



Translating Magic: Domestication, Foreignization, and Cultural Adaptation in the Hindi Dubbing of *Harry Potter*

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Abstract

This paper looks at the Hindi dubbing of the Harry Potter film series through Lawrence Venuti's concepts of domestication and foreignization. As a global franchise, Harry Potter has reached audiences from many different languages and cultures. Dubbing, in this context, becomes a key way to make the story accessible and local. In India, the Hindi-dubbed versions have allowed millions of viewers, especially those who don't speak English fluently, to experience the magical world of Hogwarts in their own language. This study focuses on how the Hindi version tries to balance adhering to the original British content while also making it feel emotionally and culturally relatable to Indian audiences.

By looking at specific translation choices, tonal shifts, and changes in speech style, the paper shows how dubbing is not just a technical process. It's cultural reimagining. It also explores how voice acting, restructured dialogue, and symbolic changes affect how characters are understood and how the story feels to Hindi-speaking viewers. In the end, the paper argues that dubbing is a creative and often ideological act. It doesn't just carry meaning across languages, it reshapes it. And in doing so, it plays a big role in how global fantasy stories like Harry Potter are received, understood, and felt in different parts of the world.

Keywords: Audiovisual translation, Dubbing, Domestication, Foreignization.

