STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES OF TRANSLATING ABBREVIATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC TEXTS: THE CASE OF *THE LESOTHO'S INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS* DOCUMENT

By

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DECLARATION

I, Refuoehape Veronica Makoa, declare that **Strategies and Challenges of Translating Abbreviations in Scientific Texts: The Case of the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* Document** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or cited have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

Signed	Date

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis has been read and approved as having met the requirements of the faculty of humanities, at the National University of Lesotho, for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in African Languages and linguistics.

Supervisor(s):

Signed	Date

Signed	Date

External examiner:

Signed	Date

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and pressurised I felt about my academic work. She would often speak words of wisdom that boosted my confidence. She always believed in my capability, being a friend and more. May the Lord protect and richly bless you. *Kea leboha Letebele!*

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ABSTRACT

Translation of shortened lexical units is in many ways problematic (Zandrahimi and Afzoon, 2017:192). This compels translators to look for other ways that they can employ in order to translate the shortened lexical units from one language into the other. The purpose of this study, therefore, is to identify the abbreviated lexical units in the English version of the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. This also includes the exploration of strategies that have been employed to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho in the aforementioned document and to examine challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document.

The qualitative data of this study is categorised and presented, using the methodological principles of thematic analysis while interpretation draws from the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) as the major analytical tool. Both the Equivalence as well as the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations translation are employed as complementary tools for data analysis. The data selected based on the purposively sampling have given evidence that programme names, project names, classification of organisations, names of departments or divisions, names of institutions and centres, names of gases and units of measurements are examples of linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the English *INDC* document. The study argued that the abbreviations that it analysed are equivalent to their full multi-word names that they can also replace in a text.

The data further revealed that the Lesotho Meteorological Services translator employed borrowing a source text (ST) abbreviations in the target text (TT), omission of the ST abbreviations, descriptive translation of the ST

abbreviation, descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation, as well as explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation. This study also discovered that there were different challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. Such challenges are lack of equivalent abbreviations, handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations, omission of the ST abbreviation, maintaining consistency in the translation of the ST abbreviation and comprehending the meaning of the ST abbreviations that were no spelt out in their first-time occurrence.

Keywords: Translation, Translation Strategies, Translation Challenges, Abbreviations, Descriptive Translation Studies, Equivalence, Omission, Borrowing, Consistency.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction to the Study

This thesis is set to examine translation issues related to the use of abbreviations in scientific and/or technical texts. The thesis examines the linguistic units and/or the lexical items which, have been contracted by means of abbreviations and acronyms in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* (INDC) document. It also explores translation strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. The study further identifies and discusses challenges that are faced in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho.

This introductory chapter consists of the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the research questions, the hypotheses, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of the study, the review of the related literature, the theoretical framework, the research design, the organisation of the study and the summary of the chapter.

1.1 Background to the Study

This research is undertaken in the field of translation. The research focuses on specific issues that usually emerge from the attempt to communicate in one language, the message that was expressed in another language. Communication of messages is important in all spheres of life, and sometimes it calls for translation services. This can be the case, especially where the message communicated has to reach people who cannot understand it if it is expressed in its original language, which may be foreign to the target recipients.

Translation services are often sought because translation helps people to communicate across different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Warwal (2014) defines translation as a transfer of meaning of a text and the production of an equivalent text, which may either be called a translation or a target text (TT) that communicates the same message as that carried by a source text (ST) in another language. This means that translation denotes converting the meaning of written words from one language into another while retaining the message expressed from the original language into the language in which the translation is made (target language). Molulela (2021:1) points out that information is often translated as a way of availing it to people who may be interested in reading it or making use of it. This suggests that sharing information can be regarded as one of the communicative goals that can be achieved through translation.

Various countries of the world committed to creating a new international climate agreement, when they realised that they are faced with the impact of climate change. Rahman (2013:3) explains climate change as "a term that denotes a long-term change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns looking at the temperature, precipitation, etc. over decades to millions years of time." The agreement was made during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Member Countries (Parties), and it was finalised in Paris in December 2015. The commitment also required countries to agree to publicly outline the post-2020 climate actions that they intend to take under a new international agreement, which is known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (cf. *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC),* 2015).

The government of Lesotho, through the Lesotho Meteorological Services, produced its English version of the document outlining the post-2020 climate

actions. Such a document was entitled the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)*. The *INDC* refers to the strategic measures that Lesotho has presented to the United Nations and intends to employ in order to reduce the possible risks that could be brought by climate change, and the *INDC* document shares such information in a written form. The *INDC* document shares Lesotho's intended contributions in relation to the contemporary issue of climate change that Lesotho presented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in September 2015. In other words, the document provides information about the measures and initiatives, which Lesotho intends to employ in order to enhance resilience and reduce the vulnerability of her population, environment and economy to the adversative impacts of climate change (cf. *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)*, 2015).

Later on, the Lesotho Meteorological Services commissioned the translation of the English version of the *INDC* document into Sesotho. The translation was made in order to share the country's post-2020 actions that it intends to take under the new international agreement, with the rest of Basotho who could not read and understand the English version. The *INDC* document may be regarded as a scientific text when looking closely at the content that it covers, and the language that it uses. The document makes use of abbreviations that its translation had to deal with.

Translation can be viewed as a process, which consists of two types of languages, source and target languages. Texts in translation can be distinguished on the basis of the different functions and contexts in which they are used and/or the nature of the content they that share. For instance, based on 'function', some texts may be referred to as instructional and/or educational texts. On the basis of both 'context' and 'content', some are called legal texts,

tourism texts and medical texts, just to mention a few. However, language is another important element that can be used to categorise the texts into either general or scientific (technical) texts.

A general text is a type of text that is based on a general topic. It has no technical and/or structural difficulties, and its target group is a non-specialist readership. Ghazala (2016:1) confirms this view by noting that a general text is a non-technical and/or non-specialised type of text, and its contents are of general nature. In other words, a general text adopts a type of language that is easy to understand as it does not use the language and/or jargon of a specialised domain. Contrary to the general texts, Rhodes and Feder (2014:21) define scientific texts as texts that are often lexically dense in comparison to the texts in other subjects, as they are reflecting the conventions of scientific writing; the discipline-specific concepts; and terms that require the expertise in that discipline. This means that unlike the general texts, which use a layman's language, the scientific texts employ specialised jargon, which in some languages, sometimes includes extensive use of abbreviations.

With regard to abbreviations, Izura and Playfoot (2012:862-863) explain that abbreviations are at the present time regularly found in the scientific and non-scientific texts. However, technical and/or scientific texts tend to use more abbreviations than general texts. Lwin (2012:1) indicates that abbreviations in English are part of the alphabetical orthography, which forms the shortened or contracted forms of words.

Research by scholars, such as, Igorevna (2020), Kuzmina, Fominikh and Abrosimova (2015) and Zandrahimi and Afzoon (2017) reveals that the use of abbreviations in the source text may pose different challenges in translation. In the context of this study, challenges refer to situations posed by abbreviations

in the translation process, which a translator may find to be problematic to deal with in another language. Such challenges include misunderstanding, which may lead to inaccurate translation (Igorevna, 2020), high chances of ambiguity (Kuzmina *et al.*, 2015), inconsistency (Stacey, 2014) and translators' failure to employ appropriate strategies. This implies a situation that may lead to the target readers' failure to comprehend the intended message in the target text (Zandrahimi and Afzoon, 2017). These challenges, therefore, suggest why it is important to explore the type of challenges, which can be encountered when translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho, as most of the translators working between English and Sesotho may not be aware of such challenges.

The scholars such as Bankole (2006) propose three strategies that can be used to translate abbreviations. Loescher (1991:8) defines a translation strategy as a conscious procedure for solving a problem encountered in translating a text or a segment of it. The strategies that can be employed when dealing with translation challenges pertaining to abbreviations are borrowing, inversion and replacement of the initials (Bankole, 2006:17). In other words, the translators may decide to use the abbreviations as they appear in the source text, use the abbreviations in a reversal sequence or use the newly invented abbreviations created from the words of the target language. Generally, a research in English-Sesotho translation by scholars, such as, Mohlomi (2010), Thuube (2012) and Molulela (2021) has focused mainly on challenges and strategies of translating other linguistic elements, such as, individual words, metaphors, euphemisms, idioms and proverbs, leaving the abbreviations unexplored. This, therefore, means that the translation of abbreviations into Sesotho has not yet received research attention, and that being the case, marks a research gap that this study is set to fill.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The use of abbreviations in the original texts seems to pose some challenges in translating them from one language into the other. As a matter of principle, abbreviations are not supposed to be translated because they differ from one language to another. However, the data of this study illustrates various instances where the translator of the document under study attempted to render the meaning of English abbreviations into Sesotho. Yeltsov (2005) affirms that translators are faced with the challenges of translating abbreviations from one language into the other. A similar view is shared by Zandrahimi and Afzoon (2017:192) that "[t]ranslation of shortened lexical units is in many ways problematic". When translating the *INDC* document from English into Sesotho, the translators of the Lesotho Metrological Services (LMS) seem to have grappled with finding the Sesotho equivalents for the abbreviations used in the document in question. This situation has been worsened by the fact that Sesotho's scientific and/or specialised jargon is still at the preliminary stage of its development. Consequently, Sesotho does not seem to be employing more Sesotho abbreviations as English does. This, therefore, leads to a lack of the abbreviation equivalents in Sesotho: a case that makes translation of the abbreviations seem to be challenging in Sesotho. On the other hand, previous research, which was undertaken in Sesotho-English translation or vice-versa, has not taken note of the challenges posed by the abbreviations in translation. This study, therefore, is set to fill this gap by exploring how abbreviations are dealt with in the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document under study, as well as the challenges encountered in the process of doing so.

1.3 Aim of the Study

In line with the research problem stated above, the main purpose of this study, therefore, is to identify types of linguistic units and/or lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *INDC* document. This

research also aims at exploring the strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document, and finally, it focuses on examining challenges that are encountered in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho.

1.3.1 Research Questions

In order to achieve this study's aim, the following questions were formulated:

1. What kind of linguistic units and/or lexical items have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the original version of the *INDC* document?
2. How were such abbreviations translated in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document?
3. What challenges seem to have been faced with in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho?

1.3.2 Assumptions

1. It is anticipated that the linguistic units and/or lexical items that are contracted by means of abbreviations in the original version of the *INDC* document are likely to include, amongst other things, compound names for projects, programmes, as well as local and/or international organisations.
2. It is assumed that the abbreviations, which are used in the original version of the *INDC* document, might have been translated into Sesotho using strategies such as borrowing, descriptive translation and descriptive translation plus the adoption of the source text abbreviation.
3. Challenges that seem to have been faced with in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho are anticipated to include, amongst other things, lack of corresponding target language abbreviations, inconsistencies in the translation of the source text

abbreviations and difficulties in understanding the meaning of the source text abbreviations that are not spelled out in their first-time use.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study was prompted by the quest to understand the nature of translation challenges that are brought by the differences that exist between English and Sesotho, and to know how English-Sesotho translators often address such differences in an attempt to communicate with the target readership. The study is, therefore, hoped to benefit professional translators, translation trainees, lecturers and researchers as it explores the ways in which translators tend to deal with the translation of abbreviations from English into Sesotho, as well as the possible challenges that tend to be encountered in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho. In other words, this study is intended to raise awareness of the strategies and/or challenges, which the translators and translation trainees should look out for when dealing with the abbreviations in the translation process.

