Syntactic Strategies for Translating English Absolute Clauses into Thai
กลวิธีทางวากยสัมพันธ์ในการแปลอนุพากย์สัมบูรณ์ในภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาไทย

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Abstract

An absolute clause, which is typically found in English fictional works, is a subordinating clause realized as an overt subject with a non-finite predicate and hence exhibits a certain semantic relationship with a matrix clause, e.g., anteriority, posteriority, cause, result, and accompanying circumstance. Regarding the textual function, it provides additional background details to enrich descriptions and enhance readers' understanding. Previous literature sheds light on its syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic aspects. However, the translation of such construction into Thai tends to be practically unnoticed. The study aims to 1) analyze the syntactic patterns of the absolute clause found in fictional works and 2) investigate the strategies employed in the translation of the absolute clauses into Thai. The data comprise English absolute clauses from the two novels written by Dan Brown, namely Inferno and Origin, and their Thai translations. The total number of the absolute clauses found in the two fictions was 189 tokens. The data were analyzed based on Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies. The findings revealed that English absolute clauses were found to be translated into Thai using unit shift (97.35%) and sentence structure change (2.35%). These two strategies were classified into 8 patterns of translation. A vast majority of them were independent clauses but with an adjustment of coreferences, semantic relationships, and stylistic features. For pedagogical implication, especially in teaching literary translation, this study can be a case study for the translation strategies of

English absolute clauses which have linguistic differences from Thai and pose a challenge in translation.

Keywords: English absolute clauses, translation, novels, Thai

บทคัดย่อ

        อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์เป็นโครงสร้างที่พบบ่อยในงานประพันธ์ภาษาอังกฤษ เป็นอนุพากย์ย่อยของประโยค ประกอบด้วยประธานที่ปรากฏชัดเจน และภาคแสดงที่แสดงคุณสมบัติแบบเดียวกับกริยาไม่แท้ อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ จึงมีความสัมพันธ์ทางความหมายกับอนุพากษ์หลักในลักษณะต่าง ๆ เช่น การแสดงเหตุการณ์เกิดก่อน การแสดง เหตุการณ์เกิดหลัง สาเหตุ ผลลัพธ์ หรือเหตุการณ์ประกอบร่วม ในเชิงหน้าที่ตัวบท อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์จะให้ รายละเอียดเพิ่มเติมเกี่ยวกับเหตุการณ์ในประโยค ทำให้การพรรณนาเนื้อเรื่องมีความละเอียดยิ่งขึ้น รวมถึงส่งผล ให้ผู้อ่านเข้าใจเนื้อเรื่องได้ดียิ่งขึ้น พบงานวิจัยก่อนหน้าเกี่ยวกับประเด็นด้านวากยสัมพันธ์ อรรถศาสตร์ วัจนปฏิบัติ ศาสตร์ และวัจนลีลาของอนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ อย่างไรก็ตาม ประเด็นการแปลโครงสร้างดังกล่าวเป็นภาษาไทยยังไม่ เป็นที่สนใจ งานวิจัยนี้จึงมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อ 1) วิเคราะห์รูปแบบวากยสัมพันธ์ของอนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ที่พบในงานแต่ง และ 2) ศึกษากลยุทธ์ที่ใช้ในการแปลประโยคสมบูรณ์เป็นภาษาไทย ข้อมูลประกอบด้วย อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ ภาษาอังกฤษจากนวนิยายสองเล่มที่เขียนโดยแดน บราวน์ ได้แก่ **Inferno** และ **Origin** และฉบับแปลภาษาไทย จำนวนอนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ที่พบจากทั้งสองเรื่องคือ 189 อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ การวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลใช้กรอบแนวคิดกลวิธี ทางด้านโครงสร้างประโยคในการแปลของ เชสเตอร์แมน **Chesterman (**1997) ผลการวิจัยพบว่า อนุพากย์ สมบูรณ์ภาษาอังกฤษถูกแปลเป็นภาษาไทยโดยใช้การเปลี่ยนหน่วย (97.35%) และการเปลี่ยนแปลงโครงสร้าง ประโยค (2.35%) กลวิธีการแปลทั้งสองประเภทนี้แบ่งออกเป็น 8 รูปแบบการแปล ส่วนใหญ่เป็นอนุพากย์อิสระ โดยปรับรูปแบบการอ้างถึงระหว่างประธานของอนุพากย์สมบูรณ์กับประธานหรือส่วนอื่น ๆ ของอนุพากย์หลัก ความสัมพันธ์ทางความหมาย ตลอดจนลักษณะทางวัจนลีลา การประยุกต์ใช้ด้านการสอน โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่ง การ สอนการแปลวรรณกรรม การศึกษานี้สามารถใช้เป็นกรณีศึกษากลวิธีการแปลอนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ภาษาอังกฤษซึ่งมี ความแตกต่างทางภาษาจากภาษาไทยและก่อให้เกิดความท้าทายในการแปล

คำสำคัญ: อนุพากย์สมบูรณ์ในภาษาอังกฤษ การแปล นวนิยาย ภาษาไทย

Introduction

An absolute clause is a non-finite adverbial adjunct construction comprising an overt subject, e.g., a noun or pronoun, which is typically non-coreferential with a certain constituent (mostly a subject) of a matrix clause, and a non-finite predicate including non-finite verbs such as present participles (PRES PART) or past participles (PAST PART), or such verbless components as noun phrases (NPs/DPs), adjectival phrases (ADJPs), prepositional phrases (PPs), and infinitival phrases (INFPs) (Fowler, 1965; Khaphaeng, 2022; Khaphaeng & Chitrakara, 2023; Kim, 2020; Kortmann, 2013), thus deemed as a verbless construction (Biber et al., 1999; Quirk et al., 1985). Simply put, the absolute clause contains no finite verb and looks pretty much like a sentence. Following the economy principle, the tense and the auxiliary of the English absolute clauses tend to be economically reduced, i.e., omission, to yield economy and conciseness in English structures since both are considered the functional syntactic categories, and this omission does not result in meaning alterations (Khapaeng, 2022). The example can be drawn in (1).

(1) **Their houses torn down**, *all villagers had to live in a camp*.

In (1), *Their house torn down* is an absolute clause consisting of the overt subject *Their houses* and the non-finite, past-participle predicate *torn down*, whereas *all villagers had to live in a camp* is the matrix clause comprising the subject *all villagers* and the finite predicate *had to live in a camp*. The overt subject of this absolute clause is not coreferential with that of the matrix clause, and the tense and the auxiliary of the absolute clause are omitted.

