the technical vocabulary of states of mind. A simple example between Tibetan and English is the verbal collocation ཡིད་ལ་སྒོམས་, often translated as “to meditate,” although a literal rendering would be “to familiarize within the mind.”

Yet another divergence type is categorical. In such instances, a predicate could be adjectival in one language—*hungry* in English—but nominal in the other (*hunger* in German). In this divergence category, both the verb and predicate mutually inform each other and both undergo transformation. In a Tibetan-English context, there are several examples of structural divergences. For example, an instance where a verbal object is realized as a noun phrase in Tibetan but prepositionally in English can be seen in the example below with the verb སོང་:

དམན་ལམ་སྟོན་དུ་མ་སོང་བར་....

Without having previously *been* [on] the Lesser Vehicle path ...

(Literally:) Without having previously become a Lesser Vehicle path [consciousness] ...