In the same manner, the researchers will also benefit from this study as they may use it as a reference material when carrying out research on translation challenges arising from the use of abbreviations in the original document, and the strategies which tend to be employed in addressing such challenges. For lecturers, this study is hoped to serve as teaching material on concepts and issues that it has covered.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This research's scope is limited to the English-Sesotho translation of abbreviations. The focus is mainly on the abbreviations used in the *Lesotho Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. The researcher's interest is in identifying linguistic and/or lexical units, which have

been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *INDC* document; examining translation strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho; and exploring the challenges that are faced with in the process of translating such abbreviations from English into Sesotho.

1.6 Literature Review

This section reviews scholarly works, which cover relevant information relating to the translation of abbreviations in the scientific texts. This review is organised into four categories, namely, types of lexical units contracted by means of abbreviations, reasons for using abbreviations in texts, challenges in the translation of abbreviations, and lastly, the strategies employed in the translation of abbreviations.

1.6.1 Lexical Units Contracted by Means of Abbreviations

Research in the translation of abbreviations has received little scholarly attention, especially in relation to various types of linguistic elements and/or lexical units, which are often contracted by means of abbreviations in texts. The Institute of Internal Auditors (2008) undertook a study on the English-Spanish translation, and they discovered that the abbreviations are not as common in Spanish as they are in English. They explained that abbreviations are formed from the initial letters of the lexemes, which make up a compound word, and that they behave in the same way as the proper nouns because they can take pronouns or plural forms in the same way as nouns.

Kuzmina *et al.* (2015), on the other hand, observed that in medical and scientific fields, most words and their abbreviations originate from Latin and are commonly used in oral and written communication. Their research discovered that entities, such as, names of diseases, the longest English words and/or names of chemical compounds are normally shortened. Kuzmina *et al.*

(2015) suggest that abbreviations can be used to define various physical quantities and units of measurement. Zakharenko and Ukraine (2003) add that the abbreviations are mostly used in shortening names of organisations and/or associations.

Studies reviewed in this section highlighted some of the types of linguistic elements and/or lexical units which are often contracted by means of abbreviations in texts, and as such, they form the basis for this study as it is one of its goals to explore types of linguistic elements and/or lexical units which are often contracted by means of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's INDC* document. However, it should be clear that even though these two studies foreground the present study, they did not focus on the lexical items abbreviated in texts, they rather explored other issues such as problems of the English abbreviations in medical translations. As the result, that left a gap that this study is intended to fill.

1.6.2 Reasons for Using Abbreviations

There are different views in relation to the use of abbreviations in both academic and translated texts that are shared by scholars, such as, Zakharenko and Ukraine (2003), Lwin (2012), Mack (2013), as well as Hale, Williams and Rector (2017). Lwin (2012) stated that one of the possible reasons why numerous acronyms and abbreviations have been formed in English is to aid in speeding up both written and spoken communication. She further noted that abbreviations and acronyms seem to save time and facilitate the remembrance of a series of words. Mack (2012:3) shared a similar opinion that acronyms serve an important purpose in science writing to speed up the reading and ease the understanding of the content of a paper. Hale *et al*. (2017), on the one hand, pointed out that despite the prime rationale of saving space and time, the use of abbreviations is intended to achieve the purpose of hiding written information

from the 'inquisitive eyes'. On the other hand, Zakharenko and Ukraine (2003) explained that the use of abbreviations has developed rapidly in all areas of languages so much that they are used in both journalistic and scientific styles. He argued that the use of abbreviations in the present time helps in communicating a lot of information within a short period of time.

The above-mentioned studies discussed abbreviations from different perspectives, and they have highlighted that the abbreviations can be used purposely to serve different communicative functions. Lwin (2012) and Mack (2013) indicated that the abbreviations save time, facilitate communication of a lot of information being shared within a short space of time and aid memory. Hale *et al.* (2017) have a different view on the use of abbreviations, especially in an instance where the text is meant for public readership. They view the use of abbreviations as a way of hiding information from the target readers. Therefore, these studies are found to be significant to the current study as they express views that suggest that abbreviations are used in different types of texts for different purposes. They are hoped to help the researcher to better understand why abbreviations have been used in the source text and to draw a conclusion on whether or not it is appropriate to use certain strategies to translate such abbreviations into Sesotho. However, the current study is set to differ from these studies by focusing on other issues of abbreviation translation, such as, challenges posed by abbreviations in the translation process employing a different theoretical lens.

1.6.3 Challenges of Translating Abbreviations

There is evidence in previous research of different challenges posed by abbreviations in the translation process. Such researches include the ones conducted by Kuzmina *et al.* (2015), Zandrahami and Afzoon (2017) and Igorevna (2020). Kuzmina *et al.* (2015) indicated that as language in the

scientific domain develops, it is more likely for the invention of new abbreviations, which may have different meanings or be homonymous in that field depending on the context. In this case, there can be high chances of ambiguity to be anticipated. Zandrahami and Afzoon (2017) add that some of the reasons for the translations to be misunderstood by the target readers may be brought by the strategies that were employed by the translators when dealing with abbreviations. This means that the abbreviations may be challenging in translation to an extent that the translators may even fail to employ the appropriate strategies when translating them. Igorevna (2020) explained that mistranslation in scientific texts can be influenced by recent abbreviations, which are not widespread in dictionaries, and as a result, there are higher chances of misunderstanding, which lead to inaccurate translations. This suggests that a translator's failure to fully comprehend an abbreviation may result in the mistranslation of information conveyed by such an abbreviation in the translation process.

These studies are relevant to the current study as they have informed the current research on some of the challenges that may be encountered when translating abbreviations. Their findings have informed the researcher when categorising and discussing challenges encountered in the translation of the *Lesotho's INDC* document. However, it is worth noting that these studies were based on a relatively small sample and some adopted statistical approach to data analysis, component analysis as well as contextual analysis of abbreviations in order to identify their situational relevance (Kuzmina *et al.,* (2015). The present study differs in its adoption of the qualitative research design and scope; as the challenges it is studying are investigated over a broader sample that might lead to additional observations.

1.6.4 Strategies for Translating Abbreviations

Scholars, such as, Newmark (1988), Ndhlovu (2014) and Kuzmina *et al.* (2015) suggested a number of strategies that can be employed to translate abbreviations. Kuzmina *et al.* (2015) noted that for a target text to express the intended message, foreign abbreviations are rendered in three possible ways, which are, transference, borrowing and descriptive translation. It should be clear that transference assumes the presence of an equivalent abbreviation in a target language. Borrowing, on the contrary, uses a foreign abbreviation in the target language while descriptive translation provides a descriptive-like explanation of the foreign abbreviation in the case where the target language does not have an equivalent one. Newmark (1988) supports the view that a translator should use the same abbreviations in the target text as they appear in the source text, which means borrowing the abbreviations from the source text into the target text.

When Ndhlovu (2014) explored how scientific translations are carried out in Ndebele, she discovered that the most used strategies are borrowing in the form of pure loaning acronyms and abbreviations, the use of loan words, indigenisation, loan words, as well as abbreviations preceded by an explanation; and the least used strategies were paraphrased acronyms and abbreviations, coinage and compounding.

Since one of the goals of this study is to examine the strategies used in the translation of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's INDC*, the previous findings on translation strategies of abbreviations are found to be relevant. Such findings will inform the classification and discussions of strategies used in translating abbreviations in the *Lesotho's INDC*. Although these studies focused on translation strategies of abbreviations, most of them were based on very limited data. This suggests that there is still a need to explore abbreviations translation

strategies based on a broader sample that may yield additional information that may lead to a better understanding of the phenomenon this study explores.

Generally, the studies reviewed in this section foreground the current study on abbreviation translation issues, such as examples of abbreviated lexical units, reasons for using abbreviations, challenges and strategies of translating abbreviations. However, they differ from the present study in that they focused on the use and translation of abbreviations between English and other languages, such as, Polish, Persian, and Arabic, just to mention but a few. However, there is no study that the researcher is aware of that has explored the phenomenon of abbreviation translation between Sesotho and other languages. Therefore, this study intends to fill the gap and address the issue on translation of abbreviations from the English scientific texts into Sesotho.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This section presents the theoretical framework on which the discussions of this study are grounded. The study employs the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) as its analytical tool, complemented by the General and Axiomatic Principle of Abbreviation Translation. The DTS and the General and Axiomatic Principle of Abbreviation Translation are presented and elaborated thoroughly in the following subsections of this section.

1.7.1 The Origin and Goals of the DTS Theory

DTS has inspired many researchers who needed to explore translation as cultural and historical phenomena, to examine its context and its conditioning factors, to search for grounds that can be used to explain why there is what there is (Hermans, 1999:5). This theory can be traced back from 1972 when it was first initiated by James Holmes as 'Translation studies' (Hatim and Munday 2004:126) and 'pure translation studies' (Rosa, 2016: 8). The same

theory seems to have captured the attention of the translation theorist, Gideon Toury, as Hatim and Munday (2016:174) notes that Toury developed the general theory of translation in the 1990s and named it the 'Descriptive Translation Studies' (DTS) Theory.

Three major goals of the DTS, as an analytical tool, can be found in previous works of scholars such as Toury (1995), Pym (2010) and Rosa (2016). The first aim of the DTS is to produce methical and comprehensive descriptions of what translation proves to be in reality (Toury, 1995). Pym's (2010:2) conceives a similar view that the DTS theory aims to "describe what translations actually are, rather than simply prescribing how they should be". The second goal of the DTS is to "understand and explain the described regularities" (Rosa, 2016:10). Lastly, the DTS is intended to identify how people actually do translate, no matter the supposed quality (Pym, 2010).

1.7.2 The Nature of DTS Theory

According to Toury (1995:11) the DTS is "the study of what translation DOES involve, under various sets of circumstances, along with the REASONS for that involvement". Liu (2014:19-20) argue that the DTS Theory itself is prescriptive but has proven its strength in descriptive works of translation studies and has been used mostly in descriptive studies. Therefore, this suggests that the DTS Theory, it can be used descriptively, as Liu (2014) alludes to its success in descriptive works. Rosa (2016:13) further explains that:

> DTS discards the traditional, a-historical, invariant, ideal and prescriptive concept of equivalence, and replaces it with a functional-relational, historical, variable, empirical and descriptive concept of the translational relationship. This major shift is operated upon the concept of equivalence ….

Therefore, this suggests that DTS is more appropriate for translations that allow for flexible target texts, as it does not follow the traditional and prescriptive approach to translation analysis. Rather, it replaces the prescriptive concept of equivalence with a functional-relational and descriptive concept of translational relationship (Molulela, 2021). This also means that it can led to more target-oriented translation.

1.7.3 The Notion of Equivalence

According to Panou (2013:2) the concept of "equivalence was meant to indicate that source text (henceforth ST) and target text (henceforth TT) share some kind of sameness". In the case of the DTS theory it is perceived as the relationship between a text and its translation, which will exhibit the variable profile determined and accepted by the target context (Toury, 1995:27). Molulela (2021:19) argues that any descriptive study will aim at profiling the variable features adopted by functional equivalence.

Functional equivalence is defined by Shiflett (2012:32) as "the process, where the translator understands the concept in the source language and finds a way to express the same concept in the target language in the way, in which the equivalent conveys the same meaning and intent as the original". In other words, functional equivalence leaves room for the translator to find the best way they can communicate in their translation the same meaning and intent as the source text. Functional equivalence is explained further by Nida's (1993) three principles that show that functional equivalence is necessary if:

- A close, formal translation is likely to result in misunderstanding of the designative meaning, certain changes must be introduced into the text of the translation;
- A close, formal translation makes no sense, certain changes may be introduced into the text; and

- ▪ A close, formal translation is likely to result in serious misunderstanding of the associative meanings of the original text or in a significant loss in a proper appreciation for the stylistic values of the original text, it is important to make such adjustment as are necessary to reflect the associative values of the original text (Nida, 1993:125).