Not explicitly bound to the matrix clause, English absolute clauses function to modify the matrix clause by adding background details or events to enrich descriptions and enhance readers' understanding (Watson, 1976). With their function, they are therefore regarded as supplementive with an overt subject (Quirk et al., 1985). Typically, in terms of absolute clause positions, these clauses can be seen in initial, medial, and final positions (Kortmann, 2013). According to previous studies, there are six absolute structures (He & Yang, 2015; Khapaeng, 2022). Examples with different types of predicates as well as positions can be drawn in Table 1 below.

Absolute clause structures	Examples
Overt subject + PRES PART	*With time **running out**,* they desperately need points to avoid relegation. (BNC_NEWS)
Overt subject + PAST PART	*Dishes **done**,* I return home to find my bucket full of 'slime' which I pour into the washing machine. (BNC_NA)
Overt subject + NP[1]	Her parents, *Dad **a solicitor** and Mum **a former Welsh international**,* are watching with her brother as she beats Jennifer Santrock. (BNC_NEWS)
Overt subject + ADJP	*He **dead**,* and you dying, he gave you the kiss of life. (BNC_SPOK)
Overt subject + PP	Exhausted and confused, I came, *cap **in hand**,* busking for help and half sang, half cried. (BNC_MISC)
Overt subject + INFP	He also gave advance information about an evening meeting...and a one-day conference..., *both events **to take place in London**.* (BNC_ACAD)

Table 1: English absolute clauses with different types of non-finite predicates and positions (adapted from He & Yang, 2015)

Apart from the six types aforementioned, English absolute clauses can also be classified into two main types based on the occurrence of clause introducers which can be named differently as augmentors, prepositional complimentizers, and absolute markers (Kim, 2020; Kortmann, 2013; Van de Pol & Cuyckens, 2013; Tang, 2005; Van de Pol & Hoffmann, 2016, as cited in Khaphaeng, 2022). The absolute clauses with such clause introducers as *with*, *without*, *what with*, or *and*, are called the augmented absolute clause, as in (2), whereas those without the clause introducers aforementioned are called the unaugmented absolute clause, as in (3).

(2) *With the traffic thickening and the street lights coming on, it would be after four when I got there.* (Van de Pol & Petré, 2015 as cited in Kim, 2020)

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[1] Khapaeng and Chitrakara (2023) employ the term determiner phrase (DP) instead.

(3) *All things considered, you are correct.* (COCA 2012, as cited in Kim, 2020)

English absolute clauses can also be explained in terms of semantics including coreference types and semantic relations. Coreference types account for whether the overt subject is semantically relevant to a certain constituent of the matrix clause; this coreferentiality is seen in a continuum rather than in a clear-cut boundary, resulting in four types of coreference including no coreference, part-whole coreference, full coreference, and constituent coreference, as shown in Table 2.

Coreference types	Explanations	Examples
No coreference	The overt subject in the absolute clause is different from any constituent of the matrix clause in terms of reference.	*Protocol having been satisfied, and the visit being an extremely brief one, the large party proceeded to squeeze the small party out of all proportion to his popular vote.* (*Protocol* and *the visit* are not coreferential with *the large party*.)
Part-whole coreference	The overt subject in the absolute clause exhibits the part-whole relationship with a certain constituent of the matrix clause in terms of reference.	*My head bursting with stories and schemes, I stumbled in next door.* (*My head* is partially coreferential with *I*. It is the part of the self that refers to the whole self.)
Full coreference	The overt subject in the absolute clause is refers to the same entity in a certain constituent of the matrix clause.	*Their patron, St. Anthony, was the Egyptian, he having been held to foster the growth of herbs in the desert.* (*Their patron, St. Anthony* is fully coreferential with the anaphoric

			pronoun *he* in the absolute clause. That is, *Their patron, St. Anthony,* and *he* refer to the same person.)
Constituent coreference	The coreference is seen either between the modifying part of the overt subject of the absolute clause and the whole referent in the matrix clause or between the overt subject of the absolute clause and the modifying part of the noun phrase in the matrix clause.		*Cutis O' Keefe was seldom without* **a feminine escort** *on his travels, the composition of* **the escort** *changing frequently.* (*The escort,* which is the object of preposition *of* or the modifying part in the absolute clause is coreferential with *a feminine escort*—the whole referent in the PP *without a feminine escort* in the matrix clause.

Table 2: Examples of four coreference types of English absolute clauses based on previous studies (Kortmann, 2013, pp. 92-100 as cited in Khaphaeng, 2022, pp. 19-24)

Many scholars who worked on English absolute clauses identify the semantic relations between the absolute clause and the matrix clause in different ways (Fuhre, 2010; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004; Khaphaeng, 2022; Khaphaeng & Chitrakara, 2023; Kortmann, 2013; Van de Pol & Hoffmann, 2016; Van de Pol & Petré, 2015). The semantic relations here refer to the semantic relationship between the absolute clause and the matrix clause. For example, in the sentence *the sun having set, the farmers went home*, the absolute clause *the sun having set* has a semantic relation with the matrix clause *the farmers went home* in terms of cause or reason. Recently, there has been a minimal adjustment in the semantic relations according to a degree of informativeness by Khaphaeng (2022). This can be explained in Table 3 below.

Degree of informativeness	Semantic relations	Explanations	Examples
	Concession	The relationship between ideas in the absolute	*The unexpected weather aside, it had been a good*