This study adopted the DTS theory to guide its attempt to provide a descriptive account of English-Sesotho translation of abbreviations. The DTS theory was also considered relevant because of its flexibility with regard to translation strategies as it adopts a target-oriented approach. However, since it does not provide the guidelines on how to categorise abbreviation translation strategies, the study also adopted the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations translation as elaborated by Ulitkin, Filipova, Ivanova, and Babaev (2020). These scholars explain that the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations translation is a necessity to reach a balance of equivalence of abbreviations in the ST and TT. They argue that this principle can be implemented using a number of strategies such as replacement of abridgement of a source language with an equivalent abridgement of a target language, adoption of the abbreviation of the source language, translation of abbreviations by means of transliteration, translation of abbreviations by means of description method, descriptive translation of an abbreviation and derivation of new a abridgement (Ulitkin, *et al.,* 2020).

1.7.4 Conclusion

This section presented the theoretical framework upon which the process of data analysis was grounded. The study employed Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) theory as well as the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations translation. Further elaboration of the applicability of these analytical tools is provided under data analysis under the methodology section.

1.8 Methodology

The previous section of this chapter focused on explaining the concepts, principles and/or aspects of the analytical tool that this study adopted. On the other hand, the current section discusses the research methodology that has been followed during the collection and analysis of data in this research. The section is, therefore, organised into five sub-sections, namely, research paradigm, research design, data collection, sample and sampling techniques and lastly, data analysis.

1.8.1 Research Paradigm

Lather (1986:57) explain that a research paradigm essentially reveals the researcher's beliefs about the world as it establishes the abstract beliefs and principles that shape how a researcher interprets and acts within the world, and how the data will be analysed. Mackenzie and Knipe (2006:15) add that a paradigm as a perspective, a thought or a set of shared beliefs that impart the meaning or interpretation of research data. This suggests that the research paradigm determines how the researcher uses the collected data to create new meaning, observations and insight. Therefore, the interpretive paradigm is found to be applicable in this study because it leaves room for a researcher to make her own interpretations and sufficiently generate meaning from the data she gathered and analysed.

1.8.2 Research Design

The current study adopts a qualitative research method. This suggests that qualitative research data is descriptive in nature, in the form of interview notes, observation records, and documents; and that its data is analysed inductively (Mohajan, 2018:7). This means that qualitative research involves the use of various empirical resources inclusive of case studies, interviews and personal experiences, observations, texts which share the meaning of the discussed

phenomenon. Sugiyono (2011:21) adds that qualitative research does not deal with, calculations, quantities and statistics and the collected data are in a form of words or pictures rather than numbers.

This research method is found to be suitable as the present study uses a qualitative data that is in textual format. This method is also applicable in that it allowed the researcher to generate new meaning, observations and insight from the words, their shortenings and their translations that are extracted from the *INDC* document with the aim of providing answers to the study's research questions. Creswell (2003:17) support a qualitative research method uses descriptive procedures to generate meaning and understanding of what is being studied.

1.8.3 Data Collection

Data needed for this study were extracted from the English and Sesotho version of the *Lesotho Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* documents which were compiled for the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology by the Lesotho Meteorology Services. In this case, the current study is a desk research. Singh (2007:68) states that desk research as the name implies refers to the documentation or analysis of the already existing information. In other words, the present study is desk-based research because it is not field-oriented but based on the documents which have already been produced without researcher's involvement.

The data, which were collected from the aforementioned documents, are comprised mainly of the contracted lexical units, their corresponding abbreviations, as well as their translations. To identify the data, the researcher read the original document written in English and highlighted all the lexical units contracted by means of abbreviations. The researcher also read the

Sesotho version of the *INDC* document in order to spot and highlight ways in which abbreviations have been translated in that document. This also includes the areas where abbreviations posed challenges in the translation process. All the identified and highlighted contracted lexical units, their abbreviations as well as their translations were extracted manually from the original and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document. Such contracted lexical units and their abbreviations were then typed into a soft copy in a word document format, and thereafter, a sample was decided upon.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

Population is the entire set of cases from which the sample is drawn (Taherdoost, 2016:18). In other words, population is marked by the total number of entities, individuals and/or relative concepts from which a research's sample is recognised. While on other hand, a sample is a portion of the chosen units to be representatives of the entire population in order to analyse and draw conclusions. Hammerberg, Kirkman and Lacey (2015:498) further explain that a sample is a representative of broader population from which the results and assessment is based.

Closely related to a sample is sampling, which is the process of selecting from the entire population the specific units from which data is collected to fulfil the objectives of the study (Gentles, Charles, Ploeg and Mckibbon, 2015:1776). This means that sampling has to do with picking up the specific units or individuals that represent the larger group and drawing conclusions from that chosen quota. To obtain the sample needed for the study, the researcher employed both quota and purposive sampling techniques. In quota sampling, the researcher decides on the specific features and quotas of sample members to be chosen (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). To clarify this, this study has two quotas; the first one is the English version of the *INDC* document, while the

second one is the Sesotho version of the same document. The recruited sample units were the ones that shared specific characteristics which were predetermined by the researcher. Quota sampling was employed in order to acquire knowledge about the nature of abbreviated lexical units in the English version of the *INDC* document as well as the relationship between English abbreviations and their translations in Sesotho. This, therefore, suggests that this sampling technique paved the way for the purposive sampling by spotting categories that are relevant to the study. Purposive sampling is a technique through which "items for the sample are selected deliberately by the researcher; his choice concerning the items remains supreme" (Kothari, 2004:59).

Creswell (2013:54) states that one of the factors underlying qualitative research is to purposefully select the sampling units or participants which will best help the researcher to identify a problem and to address the research questions. This suggests that the researcher had to identify relevant excerpts (contracted lexical units, their abbreviations as well as their translations), out of which the researcher purposively selected a number of excerpts as her sample based on the data saturation principle. Urquhart (2013:194) explains 'data saturation' as "the point in coding when you find that no new codes occur in the data. There are mounting instances of the same codes, but no new ones". This means that the research stopped collecting data when the additional data no longer led to the emergence of new categories.

The choice of such excerpts was based on the idea that the specified number of excerpts bears enough characteristics that can help the researcher to respond to the research question, and that such excerpts also faithfully represent the study's population.

Data Analysis

The collected data was analysed and interpreted qualitatively using the basic methods of content analysis as well as the theoretical perspectives of the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) Theory as well as the General and Axiomatic translation principle.

Busch, Maret, Flynn, Kellum, Le, Meyers, and Palmquist (2012:2) explain that with content analysis, "the text is coded, and broken into manageable categories on a variety of levels - words, word sense, phrase, sentence, or theme". Furthermore, it can be used on a variety of data sources including the textual data or audio, videos and photographs (Stemler, 2015:1). The researcher used content analysis in order to break the information from the English and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document into relatively small units of content before submitting them to the descriptive and theoretical treatment. This, therefore, suggests that the researcher identified different abbreviated lexical items that seemed to have something in common, excerpts that seemed to have employed similar strategies and abbreviations that seemed to have posed similar challenges and further classified them under relevant categorises. For example, the abbreviations that seemed to have been translated using similar strategies are presented under one category, and such a category was given a name that accommodates them all. As part of data processing, the researcher presented the identified excerpts in tabular format under each category and then analysed, discussed, and interpreted such excerpts based on the DTS Theory and the General and Axiomatic translation principle.

The study adopted Descriptive Translation Studies theory as the major analytical tool because of its descriptiveness, target-orientedness and flexibility in handling translation issues. This study uses the functional-relational concept in order to argue that there is a relationship between abbreviations and lexical

items they stand for in a text. Such relationship may be accommodated under functional equivalence since lexical items seem to be contracted under certain communicative contexts. For instance, when a linguistic unit is too long and it has to be used frequently in communication, it may be abbreviated. And when it is abbreviated, there is a relationship or correlation between such an abbreviation and the linguistic unit from which the abbreviation was formed.

The DTS is also relevant in accounting for the translator's target oriented-oriented choice of strategies for abbreviations translation. On the other hand, the strategies stated by Ulitkin *et al.* (2020) in line with the General and Axiomatic Principle for abbreviation translation were the base to classify, analyse and interpret the strategies used in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. Lastly, the DTS theory was employed also to describe the kinds of constraints Sesotho seemed to exert in the process of translating abbreviations from English.

1.9 Organisation of the Study

This thesis has focused on the challenges and strategies of translating abbreviations in the *Lesotho Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. The thesis is organised into five chapters. Chapter one, which is the introductory part of this study, entails the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the aim of the study, the research questions and the significance of the study. The chapter also provides the literature review and the theoretical framework on which the discussion of this study is grounded. It also highlights the methodological processes, which were taken in gathering and analysing data for the study, and lastly, it provides the scope that this research sets to cover.

The second chapter of this thesis identifies and discusses the type of linguistic units and/or lexical items, which have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *INDC* document.

Chapter three explores the translation strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document.

Chapter four examined challenges that are faced with in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho.

Chapter five is the last chapter of the study, and it highlights the findings and the conclusions of the study based on the analysis of data, its interpretation and arguments of prior chapters.

1.10 Summary of the Chapter

This introductory chapter has provided the background information for this research. It has articulated the problem which has triggered the need to carry out this research, the research questions, as well as the aim, both of which have provided the direction for this research. The following chapter, therefore, attempts to identify types of linguistic units and/or lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *INDC* document.

CHAPTER TWO

ABBREVIATED LINGUISTIC UNITS IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT

2.0 Introduction

The previous chapter serves as an introductory part of this thesis. The chapter has provided the statement of the problem, the aim of the study, the research methodology that this study has adopted and the theory that the researcher has employed as an analytical tool to discuss and interpret the data of this research. Chapter two, on the other hand, is intended to address the first question brought forth in chapter one by identifying the linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* (*INDC*) document. Unlike the two forthcoming chapters, which will draw some comparisons between the source text and its translation, this chapter is mainly source-text-oriented. It focuses merely on the abbreviated linguistic units that appear in the source text. This is hoped to enhance the researcher's understanding of the phenomenon of abbreviating lexical units before the source text (ST) and target text (TT) comparisons are drawn.

The term 'linguistic unit' is often used to refer to lexical items, such as, words (lexemes), phrases and expressions of any given human language. Khasanova and Guzal (2020:2) explain that a lexical unit is that which is part of the vocabulary of a language and available in a dictionary, and it involves, amongst other things, words, compound words, phrases and expressions. In this study, the terms 'linguistic unit' and 'lexical item', which are used interchangeably, refer not only to individual words and phrases, but also to word combinations, expressions and meaningful chunks that have independent meanings, and speakers of a language memorise them in their mental lexicon. Drawing from the functional-relational concept, the aim of this chapter is to examine

individual words, phrases, word combinations, expressions and meaningful chunks that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. As highlighted in the background of this study, the *INDC* document bears some features of a scientific text. Scientific texts are sometimes classified as informative texts because they provide some information that enables the reader to get knowledge about a certain scientific issue (Yildiz, 2015:257). Barnett and Doubleday (2020:1) add that scientific publications are not just specialised and complex, but they are also hard to read and understand as the result of the widespread use of abbreviations. This means that the scientific texts are specialised and informative texts, which are characterised by the use of abbreviations.

An abbreviation refers to a contraction of words by any means and a short form of a word or phrase, which can be the initial letters of a lexeme or the first letters of the lexeme composite (Wulandari, 2018: 12). This means that the term abbreviation can be regarded as the umbrella term for other methods of shortening words and word combinations, such as initialisms, acronyms and crasis. Abbreviations are used in communication for various reasons, which include the need to:

➢ achieve the purpose of hiding written information from the 'inquisitive eyes' (Hale *et al*., 2017:1);

➢ aid in speeding up both written and spoken communication and to facilitate the remembrance of a series of words (Lwin, 2012:3);

➢ speed up the reading and ease the understanding of the content of a paper (Mack, 2013:3); and

➢ help in communicating a lot of information within a short period of time (Zakharenko and Ukraine, 2003:7).

In addition, Zerkina, Kostina and Pitina (2015:139) indicate that:

> Abbreviations are units included in a vocabulary, and the abbreviation process is a universal way of word formation, mainly for a reason that abbreviations are deemed as equivalents of words or as linguistic units, which correlate with words.

In other words, abbreviations are part of the linguistic resources of a language and since they are short forms of the original words and/or phrases, they have a relationship with the lexical items they stand for.

This chapter classified the lexical items, which have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document into seven categories, namely, programme names, project names, classification of organisations, names of departments and divisions, names of institutions and centres, names of gases and units of measurements. Each of these lexical items, which have been abbreviated, is comprehensively discussed in the next sections of this chapter.

A number of extracts from the English version of the *INDC* document have been provided under each section to illustrate the phenomenon that this chapter explores. The excerpts from the *INDC* English document are presented in tabular formats in the following sections. Each table shows the page numbers from which the abbreviated lexical items were extracted. The English version of the *INDC* document is here termed the source text (ST). The abbreviated lexical items together with their abbreviations are also reflected in the tables.

2.1 Programme Names

The first linguistic units and/or lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document, and

which this chapter analyses are programme names. The term 'programme', as employed in this chapter, refers to a body that manages a group of related projects to ensure the success of an idea. Husain (2015:2) further explains that a programme consists of a number of related projects and manages such projects in order to improve the effectiveness and see to it that all involved projects submit within their capacities. In other words, a programme manages a number of interrelated projects in a coordinated manner to achieve benefits that are hard to obtain if such projects are controlled using an individualistic approach.

The following excerpts, which are numbered from 1 to 4 and are presented in Table 2.1 below, are illustrations of programme names. In this study, these programme names are one of the examples of the linguistic units and/or lexical items that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 1: Examples of Programme Names in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
1.	Subsequently, a **National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)** was developed in 2007…	**National Adaptation Programme of Action**	**(NAPA)**	Page 4
2.	Source: **PSIP** 2012-2017	**Public Sector Investment Programme**	**(PSIP)**	Page 8
3.	**Forestry Initiative for Landscape Livelihoods Improvement (FILLI)** Program	**Forestry Initiative for Landscape Livelihoods Improvement**	**(FILLI)**	Page 7
4.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations …	**Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme**	**(GEF-SGP)**	Page 8

As noted earlier, excerpts (1) to (4) in Table 2.1 illustrate some of the linguistic units in the form of programme names, which have been contracted by means

of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. It was indicated earlier that a programme consists of a number of interconnected projects that it manages in a synchronised way to accomplish benefits that are impossible to attain if such projects are controlled using an individualistic approach. Since the programmes may be many and focus on different phenomena, they often bear names that distinguish them from others. Therefore, the researcher has observed that some programme names get abbreviated in communication as illustrated in Table 2.1 above. For example, the lexical items presented in the column labelled 'lexical items abbreviated' in Table 2.1 are programme names. The programme names in question are said to have been contracted by means of abbreviations.

In this study, abbreviations refer to shortened lexical units that have been contracted by using only certain letters from the lexical items concerned. Mattiello (2012:151) explains that the term 'abbreviation' is the general word that refers to all other forms of shortenings comprised in it. Mattiello (2012) and Triliska (2017) categorise abbreviations into different forms of shortenings, such as, acronyms, initialisms and clippings. For example, the abbreviations exemplified by excerpt (1) to (3) in Table 2.1 above are acronyms. Valeontis and Mantzari (2006:6) define acronyms as words that are formed by combining the initial letters or syllables of all or several parts of the elements of the complex term or name. Ndhlovu (2014:334) adds that they are always pronounced syllabically just like words. In excerpt (1) and (2), the abbreviations 'NAPA' and 'PSIP' are formed from the bolded initial letters of the compound names '**N**ational **A**daptation **P**rogramme of **A**ction' and '**P**rivate **S**ector **I**nvestment **P**rogramme', respectively. Similarly, the abbreviation 'FILLI' in excerpt (3) is also formed from the bolded initial letters of the compound name '**F**orestry **I**nitiative for **L**andscape **L**ivelihoods **I**mprovement Programme'. However, an acronym 'FILLI' has omitted the 'P' that stands for

'Programme' in the compound name in question. Based on the discussion of the abbreviations that this section analysed, the researcher argues that such abbreviations refer to the same concepts as their full versions, and that therefore, suggests that they are equivalent to their full forms in the text under study.

The given abbreviations in excerpts (1) to (3) are said to be acronyms because they seem to be pronounceable just like regular words. On the other hand, the abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' is formed from the initial letters of the compound or multi-word names '**G**lobal **E**nvironment **F**acility-**S**mall **G**rants **P**rogramme'. This abbreviation is an example of 'initialism' (alphabetism) as it cannot be pronounced like a regular word but as individual letters. The terms 'initialism' and 'alphabetism' are used interchangeably in this study as they refer to the same type of shortenings in the family of abbreviations whose letters are articulated independently or letter by letter. In other words, alphabetism and initialism are words formed by shortening the word combination, and they are pronounced as independent letters of the alphabet (Yerakhtorina and Shumeko, 2020: 299).

2.2 Project Names

This section focuses on the project names as the second linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. A project is a manageable initiative that is meant to contribute a specified duty for a certain period of time (Weaver, 2010:3). It is in line with this explanation that this section presents excerpts (5) to (8) in Table 2.2 below as illustrations of project names, which exemplify some of the lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 2: Examples of Project Names in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
5.	… Pumped Storage Power Plant at either Kobong or Monontša under the auspices of **LHDP** Phase II.	**Lesotho Highland Development Project**	**(LHDP)**	Page 14
6.	Landfill gas recovery and flaring **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** project.	**Clean Development Mechanism**	**(CDM)**	Page 14
7.	The **Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP)** funded project piloting implementation of Prefabricated Biogas Plants in Rural Areas	**Energy and Environment Partnership**	**(EEP)**	Page 14
8.	Developments of **Small Hydropower (SHP)**: A potential of up to 40 MW for SHP exists in perennial rivers …	**Small Hydropower**	**(SHP)**	Page 14

In Table 2.2 above, excerpts (5) to (8) exemplify some of the linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document. Such linguistic units are referred to as project names in this section. As it was suggested earlier, the term 'project' is used in this study to refer to a manageable initiative and/or a piece of work assigned to a group of experts to work together to achieve the goals set in their respective fields for a specific period of time. In addition, it is worth noting that projects do not last forever as they only exist until they complete the portion or part of the work that they were intended to deliver (Project Management Institute, 2008: 5). Furthermore, projects are given names, which in most cases, are formed from word combinations. Such word combinations sometimes result in long names, which often get abbreviated in spoken and/or written communication. For instance, the phrases provided in the column labelled 'lexical item abbreviated' are project names. These project names have been contracted by means of abbreviations as illustrated in the column labelled 'abbreviations' in Table 2.2

above. The abbreviations presented in Table 2.2 in excerpt (5) to (8) are examples of initialisms. As indicated earlier, initialisms and alphabetisms are formed by the initial letters or syllables of a word or phrase to form a shortened version of a word combination, which cannot be pronounceable as a word (Cuevas, Dopez, Nocon, and Suministrado, 2014:89).

The abbreviations 'LHDP' in excerpt (5), 'CDM' in excerpt (6), 'EEP' in excerpt (7) and 'SHP' in excerpt (8) are formed from the bolded initial letters of the compound or multi-word names, '**L**esotho **H**ighlands **D**evelopment **P**roject'; '**C**lean **D**evelopment **M**echanism'; '**E**nergy and **E**nvironment **P**artnership' and '**S**mall **H**ydropower', respectively. These abbreviations are said to be examples of initialisms because they cannot be pronounced like words. Furthermore, based on the functional-relational concept, the researcher argues that just as the linguistic units discussed in this section are able to name projects, so are their abbreviations. Zerkina, Kostina and Pitina (2015:139) note that "an abbreviation unit has its ability to name…" This is often evident in communication where abbreviations are able to take the place of the original and/or full multi-word names. For example, the abbreviation 'LHDP' in excerpt 5 above has correlation with the full multi-word name 'Lesotho Highland Development Project', and as a result, it is able to replace it as illustrated in this extract, "… Pumped Storage Power Plant at either Kobong or Monontša under the auspices of **LHDP** Phase II".

2.3 Classification of Organisations

In this section, the researcher presents and discusses the third linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document, namely, the classification of organisations. The term 'organisation' is defined by Greenwald (2008: 6) as "[…] a body of individuals working under a definite system of rules and procedures designed in order to

accomplish the identified objective or goal." In other words, an organisation can also be perceived as the co-operation of sectors, departments and individuals who collaborated with the aim of achieving the desired goal. On the other hand, by the classification of organisations in this section, the researcher refers to the ways in which different types of organisations are categorised. Such categorisations bear specific names, which sometimes get abbreviated in communication.

Excerpts (9) and (10) in Table 2.3 below are, therefore, examples of classifications of organisations, which in this study, are regarded as another batch of the lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 3: Examples of Classification of Organisations in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
9.	In addition, a number of adaptation projects are undertaken at household and community levels by **NGOs** and CBOs	**Non-Governmental Organisations**	**(NGOs)**	Page 8
10.	In addition, a number of adaptation projects are undertaken at household and community levels by NGOs and **CBOs**	**Community-Based Organisations**	**(CBOs)**	Page 8

Excerpts (9) and (10) in Table 2.3 above illustrate classification of organisations as one of the linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document. As indicated earlier, different categorisations of organisations bear specific names, which sometimes get abbreviated in communication. When dealing with translation of the abbreviations between English and Polish, Kwiatek (2021:551) observed that both Polish and English names of well-known organisations and companies

were commonly abbreviated as a set of initials written with the capital letters without full stops. However, this section focuses on the abbreviated forms of the classifications of organisations other than their names. For instance, excerpt (9) and (10) in Table 2.3 above, illustrate some of the classification names given to organisations, such as 'Non-Governmental Organisations' in excerpt (9) and 'Community-Based Organisations' in excerpt (10).

Table 2.3 shows that even this classification of organisations got abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document. For example, in excerpts (9) and (10) above, the lexical units '**N**on-**G**overnmental **O**rganisations' and '**C**ommunity-**B**ased **O**rganisations' are abbreviated into 'NGOs' and 'CBOs', respectively. The abbreviations formed in this section also fall under initialisms, as they are created from the initial letters of the compound or multi-word names, and they are pronounced letter by letter, not as words themselves. The initial letters that form the abbreviations in question are capitalised and a small /-s/ is suffixed to such abbreviations. This suffixed /-s/ marks the plurality of the abbreviations in question. Kamil (2017:184) observes that acronyms are used most often to abbreviate names of organisations, armed forces and government agencies. However, the abbreviations that this section discussed are initialisms rather than acronyms.