More informative group		clause and the matrix clause is in terms of concession (like the two ideas connected by *although*, *even though*, or *even if*).	*day.* (He & Yang, 2015, p. 19)
	Contrast	The relationship between ideas in the absolute clause and the matrix clause is in terms of contrast (like the two ideas connected by *whereas*, *while*, or *however*).	*Significantly, when the 'temporal' conjunction quandis used to indicate a potential or unreal concessional conditional, the conditional forms of the verb are most common, the indicative being used to indicate a real condition.* (Kortmann, 2013, p. 193)
	Condition	The relationship between ideas in the absolute clause and the matrix clause is in terms of condition (like the two ideas connected by *if* or *unless*).	*Weather permitting, the big helicopters will place them between the flows and the town.* (He & Yang, 2015, p. 13)
	Cause	The relationship between ideas in the absolute clause and the matrix clause is in terms of cause or reason (like the two	*There being no bridge, the master had to stop at the shore.* (He & Yang, 2015, p. 19)

			ideas connected by *if* or *unless*).
Less informative group	Elaboration	The absolute clause functions to elaborate the matrix clause, e.g., comments, specifications, explanations, subtypes, and examples.	*I too am tired with two lodgers of different nationalities, one highly carnivorous and one very vegetarian!* (Van de Pol & Hoffmann, 2016, p. 323)
	Simultaneity	The event of the absolute clause co-occurs with that of the matrix clause in the same time frame.	*The rain pouring down outside the window, he surveyed his surroundings.* (Van de Pol & Hoffmann, 2016, p. 323)
	Accompanying circumstances	The absolute clause provides additional details, e.g., physio-psychological characteristics, movements, sounds, or other descriptions.	*He turned, his face lined and despairing in the bright morning light.* (Kortmann, 2013, p. 170)

Table 3: Semantic relations between the absolute clause and the matrix clause (adapted from Khaphaeng, 2022, pp. 25-26)

This research endeavors to shed light on English absolute clauses for several reasons. To begin with, this absolute clause is frequently seen in fictional texts, and it is used extensively in English, based on corpus-based and diachronic evidence (He & Yang, 2015; Van de Pol & Hoffmann, 2016). Existing research has primarily focused on the grammar of absolute clauses (He & Yang, 2015; Kim, 2020; Kim & Davies, 2019; Kortmann, 2013) and the interfaces between syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of absolute clauses (Khaphaeng, 2022; Khaphaeng & Chitrakara, 2023). Moreover, an English absolute is linked to other components of the linguistic system through a twofold overlap: present participle absolutes and gerunds, as well as prepositional postmodifiers

and they are widely used in modern English (Van de Pol & Petré, 2015). The findings from this study, therefore, may benefit pedagogical implications, especially in literary translation course. However, the translation of English absolute clauses from the English language to Thai seems to be practically unnoticed. In fact, as no previous study has examined the translation of English absolute clauses into Thai, this work aims to fill this gap in the literature.

Since this absolute clause does not exist in Thai grammar, this leads to language specificity and turns out to be an interesting issue in translation. The study also seeks to understand how translators deal with such language specificity.

Objectives of the study

1) To analyze the syntactic patterns of the absolute clause found in fictional works
2) To investigate the strategies employed in the translation of the absolute clauses into Thai.

Scope of the study

In this study, the absolute clause falls into the syntactic category of clauses rather than phrases, constructions, or sentence modifiers, which are mentioned in some studies or grammar textbooks. Based on Khaphaeng (2022) and He and Yang (2015), this absolute clause is one type of clause since it consists of an overt subject and a non-finite predicate, hence making it different from other structures. Additionally, the study only focuses on the translation of the unaugmented absolute clause type because of the clear definition of the absolute clause abovementioned, and the augmented one is not considered in this study due to "a fine line between a preposition and an augmentor" (Khaphaeng & Chitrakara, 2023, p. 81). The researcher also wants to find how translators deal with the English absolute clauses when they translate them into Thai without the influence of any clause introducers.

Methodology

To achieve the research objective, the researcher analyzed concordances containing the unaugmented absolute clauses. For the selection criteria of the samplings, the two novels were

selected based on two criteria: 1) Dan Brown: A prolific author whose numerous bestselling novels have been translated into over 50 languages, and 2) an analysis of his works reveals a distinct stylistic arrangement, wherein the reader can notice the author's frequent employment of stylistic devices, notably complex noun phrases, free adjuncts, and absolute clauses. Based on these reasons, the selection of the source texts (STs) was purposive to find the novels corresponding to the research objectives, and the two different professional translators for the target texts (TTs) can be seen in Table 4.

Novels	Authors	Years of publication	Translated versions	Translators	Years of translated version
Inferno	Dan Brown	2013	สู่นรกภูมิ	อรดี สุวรรณโกมล	2014
Origin	Dan Brown	2017	ออริจิน	อนุรักษ์ นครินทร์	2018

Table 4: The Dan brown's Fictional works and the Translations

The data collection process involved the collection of English absolute clauses and their translations from the two novels. There are three steps to collect the data:

1. The ST data containing the English unaugmented absolute clauses from the two novels: *Inferno* and *Origin* written by Dan Brown were manually selected from the resources within the criteria, i.e., the unaugmented absolute clauses with a subject and a non-finite predicate, and the clauses which were separated from the matrix clause by a comma (,) or period (.) (Khaphaeng & Chitrakara, 2023).

2. The Thai-translated expressions were searched manually.

3. The data were collected in Microsoft Excel, and the researcher labeled key notions to form a parallel corpus that helped to analyze the data.

The data were analyzed qualitatively using Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies to manipulate or alter syntactic structures during translation, ranging from literal translation to scheme change. The syntactic strategies as suggested by Chesterman (1997) are presented below:

Syntactic strategies	Explanations
Literal translation	This technique translates the ST syntactic structure into the TT as nearly as feasible while following TT grammatical norms.
Loan/calque	These methods borrow or directly translate syntactic structures from the ST into the TT. Loans import a full phrase or expression from the ST, while calques translate its parts verbatim.
Transposition	This method replaces the ST syntactic structure with the equivalent TT structure. Change a verb phrase to a noun phrase or vice versa.
Unit shift	Translating a clause into a phrase or a phrase into a clause.
Phrase structure change	This method involves modifying the sequence of parts or adding or removing modifiers.
Clause structure modification	Like phrase structure modification, but for clauses. This may entail adjusting clause order, subordination, or coordination.
Sentence structure change	This includes changing the active-passive voice, constituent order, or splitting or merging phrases.
Cohesion change	This method involves replacing or adding/removing conjunctions, pronouns, or other cohesive indicators or devices from the ST to maintain coherence in the TT.
Level shift	Translating a lexical item into a phrase or clause or vice versa changes its syntactic level.
Scheme change	This entails changing the text's rhetorical scheme, such as element order or emphasis.

Table 5: Details of Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies

These syntactic strategies allow translators to change source text syntactic structures to create a more natural and idiomatic target text while preserving meaning and intent. Chesterman's (1997) strategies are also regarded as 'local strategies' as they deal with translation problems at a specific level like items or structures (Chesterman, 1997; Newmark, 1988, as cited in Leenakitti & Pongpairoj, 2019, p. 99).

The analytical framework for the analysis of the translation of English absolute clause was mainly based on Chesterman (1997) syntactic strategies. There are two types of English absolute clauses: augmented and unaugmented. The unaugmented one was chosen to be studied. The translation of unaugment absolute clauses which were translated as a different TT unit was classified as 'unit shift' translation strategy, and the translated ones whose structures were changed to relative clauses and a cohesion change were categorized as 'sentence structure change'. For a clearer understanding, the framework is illustrated as follows.
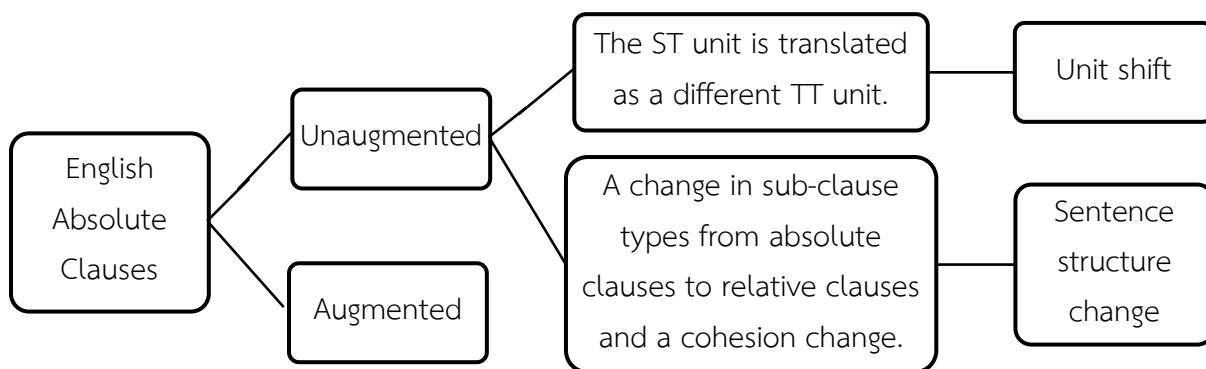

Figure 1: The analytical framework of translation strategies

The total number of absolute clauses collected from the two fictional writings were 189 tokens with six types of absolute structures (Subj+) including *past participle* (V-ed), *present participle* (V-ing), *adjectival phrase* (AdjP), *determiner phrase* (DP), *prepositional phrase* (PP), and *infinitive* (To-V). The examples and number of tokens of each structure were presented in Table 6 below.

Absolute structures (Subj+)	Examples	Number of Tokens
V-*ed*	The woman in black leather sprinted out of the alley, *gun extended.*	123
V-*ing*	Ambra shifted on the couch, *her eyes never leaving Edmond's face*.	37
AdjP	She hurried to the counter, *her brown eyes wild and desperate*.	21
DP	Instead, she was staring into the crowd, *her expression a mask of concern.*	4
PP	The professor received her warmly, *his strong hands on her back pulling her very close.*	3
To-V	The provost was silent, *his cue for her to continue.*	1

Table 6: Absolute structures found in the current research with examples and number of tokens

The researcher focused only on the qualitative analysis. The reason is due to the fact that the findings of this study will provide possibilities for translating English absolute clauses into Thai as well as discussions based on the researcher's observations. The possibilities, moreover, will be devised as a problem-solving strategy for language specificity at a syntactic level. For ease of understanding, these steps can be illustrated in the diagram below.
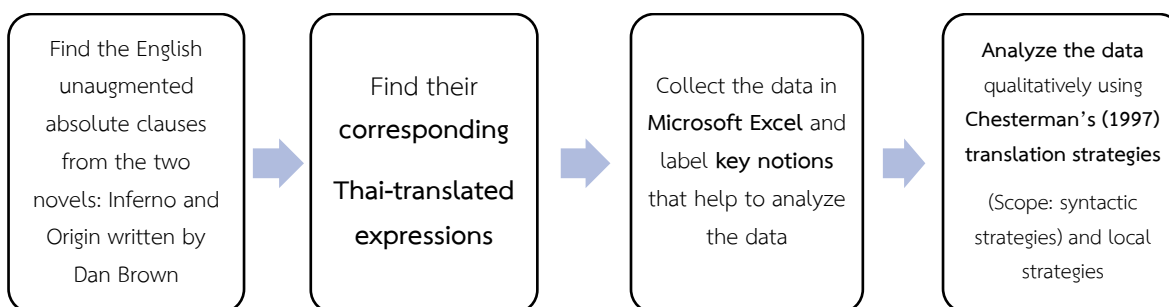
Find the English unaugmented absolute clauses from the two novels: Inferno and Origin written by Dan Brown → Find their **corresponding Thai-translated expressions** → Collect the data in **Microsoft Excel** and label **key notions** that help to analyze the data → **Analyze the data** qualitatively using **Chesterman's (1997) translation strategies** (Scope: syntactic strategies) and local strategies

Figure 2: An overview of the research methodology in this study

Results and Discussion

The purpose of the current section is to present the findings of translation strategies employed to translate unaugmented absolute clause. In this study, based on Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies, two strategies have been found to be used in the translation of unaugmented absolute clause: unit shift and sentence structure change. The unit shift was employed with a vast majority (97.35%) and sentence structure change was found to be used with much less in frequency (2.65%). Each syntactic strategy was subcategorized into patterns. Seven patterns were found in unit shift and one pattern was found in sentence structure change. The examples and explanations were illustrated in the next part.

Strategies for translating unaugmented absolute clauses into Thai

The findings reveal that English absolute clauses do not exist in the Thai language, resulting in language specificity between the two languages. The Thai-translated expressions, therefore, did not maintain the structures found in English. To accurately convey the content of the original text and preserve naturalness, adjustments were made using syntactic strategies to adhere to Thai structural norms and conventions. In other words, there is no literal translation due to language specificity.

These syntactic strategies primarily involved unit shift, i.e., the ST unit is translated using the different TT unit, and sentence structural change, i.e., converting main clauses into subordinating clauses or vice versa, or a change in sub-clause types as illustrated in Table 7.