2.4 Names of Departments or Divisions
The fourth linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document, and which this section presents and analyses, are the names of departments or divisions. The term 'department' and 'division' refers to the sector within a programme, which is responsible for some projects and chartered to administrate some activities within a specified field. Collins (2012:10) also defines a department as a division that forms part of a complex whole or organised system or branches of the governmental

organisations. Therefore, departments and divisions in this study refer to the sectors that form parts of the programmes, which are held responsible for issues related to climate change. The following excerpts in Table 2.4 below present the names of departments or divisions that exemplify some of the lexical items, which have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 4: Examples of Names of Departments and/or Divisions in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
11.	Jointly funded with 207,900.00 by the governments of Finland, Austria and by the UK's **Department for Intentional Development (DFID)**…	**Department for Intentional Development**	**(DFID)**	Page 14
12.	**Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS)**, under the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology…	**Lesotho Meteorological Services**	**(LMS)**	Page 15

Table 2.4 above, gives the names of departments or divisions as another type of linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. This means that there are some departments or divisions whose names are shortened in the original version of the *INDC* document. As stated earlier in this section, a department or division is perceived as a sector that forms part of the programme, which is held responsible for specific issues. In the case of this study, such issues are related to climate change. In Table 2.4 above, excerpts (11) and (12) exemplify some of the departments or divisions names, such as, 'Department for International Development' and 'Lesotho Meteorological Services', which have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document. For instance, the name '**D**epartment **f**or **I**nternational **D**evelopment' has been shortened into 'DFID'. Sometimes functional words, such as, prepositions are not used in the

composition of abbreviations; however, there may be some exceptional cases where a preposition is being used, as in the abbreviation 'D**F**ID', where the bolded 'F' stands for 'for' in the full linguistic unit under discussion. Ynfiesta and Suárez (2011:29) further explain that:

> Abbreviations exclude the initials of short function words (such as 'and', 'or', 'of' or 'to'), they are sometimes included in acronyms to make them pronounceable. Sometimes the letters representing this words are written in lower case such as in the cases of 'TfL (Transport for London)' and 'LotR (Lord of the Rings)'. This usually occurs when the acronym represents a multi-word proper noun.

This quotation, therefore, suggests that even though the initials of short function words are often excluded when abbreviating lexical items, there may be some linguistic situations that may trigger their inclusion in some abbreviations. Apart from that, in excerpt (12), the name '**L**esotho **M**eteorological **S**ervices' has been abbreviated into 'LMS', as illustrated by the bolded initial letters, which are also capitalised in the full linguistic unit in question.

2.5 Names of Institutions and Centres

The fifth linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document, and which this chapter analyses, are the names of institutions and centres. In this section, the two terms 'institution' and 'centre' refer to academic organisations or places that are engaged in educational activities, which may include research and academic projects. Provost (2017:1) explains a centre as a single or multi-disciplinary unit that is meant to conduct research and education. Furthermore, the term 'centre' can also be considered to be synonymous with the term 'institute', and it is an effective means of organising complex academic activities, particularly interdisciplinary research and outreach, as well as the growth and success of

the innovative activities (the University of Northern Colorado, 2019:1). It also resides in a college or university and reports to the relevant academic authority. This means that an institute might as well be considered as a body that runs the centre.

The excerpts presented in Table 2.5 below are the illustrations of the names of institutions and centres, which in this study, are regarded as other batches of the lexical items that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 5: Examples of Names of Institutions and/or Centres in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
13.	**The University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB)**, China, through the centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation (CSES) contributes with a broad knowledge on biogas technology…	**The University of Science and Technology Beijing**	**(USTB)**	Page 15
14.	The University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), China, through **the centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation (CSES)** contributes with a broad knowledge on biogas technology…	**The Centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation**	**(CSES)**	Page 15

Excerpts (13) and (14) provide illustrations of the names of institutions and centres as one of the lexical items that have been abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document. In this study, the terms 'institution' and 'centre' have been explained as academic organisations or places, which are engaged in educational activities, such as, research and scholarly projects. Like in the

previous sections, the names of the institutions, such as, 'The **U**niversity of **S**cience and **T**echnology **B**eijing' in excerpt (13) and 'The **C**entre of **S**ustainable **E**nvironment **S**anitations', in excerpt (14), have been abbreviated into 'USTB' and 'CSES', respectively. The abbreviations formed are also categorised under initialisms.

2.6 Units of Measurement

This section focuses on units of measurement as the sixth linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. Mari, Ehrlichb and Pendrillc (2018:1) note that measurement units have historically been defined as quantities of objects, such as, the mass of a particular piece of metal or the length of a particular rod. In other words, the units of measurement, which this section examines, are scientific entities that denote quantity and are presented in numbers and contractions to help in differentiating what is being measured from other units.

Excerpts (15) and (17) in Table 2.6 below are, therefore, examples of units of measurement that this section presents and analyses as another batch of the linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 6: Examples of Units of Measurements in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
15.	…the reduction potential in a CFL programme would be about 3,700 per year based on an average saving of 50 **kWh** per bulb per year…	**Kilowatt per hour**	**kWh**	Page 11
16.	Rehabilitation of 2**MW** Mantšonyane hydropower plant.	**Megawatt**	**MW**	Page 13

17.	We submit that these nationally intended contributions are fair and equitable commensurate to the national circumstances especially its low **GDP** per capital…	**Gross Domestic Products**	**GDP**	Page 16

Table 2.6 above, suggests that units of measurement form part of the lexical items, which have been abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document. Excerpts (15), (16) and (17) give evidence that there are some units of measurement whose names were abbreviated in the English version of the document under study. As it was explained earlier in this section, by a unit of measurement a researcher refers to a specific unit to express the amount of a particular quantity (Rijgerberg, Assem and Top, 2013). Different units are used to measure different physical properties of objects, such as length, distance, weight and temperature, just to mention but a few.

Generally, in communication, units of measurements are often used in their contracted forms, rather than their full forms. For example, in excerpts (15), (16) and (17), the source text author used the abbreviated forms 'kWh', 'MW' and 'GDP', respectively, instead of full forms, '**K**ilo**w**atts per **h**our', '**M**ega**w**atts' and '**G**ross **D**omestic **P**roducts', correspondingly. Usually, when these units of measurements are used in communication, the results of measuring the physical properties of an object are indicated by a number that is followed immediately by a relevant unit. To clarify this, in excerpt (15) in the column named 'Source Text', '50' is given as a numerical measure (where the author said: ''… an average saving of **50**kWh per bulb per year …'') to express the results of the measurement of a physical properties of a bulb. The number '50' is then followed by a unit of measurement of energy 'kWh' to make '50kWh' (50 kilowatts per hour).

2.7 Names of Gases

The seventh and the last linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document, and which this chapter analyses, are the names of gases. A gas is defined by Win (2006:156) as a state of matter where there are low densities and volume, and are compressible and fill the container uniformly. This suggests that gases are invisible particles, which occupy the shape of the container and exert pressure on its walls. Gases have no constant shape. Excerpts (18) to (20) in Table 2.7 below are names of gases, which this section presents and analyses as part of the lexical items that have been abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document.

Table 2. 7: Examples of Names of Gases in the INDC English Document:

No.	Source Text	Lexical Item Abbreviated	Abbreviation	Page No.
18.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal due to its predominant dependence on hydropower with a grid emission factor is 0.0038…	**Greenhouse Gases**	**GHG**	Page 10
19.	Residential emissions emanate from the use of the biomass, coal, **Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)** and paraffin.	**Liquid Petroleum Gas**	**LPG**	Page 10
20.	**Nitrous Oxide (N_2O)** is the major contributor accounting 41%...	**Nitrous Oxide**	**N_2O**	Page 15

Excerpts (18) to (20) shown in Table 2.7 above, exemplify the names of gases as the last category of the lexical items, which have been abbreviated in the English document under study. As indicated earlier, a gas is a state of matter where there is low density and volume, and it is compressible to fill the

container uniformly (Win, 2006:156). Usually, the names of gases are formed from single word and multi-word phrases, and such phrases get abbreviated in communication. The process of abbreviating such names becomes possible because abbreviations have the ability to name as Zerkina *et al*. (2015:139) further explain that "an abbreviation, being a symbol, names an object having categorical properties of a formed concept". This section argues that the abbreviations discussed below are equivalent to their full multi-word names that they can also replace in a text.

In excerpts (18), (19) and (20), the lexical items, 'Greenhouse gases', 'Liquid Petroleum Gas' and 'Nitrous oxide' are examples of multi-word names, which have been shortened in the process of writing the English version of the *INDC* document. For example, the lexical units, '**G**reen**h**ouse **G**ases' in excerpt (18), '**L**iquid **P**etroleum **G**as' in excerpt (19) and '**N**itrous **O**xide' in excerpt (20), have been abbreviated into 'GHG', 'LPG' and 'N$_2$O', respectively. Buha (2011:3) suggests that the multi-word name, 'Greenhouse Gases', is a general word that covers different meanings of other specific gases, such as Carbon Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide and Methane, just to mention a few. On the other hand, 'Liquid Petroleum Gas', also known as 'Liquefied Petroleum Gas', is used as an alternative fuel for vehicles with a combustion engine (Synak, Culik, Rievaj, and Gana, 2019:527) while Nitrous Oxide, according to Kanter, Ogle and Winiwarter (2020:7), "poses a serious threat to climate and atmospheric ozone layer''.

Like many other abbreviations analysed in this chapter, abbreviations, 'GHG' in excerpt (15) and 'LPG' in excerpt (19), are examples of initialisms (alphabetisms). They are formed from the first letters of the compound and/or multi-word names, as illustrated by bolding such initials in '**L**iquid **P**etroleum **G**as'. Finally, the chemical name 'N$_2$O' also includes a number, and Ynfiesta

and Suárez (2011:29) clarify that the number in names are often represented by digits rather than initial letters.

2.8 Conclusion

The purpose of this chapter was to identify different linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. In attempt to fulfil the goal of this chapter, the researcher identified seven linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the document under study, namely, programme names, project names, classification of organisations, names of departments or divisions, names of institutions and centres, names of gases and units of measurements.

This chapter identified programme names as the first lexical items that have been abbreviated in the English *INDC* document. The researcher argued that the abbreviations analysed under programme names can be divided into acronyms and initialism (alphabetism). For instance, the abbreviation 'NAPA', which is formed from 'National Adaptation Programme of Action', is an acronym because it can be pronounced just like regular words. On the other hand, the abbreviation, 'GEF-SGP' can only be pronounced letter by letter, not as a word; hence, it is classified as an example of initialism.

The data presented and analysed in this chapter revealed that there are projects whose names were also abbreviated. All the abbreviations analysed under project names were regarded as examples of initialisms. For example, such abbreviations are 'LHDP', 'CDM', 'EEP' and 'SHP', all of which cannot be pronounced as words.

Another example of lexical items that have been abbreviated, and which this chapter analysed is classification of organisations. Kwiatek (2021:551) discovered that names of well-known organisations and companies are commonly abbreviated as a set of initials written with the capital letters but without full stops in both Polish and English. Focusing merely on the abbreviated forms of the classification of organisations other than their names, this chapter revealed that even the abbreviations analysed in this section are initialisms. The abbreviations in question are in their plural form as they are capitalised, but they have a small /-s/ suffix to indicate plurality. For example, the small /-s/ at the end of the abbreviations 'NGOs' and 'CBOs' shows that they are in their plural form.

Names of departments or divisions make another example of the lexical items that have been abbreviated in the document under study. The departments or divisions were defined in this chapter as sectors that form part of the programme that is held responsible for specific issues. The researcher has observed that generally, the formation of abbreviations seems to exclude the initials for short function words like articles and prepositions, amongst the others. However, the researcher's argument is that even though the initials of the short function words are usually not used when abbreviating linguistic units, there may be some linguistic situations that may trigger their inclusion in some abbreviations.

The data analysed in this chapter further revealed that the names of institutions and centres are additional linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document. The abbreviations of the names of the institutions and centres that this section discussed are also part of initialisms as they can only be pronounced letter by letter. For example, the abbreviation,

'USTB' formed from 'The University of Science and Technology Beijing', can be pronounced as /U-S-T-B/ (letter by letter).