Syntactic strategies from Chesterman (1997)	Patterns found in this study
Unit shift (The ST unit is translated as a different TT unit.)	Pattern 1 Absolute clauses into phrases with bare relative clauses
	Pattern 2 Absolute clauses into sentences with a clause structure change by shifting from non-finite to finite constructions

	Pattern 3 Absolute clauses into sentences with a clause structure change by shifting from non-finite to finite constructions and a cohesion change by an omission or addition of connectors
	Pattern 4 Absolute clauses into sentences with a clause structure change by shifting from a subject to an object
	Pattern 5 Absolute clauses into sentences with a clause structure change by shifting from non-finite constructions to serial verb constructions
	Pattern 6 Absolute clauses into sentences with a clause structure change by shifting from non-finite constructions to serial verb constructions and a cohesion change by an omission or addition of connectors
	Pattern 7 Absolute clauses into sentences with clause structure change by shifting from non-finite constructions to serial verb constructions and shifting from a subject to an object, along with a cohesion change by an omission or addition of connectors
Sentence structure change	Pattern 8 A change in sub-clause types from absolute clauses to relative clauses and a cohesion change

Table 7: Syntactic strategies found to be used for translating English absolute clauses into Thai and their translation patterns

Unit shift refers to the translation process where the ST unit, for instance, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs, is rendered into a different TT unit. In Pattern 1, it was observed in this study that the English absolute clauses became the prepositional phrases in Thai with the head noun followed by the bare relative clause (bare RC) or the RC, as illustrated in example (4) below.

 (4)

ST: "I'm sorry," Langdon responded, **his tone hardening**.

TT: "ขอโทษด้วย" แลงดอนตอบ**ด้วยน้ำเสียงแข็งกร้าวขึ้น**

That is, the absolute clause comprising the overt subject *his tone* followed by the present participial predicate *hardening* was translated into Thai using *ด้วยน้ำเสียงแข็งกร้าวขึ้น*—where the head was the preposition *ด้วย* and the NP *น้ำเสียงแข็งกร้าวขึ้น*. Meanwhile, the NPs following the preposition *ด้วย* contained the head noun followed by the bare relative clause (bare RC) or the RC without a relative pronoun (e.g., *ผู้ ที่ ซึ่ง อัน*). In (4), the relative pronoun *ที่ (ด้วยน้ำเสียง(ที่)แข็งกร้าวขึ้น)* was assumed to be omitted based on the grammatical function of the head noun which was an object of preposition *ด้วย*. Despite the unit shift, the coreference type of the original text which was the part-whole coreference (i.e., *his tone is part of Langdon*) remained the same in Thai (i.e., *น้ำเสียง* is part of Langdon himself; it is his voice that stands for him). These examples correspond to Pattern 1 in Table 7.

The findings revealed that, apart from shifting from clauses to phrases, the unit shift involved rendering the English absolute clauses into sentences, i.e., a shift from a clause that modifies the matrix clause to a separate sentence. Inside these sentences, there was also a clause structure change that concerned shifting the clause structure related to constituent phrases, e.g., orders of constituents, alterations of voice (active and passive), transitivity, or finiteness and non-finiteness (Chesterman, 1997 as cited in Leenakitti, 2019).

Pattern 2 involved shifting from clauses to sentences along with the clause structure change by transforming the non-finite or verbless construction in English into the finite counterpart in Thai, a case in point can be seen in example (5).

(5)

ST: Langdon turned, **his face ashen**.

TT: แลงดอนหันมา **ใบหน้าเขาซีดเซียว**

In (5), *his face ashen* which was comprised of *his face* and the adjectival predicate *ashen* (without color, or pale grey in color; when used with one's face, it conveys illness, shock, or fear) turned to *ใบหน้าเขาซีดเซียว* whereby the subject *ใบหน้าเขา* preceded the finite, verbal predicate *ซีด*

เซียว—a stative verb collocating with *หน้า*. In this example, the ST and the TT coreference type, i.e., part-whole coreference, remained the same.

Pattern 3 is another observed pattern that concerned the strategy abovementioned plus a cohesion change. It is worth noting that the English absolute clauses can be rendered into Thai sentences using expressions beginning with finite verbs, but this did not imply that the translated expressions merely became verb phrases (VPs). Rather, such expressions formed complete sentences whose subject was omitted. This omission or ellipsis aligned with one of the notable features of Thai grammar known as pro-drop or pronoun dropping where a particular class of pronouns can be omitted when it can be inferred contextually or pragmatically. Example (6), is an example of Pattern 3,

(6)

ST: Ávila stared, **fists clenching reflexively**.

TT: อบิลาจ้องเขม็ง **<u>กำหมัด</u>โดยไม่รู้ตัว**

The absolute clause *fists clenching reflexively* was translated into *กำหมัดโดยไม่รู้ตัว* in which the omitted subject was *อบิลา*, resulting in the alternation of coreference types from the part-whole coreference in the ST (i.e., *fists* as part of *Ávila*) to the full coreference in the TT as the person whose fists were clenching was Ávila herself (i.e., *อบิลาจ้องเขม็ง (อบิลา --> Ø) กำหมัดโดยไม่รู้ตัว*).

In addition to this, Pattern 3 also showed the cohesion change strategy involving introducing the TT expressions with the connector *โดย*, as illustrated in (7).

(7)

ST: Ambra seemed to be struggling with her own reactions, **her expression somewhere between wide-eyed wonder and guarded indecision**.

TT: อัมบราดูจะกำลังต่อสู้กับปฏิกิริยาของตัวเองอยู่ **<u>โดย</u>มีสีหน้าก้ำกึ่งระหว่างเบิกตากว้างด้วยความอัศจรรย์ใจกับตัดสินใจไม่ได้ แต่ก็สงวนท่าที**

In the ST, the absolute subject was *her expression*, followed by the adverbial phrase (ADVP) *somewhere* and the PP *between wide-eyed wonder and guarded indecision*. There was a part-whole conference between the absolute subject and the matrix clause subject. In the TT,

(8)

ST: Langdon was only half listening, **his thoughts consumed by sudden concerns over the actions they were about to take**.

TT: แลงดอนฟังเพียงครึ่งเดียว <u>**ด้วย**ความคิดเขาหมกมุ่นกับความกังวลที่เกิดขึ้นอย่างกะทันหันกับสิ่งที่พวกเขากำลังจะทำ</u>

the connector โดย was added, and her expression in the ST was replaced by the omitted NP *(อัมบรา --> Ø)*, resulting in the shift of the part-whole to the full coreference. There was, however, a case when the coreference type did not change because the subject of the absolute clause was rendered the same in the Thai sentence, and the sentence was introduced by the connector *ด้วย* denoting the semantic relation of cause, as illustrated in (8).

Apart from cohesion change, the English absolute clauses are converted into sentences with clause structure change by shifting from a subject to an object. This pattern corresponds to Pattern 4 in Table 7. This change in constituent orders entailed maintaining grammatical coherence and semantic clarity in the TT. In example (9) below, the absolute clause subject was *the noise* whereas the object was *the stone walls*.

(9)

ST: The drone's high-pitched whine was nearly deafening inside the cavern, **the noise reflecting sharply off <u>the stone walls</u>**.

TT: เสียงครางแหลมสูงของโดรนดังหูแทบดับเข้ามาในถ้ำ <u>**ผนังหิน**สะท้อนเสียงดังนั้นเต็มที่</u>

When translated into Thai, however, the object *ผนังหิน* or the stone walls was promoted to be the subject, and the former subject *the noise* was demoted to be the object *เสียงดัง*, hence yielding no coreference between the subject of the absolute clause (*the noise*) and the subject of the TT expression (*ผนังหิน*). The object of the TT expression (*เสียงดัง*) turned out to be fully coreferential with the subject of the preceding sentence (*เสียงครางแหลมสูง*), instead.

Pattern 5 concerned shifting from non-finite constructions in the ST to serial verb constructions in the TT while shifting from clauses to sentences. In Thai, serial verb constructions refer to the concatenation of at least two verb phrases immediately adjacent to each other (Thepkanjana, 2016, p. 1). For example, *ผมจะปิดไฟนอนแล้วนะ* comprised the first verb phrase *ปิด*

ไฟ and the second *นอน*, showing the sequential actions with a small time gap. This can be translated into English as *I will turn off the light and go to bed* by using the coordinated VP construction (Mallikamas, 2016). The study found that the non-finite predicates of the English absolute clauses were rendered into Thai using this serial verb construction as in (10) where the present participial predicate turned to the serial verb construction consisting of the main verb *พุ่ง* and the subsidiary verb suggesting an upward direction *ขึ้น*.

(10)

ST: Think again, Brüder mused, **his confidence <u>rising</u>**.

TT: คิดดูอีกที บรูเดอร์คำนึง **ความมั่นใจของเขา<u>พุ่งขึ้น</u>**

Other cases included *each of those branching off again* translated as *แต่ละทางแยกออกไปอีก*; *his eyes searching for Sienna* translated as *สายตาของเขาสอดส่ายหาเซียนนา*; or *her eyes welling with tears translated* as *นัยน์ตาเธอมีน้ำตาเอ่อนอง*. It is noticeable that this case is typically seen when the English absolute clause subjects exhibited the part-whole coreference with the subject of the matrix clause, and this type of coreference was also preserved when translated into Thai.

In Pattern 6, there was also an even more complex pattern when the English absolute clauses were converted into Thai sentences with shifting from non-finite constructions in English to serial verb constructions and cohesion change by adding a connector to the translated expression to show a relationship between the ideas of the two sentences. In (11), the present participial predicate *turning to the LCD screens overhead* was translated as *หันไปมองจอแอลซีดีเหนือศีรษะ* containing three verbs in concatenation, and, at the same time, the whole expression was introduced by the connector *แล้ว*, suggesting the semantic relation of accompanying circumstances between the first sentence and the second one.

(11)

ST: Ambra let go of Langdon, **both of them turning to the LCD screens overhead**.

TT: อัมบราปล่อยแลงดอน **<u>แล้วทั้งสองก็หันไปมองจอแอลซีดีเหนือศีรษะ</u>**

The word *แล้ว* conveyed the posteriority sense in which one event takes place and then the other happens. Example (11) demonstrated that the full coreference in the ST (i.e., *Ambra*

and *Langdon* are coreferential with *both of them*) was preserved in the TT (i.e., *อัมบรา* and *แลงดอน* are coreferential with *ทั้งคู่*).

Moreover, the cohesion change came from omitting some parts of the absolute clauses. The example (12) demonstrated that the prepositional phrase *through her head* was deleted in Thai since it was still comprehensible by the context (i.e., *ความคิด...วิ่งพล่านไปทั่ว*), resulting in conciseness in translation. The coreference type in the ST was no coreference, and it was also the same in the TT.

(12)

ST: Her heart began to pound wildly as she stared down at Julián, **a thousand thoughts <u>racing through her head</u>.**

TT: หัวใจเธอเริ่มเต้นกระหน่ำแรงขณะเธอก้มลงมองฆูเลียน **ความคิดร้อยแปดพันประการ<u>วิ่งพล่านไปทั่ว</u>**

(through her head --> ø)

Interestingly, example (13) revealed that the omission can also be found in the subject position along with the shift from clauses to sentences (*เล็งปืนมา*), the promotion from the subject in the ST to the object in the TT (from the subject *gun* to the object *ปืน*), the omission of the subject (*ผู้หญิงในชุดหนังสีดำ* --> ø (*เล็งปืนมา*)) and the change from the non-finite into the finite construction with serial verbs (i.e., the past participial predicate *extended* was translated as *เล็ง(ปืน)มา*).

(13)

ST: The woman in black leather sprinted out of the alley, **<u>gun extended</u>.**

TT: ผู้หญิงในชุดหนังสีดำกระโจนออกมาจากตรอก **<u>เล็งปืนมา</u>**

The other case in (14) looked similar to (9) but with the addition of the connector *และ*. Both examples exhibited the shift of coreference types from no coreference in the ST to full coreference in the TT in (13) and from part-whole coreference in the ST to full coreference in the TT in (14).

(14)

ST: "Actually, no," she replied, **<u>her eyes narrowing</u>.**

TT: "จริงๆแล้วไม่ทราบค่ะ" เธอตอบ **<u>และหรี่ตาลง</u>**

The last syntactic strategy, Pattern 8, was a sentence structure change, i.e., the change in sub-clause types to modify the arrangement of the sentence components (Chesterman, 1997). This includes substituting absolute clauses with a relative clause but with a cohesion change, as shown in example (15).