Another batch of lexical items that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document under study is the units of measurement. This chapter argued that various units are used to measure different physical properties of objects, such as, length, distance, weight and temperature, just to mention a few. The chapter indicated that, in communication, measurement units are often used in their contracted forms, and when they are used, the results of measuring the physical properties of an object are indicated by a number that is followed immediately by a relevant unit. For example, in excerpt (16) in the column labelled 'Source Text', a numerical measure of '2' is given where the source text author said: "Rehabilitation of 2MW Mantšonyane hydropower plant", to indicate the results of the measurement of energy capacity of the hydropower plant referred to.

The last batch of lexical items that have been contracted by using abbreviations is the names of gases. The chapter argues that usually, the names of gases are created from single-word or multi-word phrases, which are often abbreviated in communication. For example, the lexical item '**G**reen**h**ouse **G**ases' is a multi-word name, and it has been abbreviated into 'GHG'.

Drawing from the functional-relational concept, this chapter argued that abbreviations are part of the linguistic resources of language. Since they are short forms of the original words and/or phrases, they have a relationship with the lexical items that they stand for. Furthermore, the researcher argued that abbreviations are able to name projects just as the linguistic units discussed in this section. Zerkina *et al*. (2015:139) maintain that "an abbreviation unit has its ability to name…". This is often evident in communication where

abbreviations are able to take the place of the original and full multi-word names. For example, the abbreviation 'CDM' has a correlation with the full multi-word name '**C**lean **D**evelopment **M**echanism', and as a result, it is able to replace it in text. This means that the process of abbreviating the names or lexical units analysed in this chapter became possible because abbreviations have the ability to name as Zerkina *et al*. (2015:139) further explain that "an abbreviation, being a symbol, names an object having categorical properties of a formed concept." This chapter, therefore, maintains that the abbreviations discussed in this chapter are equivalent to their full multi-word names that they can also replace in a text.

CHAPTER THREE

STRATEGIES FOR TRANSLATING ABBREVIATIONS

3.0 Introduction

In chapter two, this study focuses on identifying the linguistic units and/or lexical items, which have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* (*INDC*) document. The current chapter, on the other hand, explores strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho in the *INDC* document. Such strategies are analysed based on the theoretical principles of the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) theory and the Axiomatic Translation Principle. Aly (2004:4) explains a translation strategy as a procedure that translators employ in order to solve the translation problems that they realise. In other words, it is "[...] a cognizant procedure undertaken by a translator in order to solve a problem or problems that s/he is faced with during a translation process" (Molulela, 2021:28). In this study, a 'translation strategy' is, therefore, viewed as a technique for solving a translation challenge posed by an abbreviation in translating the various segments of the source text (in this case, the *INDC* document) into Sesotho.

There are a number of strategies that scholars such as Ndhlovu (2014) have discovered that can be used to translate abbreviations. Such strategies include borrowing (in the form of pure loaning abbreviations), using loan words, indigenisation, loaning words, as well as abbreviations preceded by an explanation, paraphrasing of abbreviations coinage and compounding. In the light of the DTS, the researcher intends to present and describe the strategies that are employed in the translation of English abbreviations into Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. Toury (1995:32) argues that the purpose of the

DTS is to produce "[…] systematic exhaustive descriptions of what [translation] proves to be in reality". Furthermore, based on the Axiomatic Translation Principle, this chapter discusses different strategies used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho, as Ulitkin, Filipova, Ivanova and Babaev (2020:10) explain that "the general and axiomatic principle of abbreviation translation is the necessity to reach a balance of equivalence of abbreviations in the source language and the target language." These scholars further argue that the axiomatic principle of abbreviation translation can be implemented using several translation strategies, such as, adoption of the abbreviation of source language, descriptive translation of an abbreviation and derivation of a new abridgement, just to mention a few.

The data analysed in this chapter show that during the translation of the *INDC* document, the following strategies were employed to handle the meaning of abbreviations that appear in the original document: borrowing a source text abbreviation, omission of the source text abbreviation, descriptive translation of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation and the explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation. These strategies are discussed and analysed in depth in the following sections of this chapter. A number of extracts from both the English version of the *INDC* document and the Sesotho one have been provided under each section to clarify the phenomenon that this chapter investigates. The excerpts that are extracted from both documents are presented in tabular formats in the following sections. Each table shows the page numbers from which the excerpts were taken. The English version of the *INDC* document is here termed the source text (ST) while its Sesotho translation is referred to as the target text (TT). Finally, the ST abbreviations together with their Sesotho translations are then reflected in the tables for ease of comparison.

3.1 Borrowing a Source Text Abbreviation in the Target Text

The first strategy used in the *INDC* document to translate abbreviations is the borrowing of the ST abbreviation in the TT. Borrowing, which is sometimes referred to as loaning of words, lexical or linguistic borrowing, means applying words as they appear from the source language to the target language (Ndhlovu, 2014:331). In other words, borrowing implies using the same word in the target text as the one used in the original text instead of the equivalent term in the target language. In the case of the borrowing of the ST abbreviations, the same abbreviations that are used in the ST are also employed in the TT without any modification of the structure and/or spelling of such abbreviations. Excerpts (21) and (22) in Table 3.1 below, exemplify a context in translation where a source text abbreviation has been borrowed in the target text.

Table 3. 1: ST Abbreviation is Borrowed in the TT

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE NO.	TARGET TEXT	PAGE NO.
21.	In addition, a number of sector specific policies were adopted pursuant to the aspirations of **NSDP**.	4	*Ka holimo ho moo maano a hlakileng a mafapha a ile a ananeloa ho lateloa maikutlo a **NSDP**.*	2
22.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations (NGO)...	8	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa **GEF-SGP** Lesotho tse sebetsang le NGO...*	8

Excerpts (21) and (22) in Table 3.1 above, give a translation scenario where a translator borrowed a source text (ST) abbreviations in the target text (TT). The borrowed ST abbreviations in the TT are written or used as they appear in the original text. This means that the translator did not attempt to make any formal modifications of any nature to the borrowed abbreviations in the TT. As stated earlier, there is lack of corresponding Sesotho abbreviations for the ones, which are used in the English *INDC* document. In order to deal with that lack of the target language equivalent abbreviations, the translator of the Sesotho *INDC*

document opted for borrowing of the ST abbreviations as a strategy. For instance, in excerpt (21) in Table 3.1 above, the English abbreviation 'NSDP', which stands for the National Strategic Development Plan has been borrowed as it is in the Sesotho *INDC* document. Similarly, the English abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' for Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme, in excerpt (22), has also been used in the target text as it appears in the original document. This is what is referred to as pure loaning of abbreviations (Ndhlovu, 2014) and/or adoption of source language abbreviations (Ulitkin *et al*., 2020).

In line with the General and Axiomatic Principle of Abbreviation Translation explained by Ulitkin *et al*. (2020), it is possible for translators to employ the adoption of the source language abbreviations in the TT as a strategy in translation process. Baker (1992: 35) asserts that "acronyms and abbreviations are usually retained in their pure form in the target language". When studying the term-creation strategies, which Ndebele translators in Zimbabwe tend to use in the health sector, Ndhlovu (2014: 334) confirmed Baker's (1992) assertion and concluded that "[…] pure loaning of acronyms and abbreviations is the most used strategy in Ndebele language." Similarly, Ulitkin *et al*. (2020: 10) observe that the adoption of source language abbreviations was employed when translating English abbreviations into Russian.

The use of borrowing as a strategy in translation raises conflicting views from scholars such as Kuitert (2013) and Mojapelo (2018). Kuitert (2013:7) believes that "[…] borrowing words from another language may threaten the existence of the target language, as native words may disappear from the vocabulary of its users." On the other hand, Mojapelo (2018:23) notes that there is a lot of borrowing of terms in languages, and such borrowing is employed in order to avoid zero-equivalence in the target language. The views raised by these two

scholars highlight some of the negative and the positive sides of borrowing. Looking at the borrowing of the ST abbreviations, for instance, only people who are familiar with the English abbreviations used in the Sesotho *INDC* document can comprehend the translations produced while other people will struggle to make sense out of the borrowed abbreviations in the TT.

Based on the DTS theory, translation is described by comparing and analysing the ST-TT pairs in order to conclude on the extent to which the translator has achieved equivalence (Hatim and Munday, 2004). Hermans (1999:5) adds that the goal of a researcher using the DTS theory is "to search for grounds that can explain why there is what there is". In the light of that, this section argues that, generally, the translator seems to have employed pure loaning of the ST abbreviations in the TT when faced with the lack of target language abbreviations for the ones used in the original language. Additionally, using other strategies may have not seemed viable.

3.2 Omission of the Source Text Abbreviation

The second strategy that this chapter discusses is the omission of the ST abbreviation. Omission, as a translation strategy, indicates the state where some information shared in the ST seems to be missing in the TT. Shirinzadeh and Mahadi (2014:11) explain that "omission is the strategy where the translator substitutes the SL noun or part of it with none in the TL. In other words, the translator simply removes the original noun or part of the noun in the translation due to different reasons." Even though Shirinzadeh and Mahadi's (2014) definition of omission puts more emphasis only on the deletion of a noun or part of it, in this study, the researcher understands omission to occur to different parts of speech, clauses, sentences, phrases and expressions, as well as abbreviations. Based on this clarification, omission of the ST abbreviations in the TT, therefore, suggests that the translator has employed neither the

borrowed nor the translated abbreviations in the TT. In Table 3.2 below, excerpts (23) and (24) are illustrations of a situation where in translation process a source text abbreviation gets omitted in the target text. This means that the abbreviations used in the English version of the *INDC* document are deleted in the Sesotho translation.

Table 3. 2: ST Abbreviation is Omitted in the TT

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE	TARGET TEXT	PAGE
23.	…document **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emission from agriculture.	14	*...ho ngola ka mokhoa oa pokello tlhahiso **ea likhase tse silafatsang leholimo** ho tsoa lefapheng la Temo.*	17
24.	Landfill gas recovery and flaring **clean development mechanism (CDM)** project.	14	*Morero oa tlhahiso ea khase le mokhoa oa **ntlafatso ea ho chesa lithole.***	17

In Table 3.2 above, excerpts (23) and (24) illustrate the situation in translation where the translator omitted the ST abbreviation in the TT. In the original document, the ST author has introduced the ST abbreviations by spelling them out fully before they could use them on their own. For example, the English abbreviation 'GHG' has been preceded by its full name 'Greenhouse Gas'. A same thing applies with the abbreviation 'CDM' as it has been preceded by 'Clean Development Mechanism'. However, such English abbreviations have been deleted in the Sesotho translation as the translator only focused on translation of full names preceding the ST abbreviations in question. The translator may have noticed that these ST abbreviations are not formally registered and therefore opted to omit them and render their meaning by description in Sesotho translation. For instance, in excerpt (23), which is illustrated in Table 3.2 above, the bolded information *'ea likhase tse silafatsang leholimo'* (of atmosphere polluting gases) is a Sesotho Translation for 'Greenhouse Gas' while *'ntlafatso ea ho chesa lithole'* (development of waste disposal by incineration) is a Sesotho version for 'Clean Development

Mechanism'. Therefore, in the Sesotho translation, the English abbreviations 'GHG' and 'CDM', respectively, are not traceable because the translator has omitted them. The deletion of the ST abbreviations in the TT may suggest that the translator found it impossible to derive new abridgements in the TL as one of the strategies proposed under the Axiomatic Translation Principle recommends. This means that it was not easy to derive new abbreviation in the TL to be used as equivalents for the ones used in the ST. For instance, it is not easy to decide whether the new abbreviation for the Sesotho phrase *'ea Likhase tse Silafatsang Leholimo'* (of atmosphere polluting gases), in excerpt (23) should be *'LSL'* or *'DSL'* as that will be deviating from Lesotho's Sesotho orthography in the case of the latter, yet the former is not a true representation of the Sesotho phrase in question when basing the argument on pronunciation rather than orthography.