(15)

ST: "Mare Nostrum happens to be one of the finest 'modeling' computers on earth, specializing in complex simulations, <u>its most famous being 'Alya Red'…</u>"

TT: "บังเอิญว่ามาเรนอสทรัมเป็นคอมพิวเตอร์ 'ต้นแบบ' ที่ดีที่สุดในโลกเครื่องหนึ่งโดยมีความชำนาญด้านการจำลองแบบที่ซับซ้อน <u>**ที่มีชื่อเสียงที่สุดก็คือ 'แดงอัลยา' (Alya Red)…**</u>"

The absolute clause *its most famous being 'Alya Red'* was translated into the Thai relative clause with the relative pronoun ที่, i.e., *ที่มีชื่อเสียงที่สุดก็คือ 'แดงอัลยา'* to modify the NP *คอมพิวเตอร์ 'ต้นแบบ'* in the matrix clause. The absolute subject *its most famous* was omitted. The reason for this adjustment was that the sentence structure change is frequently used to provide a more natural, idiomatic, and stylistically suitable translation in the target language. This adjustment can serve to improve the readability, clarity, and fluency of the translated language while retaining the original text's core meaning and intent. As regards the coreference type, the ST exhibited the constituent coreference type while, in the Thai translation, this coreference type turned out to be the full coreference in the form of a gap in the Thai relative clause; this gap referred back to the antecedent *คอมพิวเตอร์ 'ต้นแบบ.'*

In summary, the findings of this study revealed that based on Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies, English absolute clauses were translated into Thai by using unit shift and sentence structure change. Chesterman's strategies that were not found to be used in this research are literal translation, loan, phrase structure change, clause structure change, transposition, cohesion change, level shift, and scheme change.

Apart from the major findings of the study, it is observed that there are interesting stylistic features in the TT. Stylistic features refer to the linguistic choices and patterns that contribute to the overall style and tone of a text. In this study, some interesting stylistic features are observed. First, it is worth noting that the translators preserve an arrangement of ideas in the Thai translation. That is, the translators preserve Dan Brown's style of writing the matrix clauses followed by the

English absolute clauses in the ST. Moreover, translation with a single strategy may not yield naturalness and literary style in translation. Consequently, more than one strategy can be employed, hence corresponding to the technique called couplet used in translating English absolute clauses into Thai (Leenakitti & Pongpairoj, 2019). Also, it can be argued that only a single syntactic strategy from Chesterman (1997) is not applicable in translating the English absolute clauses into Thai. In addition, word choices in the translation reflect the way translators convey expressive meanings—a mark of literary language, for example, the translators use phonological repetition, either full or partial, to maintain rhythm or imagery, e.g., *the fire returning to her eyes* translated as *แววตาเต้น**ระริก***. In the same manner, semantic repetition is also employed to accentuate the mood of the events, e.g., his voice intensifying was translated as *พระสุรเสียง**เข้มขึ้น.*** The table below demonstrates how phonological and semantic repetitions are used in the TT.

Absolute clauses in the ST	Repetitions in the TT
He placed his hand gently on the small of her back and began guiding her away, the two of them moving briskly toward the far end of the dome	เขาวางมือบนบั้นเอวเธออย่างสุภาพและเริ่มพาเธอเดินออกไป ทั้งสองก้าว***กระฉับกระเฉง***ตรงไปยังอีกฟากหนึ่งของห้องโดม
This pit of hell was divided into descending terraces of increasing misery, each level populated by tormented sinners of every kind.	หลุมนรกนี้แบ่งเป็นชั้น ๆ ลดระดับกันไปตามความ***ทุกข์ทรมาน***ที่เพิ่มขึ้น แต่ละระดับ***อัดแอ***ด้วยคนบาปทุกประเภทที่กำลังถูกทรมาน
The apartment was tiny, the air inside hinting at an ongoing battle between a vanilla-scented candle and old carpeting.	อพาร์ตเม้นต์ห้องนั้น***เล็กจิ๋ว*** อากาศภายในเป็นกลิ่น***ผสมผสาน***ระหว่างเทียนกลิ่นวานิลลากับกลิ่นอับของพรม***เก่า ๆ***
Ambra was standing now, close to Langdon's side, both of them watching with admiration and sadness as their friend addressed the world.	ตอนนี้อัมบราลุกขึ้นยืน***ข้าง ๆ*** แลงดอน ทั้งคู่กำลัง***เฝ้าดู***เพื่อนของตนกล่าวปราศรัยกับชาวโลกด้วยความ***ชื่นชม***ปน***เศร้าหมอง***
I am no longer safe at home, the rabbi told himself, his heart pounding relentlessly.	อยู่บ้านไม่ปลอดภัยแล้ว รับไบบอกตัวเอง หัวใจเต้นแรงไม่ยอม***ละลด***

Instead, she was staring into the crowd, her expression a mask of concern.	แต่เธอกลับ**จ้องดู**ฝูงชน สีหน้า**วิตกกังวล**อย่างยิ่ง
Sinskey eyed the horrific visual—a painting depicting a vast sea of humanity, throngs of sickly people, all climbing over one another in a dense tangle of naked bodies.	ซินสกีมองภาพอันน่า**สยดสยอง**นั้น เป็นภาพเขียนที่ถ่ายทอดให้เห็นมนุษย์จำนวน**มากมายมหาศาล** ผู้เจ็บป่วย**เนืองแน่น** ต่างพากัน**ไต่ปีน**ข้ามคน**อื่น ๆ** ท่ามกลางร่าง**เปลือยเปล่า**ที่แออัดเบียดเสียด

Table 8: Examples of repetitions in the TT

The English absolute clauses and their translations also showed collocations of words denoting postures, facial expressions, thoughts, feelings, tactile experiences, sound production, and movements, which can serve as linguistic resources for translators to translate literary texts, for example, *his eyes flying open* translated as *ดวงตากระพือเปิด* or *her voice cracking* translated as *เสียงแตกพร่า*. The table below shows interesting collocated expressions found in the TT.