Sharma (2015:6) suggests that deletion of the ST word or words in the TT can occur due to a number of reasons, namely, lack of equivalent terms in the TL; existence of cultural clashes between the two languages; and the ambiguity of the ST word, which may pose some translation problems. On a different view, even though Malangwa (2015:136) has observed that some important information is likely to be not delivered when omission is employed while the TT may lose its features of the specialised terms, Alrumayh (2021:9) has observed that omission in the TT eliminates repetition of the insignificant information. For example, one can argue that, in Table 3.2 above, the deletion of the ST abbreviations in the TT has no impact because the meaning of the abbreviations in question has been retain in the translations of their full names. Apart from that, even in the light of the DTS, the translator's decision to omit the ST abbreviations can be justified as Toury (2012:68) argues that:

> In spite of all the restrictions to society […], translators are still given great latitude and considerable autonomy. It is precisely here that the norms intersect with the translator's liberties and give rise to the decisions that are actually made.

This suggests that Toury's DTS gives room for some deviations from convention in the act of translation. In other words, the translator has a freedom to decide on how best they can communicate with the target readership, as the DTS theory advocates for a target-oriented translation product.

3.3 Descriptive Translation of the Source Text Abbreviation

The third strategy used in the *INDC* document to translate abbreviations is a descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations in the TT. Descriptive translation means explaining what the word used in the ST means rather than translating it using its TL equivalence. Sigacheva, Makayev, Makayeva and Gainanova (2021:4) define descriptive translation as:

> […] a transformation of the lexical and grammatical structure, whereby the lexical unit in the original language is replaced by a phrase that explains its meaning, and thus suggests more or a less complete explanation of this meaning in the target language.

In line with the above definition, the descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations in the TT, therefore, denotes that the ST abbreviations are being translated in the TT employing explanations or full names (titles) of what such abbreviations stand for. Such a scenario is illustrated in Table 3.3 below, where excerpts (25) to (28), serve as examples of a situation in translation where the ST abbreviation is translated in the TT using descriptive translation as a strategy.

Table 3. 3: Descriptive Translation of ST Abbreviations in the TT

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE	TARGET TEXT	PAGE
25.	… which embraced the key poverty targets of the **PRS** while seeking to, henceforth consolidate all development goals	4	*... o neng o kenyelletsa litlha tse ka sehloohong tse ka fihlelloang mabapi le* **phokotso ea bofuma** *ebile e ntse e leka ho hokella 'moho litebello tsohle tsa ntlafatso*	2
26.	… GCM simulations of future (2030,2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six **GCMs**.	5	*... lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM) tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2075) ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka* **lisebelisoa tse tšeletseng tsa chebelo-pele.**	3
27.	… **NGOs** / community based organisations currently at different implementations stages	6	*...***Mekhatlo e ikemetseng/** *Mekhatlo ea Seschaba Metseng, liteko tseo hajoale li methating e fapaneng ea phethahatso.*	4
28.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	10	**Likhase tse silafatsang moea** *Lesotho lia fokola…*	11

Excerpts (25) to (28), illustrated in Table 3.3 above, are examples of a translation context where a translator has employed a descriptive translation as a strategy to deal with the meaning of the ST abbreviations in the TT. In this study, descriptive translation is perceived as the form of translation where the rendition of the ST abbreviation is done by providing a definition of such an abbreviation in the TT. This suggests that a translator provides a brief explanation instead of employing an equivalent target language abbreviation in the TT. The bolded linguistic units under the Source Text, in Table 3.3 above, are abbreviations used in the English *INDC* document while the bolded ones under the Target Text are the Sesotho descriptive translations of such English abbreviations. This suggests that when the translator was confronted by lack of equivalent Sesotho abbreviations for the English abbreviations used in the *INDC* document, they decided to use descriptive translations of the English abbreviations in the Sesotho *INDC* document. For example, in the excerpt (25) in Table 3.3 above, the translator employed a descriptive translation *'phokotso*

ea bofuma' (poverty reduction) to translate the meaning of the English abbreviation 'PRS' instead of using a borrowed abbreviation in the TT as it was illustrated earlier. A similar strategy is employed in excerpts (26), (27) and (28), where the ST abbreviations 'GCMs', 'NGOs' and 'GHG', respectively, have been translated in Sesotho into *'lisebelisoa tse tšeletseng tsa chebelo-pele'* (six future simulation tools), *'mekhatlo e ikemetseng'* (independent organisations) and *'likhase tse silafatsang moea'* (air polluting gases), in that order.

According to Ulitkin *et al*. (2020), the General and Axiomatic Principle of Abbreviation Translation can still be maintained using descriptive translation of abbreviations. They argue that this strategy can be employed when it is difficult or impossible to use other recommended strategies for translating abbreviations. Kuzmina et al. (2015:553) add that descriptive translation can be used when the TL does not have equivalent abbreviations. The data, presented in Table 3.3 above, confirm that the translators can translate the meaning of the ST abbreviations using target language explanations and/or descriptions. Since such descriptions are in general language, this suggests that the translations may be even easier to understand when the descriptive translation strategy is employed (Iakusheva, 2017:49). This suggests that it would be easier for Sesotho readers to comprehend the descriptive translations produced by the translator than to do the same with a borrowed abbreviation that is unfamiliar to them. On the contrary, Malangwa (2015: 133-135) argues that the fact that the TT tends to be easier to understand than the ST as the description is made in a general, not specialised language and normally reveals the intended meaning of a term even in the case where the ST term can convey different meanings, shows that the descriptive translations tend to dilute the specialised language used in the original texts.

Scholars such as Zakharenko and Ukraine (2003:7) have argued that the use of abbreviations in the present time helps in communicating a lot of information within a short space of time. This is because they result in brevity of lengthy linguistic units such as names, titles and phrases that are frequently used in a written and/or spoken text. My observation is that the use of descriptive translations has led to lengthy translations as compared to the ST extracts. A similar observation is shared by Iakusheva (2017:135) that descriptive translation strategy tends to result into prolonged translations as compared to the ST terms. However, in line with the analytical tool that this study adopted, the researcher argues that the descriptive translation strategy that the translator used, helped them to situate the translation of abbreviations within the culture of the TL, and such a translation communicates the message expressed in the ST without violating the culture and rules governing the use of the TL. In other words, such a descriptive strategy leads to the production of a target-oriented translation.

3.4 Descriptive Translation plus Borrowing of a Source Text Abbreviation
The fourth strategy that this chapter analyses is descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation in the TT. As stated in the previous section, in this study, the descriptive translation of abbreviations means that the ST abbreviations are being translated in the TT using brief explanations and/or full names (titles) of what such abbreviations stand for. The brief explanations are, therefore, provided in the target language. Ulitkin *et al*. (2020:10) explain that "this strategy of abridgment translation corresponds to a translation of the root of the abbreviation with the microcontext taken into account". On the other hand, borrowing, as defined earlier, refers to the translation strategy of "adapting loanwords into the linguistic system of a borrowing language" (Hafiz, 2015:15). Therefore, by the descriptive translation plus borrowing of a source text abbreviation, in this section, the researcher suggests that both

strategies are used concurrently to translate the ST text abbreviation. Excerpts (29) to (37) in Table 3.4 below, give the illustrations of a translation situation where the ST abbreviation is translated in the TT using descriptive translation plus borrowing of a source text abbreviation as a strategy.

Table 3. 4: Descriptive Translation Plus Borrowing of ST Abbreviations in the TT

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE	TARGET TEXT	PAGE
29.	…**LDCs** can draw on specific strategies, plans or projects…	1	…***Linaha tse futsanehileng moruong tse tlase-tlase moruong (LDCs)*** *li ka iketsetsa maoala…*	I
30.	… **GCM** simulations of future (2030, 2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six GCMs.	5	*… **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2070 ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka lisebelisoa tse tšeletseng tsa chebelo-pele.*	3
31.	…the **NAPA** options remain the best…	6	*…litšisinyo tsa **lenaneo laphethahatso la naha la Boikamahanyo (NAPA)** e sala e le tsona feela tse bohlokoahali…*	4
32.	…at household and community levels by **NGOs** and CBOs.	8	*…ka **Mekhatlo e Ikemetseng (NGOs)** le Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (CBOs)*	8
33.	…at household and community levels by NGOs and **CBOs**.	8	*…ka Mekhatlo e Ikemetseng (NGOs) le **Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (CBOs)***	8
34.	…the **NSDP** has outlined the following strategies...	8	***Moralo oa Tšebetso oa Naha (NSDP)*** *o entse moralo o latelang oa maoa…*	9
35.	…for reporting raw data which will take into consideration **IPCC** requirements…	9	*…ho fana ka litaba li ntse li le joalo likenyeletsa litlhoko tsa **Moifo oa mebuso o shebaneng le pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo (IPCC)**…*	10
36.	…then make use of remotely sensed data and training on **GIS**.	9	*…ho sebelisa **Mahlale a boithuto ba boleng ba lefatše (GIS)**.*	10
37.	Nitrous Oxide emissions are the largest **GHG**…	10	*Khase e bitsoang Nitrous Oxide ke e ngata haholo **likhaseng likhaseng tse***	11

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			silafatsang leholimo (GHG)…	

Excerpts (29) to (37), in Table 3.4 above, exemplify the situation in a translation product where the ST abbreviations have been translated in the TT using descriptive translations plus borrowing. As explained earlier, in the context of this study, the descriptive translation plus borrowing means that a translator provides, in the TL, a brief description of what the ST abbreviation means and along with such a description, they employ the same abbreviation as the one used in the ST. This suggests that the translator has merged and/or used two strategies concurrently to translate each ST abbreviation that has been used in the original *INDC* document. As illustrated in Table 3.4 above, the ST has used the abbreviations on their own and such abbreviations have been used without the brackets. However, when translating such abbreviations in Sesotho, the translator has provided both a descriptive translation of the ST abbreviation as well as the borrowed ST abbreviation enclosed in brackets. For instance, in order to translate the English abbreviation 'LDCs' in excerpt (29), the translator used a descriptive translation *'Linaha tse futsahenehileng moruong tse tlatse-tlase moruong'* and the borrowed abbreviation '(LDCs)' in the TT. The descriptive translation was based on a translation of a full name for the 'LDCs', which is 'the Least Developed Countries' and translates into Sesotho as *'Linaha tse tlase kholong ea moruo'*.

In excerpts (30), the abbreviation 'GCM', which is used on its own in the ST, has been translated into *'lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele* (GCM)' (future simulation tools) using both the descriptive translation *'lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele'* (future simulation tools) and the borrowed abbreviation 'GCM' in the brackets. The use of descriptive translation plus borrowing is also evident in excerpts (31), (32), (33), (34), (35), (36) and (37) where the ST abbreviations 'NAPA', 'NGOs', 'CBOs', 'NSDP', 'IPCC', 'GIS' and 'GHG', respectively,

have translated into *'lenaneo la phethahatso la naha la boikamahanyo (NAPA)'* (national executive programme of compliance); *'Mekhatlo e ikemetseng (NGOs)'* (independent oganisations); *'Mekhatlo ea sechaba metseng (CBOs)'* (community-based organisations); *'Moralo oa tšebetso oa naha (NSDP)'* (national action plan); *'Moifo oa mebuso o shebaneng le pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo (IPCC)'* (intergovernmental panel on climate change); *'Mahlale a boithuto ba boleng ba lefatše (GIS)'* (the science of studying the nature of the earth); and *'Likhase tse silafatsang leholimo (GHG)'* (atmosphere polluting gases). Such translations retain the ST abbreviations in the TT and also provide their brief explanations. Therefore, it can be argued that if an abbreviation has been described in Sesotho or domesticated in the target language, it is unnecessary to retain it further in translation. When drawing some distinctions in the DTS between three kinds of translation norms, namely preliminary, initial and operational norms, Toury (1980:55) explains that the initial norm governs the basic choice that a translator makes between adherence to the source text's structure and the source culture's norms while striving to meet the linguistic, literary and cultural norms of the new readership. Therefore, the researcher argues that the translations, in excerpts (29) to (37) in Table 3.4 above, illustrate some of the choices that the translator had to make in the process of translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho.