Absolute clauses in the ST	Collocated expressions used in the TT
He fought to clear the fog from his mind and take inventory of his wounds, his attention moving to the deep throbbing in his left hip and the sharp pain in his head.	เขาพยายามขับไล่หมอกมัวให้พ้นไปจากใจและสำรวจบาดแผลของตัวเอง ความสนใจของเขาเปลี่ยนไปยังอาการ**ปวดตุบ** ลึก ๆ ในสะโพกซ้ายและความ**เจ็บแปลบ** ที่ศีรษะ
He stopped short, his blood turning cold	เขา**หยุดกึก** **เลือด**ในกาย**เย็นเฉียบ**
Slowly, he opened his eyes, his vision hazy from lack of oxygen.	เขาค่อย ๆ ลืมตาขึ้นช้า ๆ **สายตาฝ้าฟาง**จากการขาดออกซิเจน
"I am the person who added that name," she confessed, her voice cracking.	"ฉันเป็นคนเติมชื่อนั้นเข้าไป" เธอสารภาพ **เสียงแตกพร่า**

Table 9: Examples of collocated expressions in the TT

Discussions

It is worth pointing out that the unit shift—both shifting from clauses to phrases and from clauses to sentences—tends to be the main strategy for rendering the English absolute clauses into Thai. This unit shift strategy found in this study is said to underscore the distinction between

English and Thai structures. The finding aligns with Winnarong (2022, pp. 126-127) who states that English poses a distinction between finiteness and non-finiteness; however, Thai has no such distinction. Additionally, the Thai translation also reflects language specificities along with the unit shift including the pro-drop or the serial verb constructions, which are the unique characteristics of the Thai language. The unit shift from clauses to phrases and from clauses to sentences emphasizes the importance of translation adjustment. That is, if the translation is rendered literally in Thai, it may not sound natural (Chantasingh, 1986). The unit shift strategy also corresponds to Catford's (1965) level shift, which refers to a modification in the linguistic level in the process of translation. The level shift occurs when an item from the ST at one level, such as grammar, is converted into an item from the TT at a different level, such as lexis, or vice versa. The findings in this study, therefore, emphasize that the unit shift is the important strategy in dealing with different structures in two languages.

Another aspect was the importance of cohesion change. Apart from the absolute clause which shows the language specificity between English and Thai, the cohesion use is also another aspect that should be taken into consideration during translation. Speakers of Thai frequently use omission or ellipsis in many positions, e.g., subjects or objects, and the omitted parts are assumed to be known by readers. This case differs from English where it is unacceptable. It is, therefore, necessary for translators to be aware of this aspect. This corresponds to Blum-Kulka (2000) who proposes that cohesion in the TT can be affected by changes in the use of cohesive devices due to some syntactic differences between languages, causing the shifts in cohesive devices used in the ST and the TT. Unless the differences in cohesive devices between two languages are not considered, misinterpretation or loss of naturalness will occur in translation.

From the researcher's viewpoint, the syntactic strategies employed in this study can minimize the challenges in terms of the naturalness of translation when a translator renders English into Thai texts. They enable translators to preserve the intended meaning (and pragmatic effect) of the ST while changing linguistic forms to the TT's norms and conventions. By shifting units, translators can create more natural and idiomatic translations that appeal to the target audience.

Also, it was found that there is an alteration of semantic relations between the absolute clause and the matrix clause based on a translator's interpretation of the event in the ST. A few

cases indicate that adding connectors in the TT contributes to the alteration of semantic relations. A case in point is seen in (16) where the semantic relation between the absolute clause and the matrix clause in the ST is accompanying circumstances, i.e., the event in the matrix clause is described by additional information regarding the psychological state from the absolute clause), but the semantic relation is changed into a contrast, i.e., two ideas are contrastive to each other, between the two sentences using *หาก* or *หากแต่* in Thai. This shift may arise from the translator's intention to portray the contrasting image between what Langdon physically did and what he felt inside his mind.

(16)

ST: Langdon held on, **his mind churning with mystifying images of Dante's inferno.**

TT: แลงดอนเกาะไว้ <u>**หาก**จิตใจเวียนวนอยู่กับภาพอันลี้ลับจากอินแฟร์โนของดันเต้</u>

In (17), adding the connector *ด้วย* yields the semantic relation of cause, i.e., the second sentence denotes a reason for an action in the previous sentence. This differs from the semantic relation of accompanying circumstances in the ST. Both (16) and (17) align with Vinay and Darbelnet's (1995) modulation technique called modulation in which the TT exhibits a different version of the message from the perspective changes, signifying a shift in how the relationship between two sentences is perceived.

(17)

ST: Langdon was only half listening, **his thoughts consumed by sudden concerns over the actions they were about to take.**

TT: แลงดอนฟังเพียงครึ่งเดียว <u>**ด้วย**ความคิดเขาหมกมุ่นกับความกังวลที่เกิดขึ้นอย่างกะทันหันกับสิ่งที่พวกเขากำลังจะทำ</u>

Limitations of the Study

The present study reveals some limitations. First, it is based on the analysis of only two novels for the translation research. Collecting more data from many translators could potentially result in additional techniques for translating the English absolute clauses into Thai. Another limitation is the exclusive reliance on Chesterman's (1997) syntactic strategies in this study. The current study is still in its initial phase of development and has not yet integrated Chesterman's

(1997) semantic and pragmatic techniques. Future research can explore these strategies, which can enrich the insights derived from this study. Additionally, this paper makes use of a qualitative method rather than a quantitative one. Incorporating quantitative analysis could shed light on prevalent tendencies in translating the English absolute clauses. Another limitation of this current study is the interviewing of translators; therefore, it is encouraged to investigate and identify the reasons and motivations underlying the translator's use of individual syntactic strategies. It is also recommended that future research investigate augmented absolute clauses, which are not explored in this study.

Conclusions

The study focuses on translating the English unaugmented absolute clauses from the novels *Origin* and *Inferno* written by Dan Brown into Thai by well-qualified translators. The absolute clauses have a unique syntactic construction, but they lack any study of cross-language translation. Therefore, this paper investigates how translators deal with language specificity. The findings revealed two main syntactic strategies: a unit shift and a sentence structure change, each with additional strategies such as a cohesion change or a clause structure change, resulting in a wide variety of linguistic expressions; the choices of these expressions depend on the TT structures and the translator's judgment, which is especially impacted by the creative freedom provided by the fictional genre. Translators should be mindful that Dan Brown's writing style poses a challenge to the translators in conveying complexities in both content and verbal elements. As a result, the translation of English absolute clauses into Thai cannot be in a word-for-word manner. While the meanings of the text are maintained, forms must be adjusted to yield naturalness and literary style in translation. To address pedagogical consequences, it is necessary to provide training and consideration for teaching the translation of English absolute clauses into Thai. This includes exploring translation options, identifying problems in translation, and developing solutions for these problems. Additionally, absolute clauses and their translations serve as valuable tools for acquiring knowledge of collocations in literary texts. In terms of translating absolute clauses from one language to another, the translation patterns identified in this study can offer valuable insights for teaching absolute clause translation and enhancing learning in the future.

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