As noted earlier, the brief explanation of the original abbreviation in the TT enhances the readers' comprehension, especially when they are not even familiar with the abbreviation used. The borrowed abbreviation, on the other hand, can assist to trace the meaning of the abbreviated lexical unit especially where the descriptions and/or the explanations provided tend to sound erroneous. On a different view point, the use of descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation in the TT tends to yield lengthy translations. Furthermore, it was argued in the previous section that the descriptive

translation strategy that the translator employed, enabled them to position the translation of abbreviations within its TL culture, and that such a translation conveys the message expressed in the ST without violating the culture and rules governing the use of the TL. The same opinion is maintained in this section as the use of descriptive translations plus borrowing seem to be both product-oriented (where the descriptive translations has been used) and source-oriented (where borrowing of the ST abbreviations has been employed). The product-orientedness of the translations will then ensure that the target readers understand the TT.

3.5 Explicitation of the Borrowed Abbreviation

The fifth and the last strategy that this chapter presents and analyses is the explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation in the TT. Moradi, Rahbah and Olfati (2015:1) explain that "the concept of explicitation is generally understood as spelling out of information which is otherwise implicit in the source text". In other words, the term 'explicitation' in translation studies refers to the translation technique where the translator expresses in the TT a more specific or explicit word that replaces the implicit term used in the ST. This section, therefore, argues that there is information about the borrowed abbreviations from the original *INDC* document that has been explicated in the TT. Excerpts (38) to (40) in Table 3.5 below, are the illustrations of a translation situation where information about the borrowed abbreviations from the original *INDC* document has been explicated in the TT.

Table 3. 5: Explicitation of the Borrowed ST Abbreviations in the TT

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE	TARGET TEXT	PAGE
38.	Rationale and process for developing **INDCs** on adaptation	4	Mabaka le methati ea ho kenyeletsa boikamahanyo **tokomaneng ea INDCs**.	2
39.	The **SNC** shows that three major sectors account for the	15	**Tokomane ea SNC** e bonts'a ha mafapha a mararo a	18

	emission burden of the country.		maholo e le 'ona a itlhommeng pele ka hosilafatsa leholimo.	
40.	Replacement of fuel-wood with **LPG** at the rate of 10%...	12	Ho fetola ts'ebeliso ea patsi ka **khase e phehang ea LGP** e le hore e fihlele boemo ba 10%...	13

Excerpts (38) to (40) in Table 3.5 above, provide illustrations of a translation instance where a translator has explicated some information in their translation of the ST abbreviations. Gumul (2017:315-316) explains that explicitation is a translation technique, which is pragmatically conditioned, and it is achieved by adding extra information and/or explanatory remarks. For example, in excerpts (38) to (40) above, in the source text column, the ST abbreviations are used on their own. The same abbreviations are directly borrowed in the TT. However, the translator has added some explanatory remarks, which precede the abbreviations in question, and that makes the borrowed abbreviations more explicit in the TT. In excerpts (38) and (39), for example, the translator has provided an additional information '*tokomaneng ea INDC*' (in the INDC document) and '*tokomaneng ea SNC*' (in the SNC document). Both give hint to the target reader that the ST abbreviations in question are referring to the documents. Similarly, in excerpt (40) above, the translator has added the explanatory remarks '*khase e phehang ea LPG*' (the LPG gas for cooking), which precede the borrowed abbreviation in the TT. Even though in this context, the added remarks seem to be redundant, as the word '*khase*' (gas) is already represented by the letter 'G' in the borrowed abbreviation 'LPG' (Liquid Petroleum Gas), such an explicitation enhances the target reader's comprehension of the abbreviation in question.

This, consequently, suggests that explicitation is the translator's choice of providing the meaning, which may be considered to be clearer and more direct than the one in the ST. To achieve this, the translator employs words that may

trigger the comprehension of the target text (Gumul, 2017:316). Jimeniz-Crespo (2017:6) concurs with this view by further explaining that the direct rendition of the ST terms with their corresponding explicit terms in the TT might yield the translation that is easier even for the target language average speakers to understand. Contrarily, Vesterager (2017:106) argues that sometimes explicitation can evoke difficulty in understanding the TT when the translator fails to accurately define the concept and/or uses some inconsistent definitions. However, the researcher maintains that the translator's explicitation of the borrowed abbreviations that has been discussed in this section can enhance the target reader's understanding of the borrowed abbreviations in the TT, instead of evoking some difficulties in understanding the TT.

As it is the aim of the DTS to "[…] identify how people actually do translate, no matter the supposed quality" (Pym, 2010:3), this section discovered that when translating English abbreviations into Sesotho, the translator tended to explicate the borrowed ST abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. Generally, the translator's explicated borrowing of the ST abbreviations that this section analysed seems to have introduced some details in the TT, which may be due to the translator's observation that the use of the borrowed ST abbreviations in the TT may fail to communicate with the target readers. For this reason, the translator may have decided to add some details that can enhance the target readers' understanding of the borrowed ST abbreviations in the TT. This implies that in addition to exploring the universality of explicitation in translation, its target-orientedness in the target culture is worthy describing. Kharmandar (2017:22) notes that some of the important and seemingly novel assumptions proposed by Toury were translation as a cultural fact, target-orientedness of translation analysis and translation as a norm-governed activity.

3.6 Conclusion

This chapter was set to explore the strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho in the *INDC* document. The chapter discovered various strategies that were employed in the *INDC* document to translate English abbreviations into Sesotho and employed the General and Axiomatic Translation principle to guide its categorisation of the strategies used for translating abbreviations. Therefore, the categorisation that this chapter came up with is as follows: borrowing a ST abbreviation in the TT, omission of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviations and explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation.

Based on the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) theory, whose goal is to "[…] identify how people actually do translate, no matter the supposed quality" (Pym, 2010:3), this chapter analysed the identified strategies that were used in the translation of the abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. The analysis explained what those strategies are and highlighted their strengths and weaknesses in expressing the meaning of abbreviations from one language into another. To achieve this, the chapter used data extracted from both the English and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document.

The data presented and analysed in this chapter revealed that the Lesotho Meteorological services translator employed borrowing of the ST abbreviations in the TT when working on the translation of the *INDC* document. In the light of the DTS theory, the chapter argued that such borrowing was used to address the lack of corresponding Sesotho abbreviations that the translator was faced with for the abbreviations that were used in the English *INDC* document. For example, it was illustrated in the discussion that the translator borrowed the ST abbreviation 'NSDP' (National Strategic Development Plan) as it is in the Sesotho *INDC* document. Furthermore, the

researcher's assumption was that, using other strategies might have seemed impossible to the translator. Apart from that, even though borrowing seemed to be the quickest way to deal with the zero-equivalence in translation, Kuitert (2013:7) warns that it may threaten the existence of the TL in some communicative contexts.

The data analysed in this chapter revealed that the LMS translator also used omission of the ST abbreviations in the TT. The discussion showed that the translator decided to delete ST abbreviations in the TT where the ST author has introduced the ST abbreviations by spelling them out before s/he could use them independently in the text. For example, where the English abbreviation 'GHG' has been preceded by its full form 'Greenhouse gas', the translator focused his or her translation only on the full form producing translation such as '*ea likhase tse silafatsang leholimo*' (of atmosphere polluting gases) and decided to delete the abbreviation. Scholars such as Alrumayh (2021:9) argue that omission in the TT eliminates repetition of the insignificant information. In light of that, the researcher explained that the deletion of the ST abbreviations as illustrated in Table 3.2, above, has no semantic impact on the message expressed by the TT because the meaning of the abbreviations in question has been retained in the translation of their full names. The researcher further argued that based on the Toury's DTS theory, the translator has freedom to choose on how best s/he can communicate with the target readership.

This chapter has further shown that other ST abbreviations were translated into Sesotho using a descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations. This means that the ST abbreviations were translated into Sesotho employing brief explanations and/or full names (titles) of what such abbreviations stand for. For example, when the translator was confronted by the lack of TL equivalent abbreviations for the ST abbreviation, 'NGOs', s/he employed the descriptive translation '*mekhatlo e ikemetseng*' (independent organisations) in the TT and that was

found to be in harmony with the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations Translation. In line with the DTS theory, the researcher argued that the descriptive translation enabled the translator to situate his or her translation of abbreviations within the culture of the TL and that such a translation communicates the message or the meaning expressed in the ST without violating the culture and rules that govern the use of the TL.

Closely related to descriptive translation was the use of descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation in the TT. The researcher indicated that the translator's use of descriptive translation plus borrowing is an indication of some of the strategic decisions that a translator had to take in the process of translating the abbreviations from English into Sesotho. The researcher argued that, the use of this strategy was both product-oriented and source-oriented as it retained some relationship with the ST by borrowing its abbreviations, and also ensured that the target readers understand the TT by employing the descriptive translation.

Finally, this chapter analysed data that revealed that the Lesotho Meteorological Services translator translated the ST abbreviations into Sesotho by employing explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation. This means that the translator, in their Sesotho translation, added some explanatory information about the borrowed abbreviations from the original version of the *INDC* document. Scholars such as Vesterager (2017:106) argue that explicitation can evoke difficulty in understanding the TT, especially when the translator has added an inaccurate explanatory remarks. However, the researcher maintained that the translator's explicitation of the borrowed abbreviations that this chapter analysed can enhance the target reader's understanding of such abbreviations in the TT rather than evoking some difficulties in understanding the TT.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES POSED BY ABBREVIATIONS

4.0 Introduction

In chapter two, this study focused on identifying the linguistic units and/or lexical items, which have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* (*INDC*) document. The subsequent chapter, which is chapter three, explored various strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho in the *INDC* document. On the other hand, the current chapter examines challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document, basing its discussion on the theoretical premises of the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS).

The term translation challenges used in this study is defined by Ajunwa (2015:15) as the difficulty experienced by a translator in an attempt to produce an accurate or acceptable level of accuracy in their translation. In other words, challenges in translation can be perceived as translation situations that may hamper a translator's ability to produce an accurate and/or functionally acceptable translation of the content of the source text in the target language or some part of such a text. In this study, the term 'challenge' is employed to refer to a translation situation created by abbreviations with which the translators working in Sesotho may have had problems.

As hinted in the background section of this research, the previous research by scholars, such as, Igorevna (2020), Kuzmina *et al*. (2015) and Zandrahimi and Afzoon (2017) shows that the use of abbreviations in the original text can pose a variety of challenges in the translation process. Igorevna (2020) argues that

there can be some mistranslations in scientific texts, which can be influenced by recent abbreviations that are not widespread in dictionaries. Because of that, there are higher chances of misunderstanding, which can lead to various cases of inaccuracy in translations. In line with the DTS, the role of this chapter is to describe challenges posed by abbreviations in the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document and to comment on context and/or factors as well as grounds that can shed some light on why the translator produced the translation excerpts that they produced. Pym (2010:2) explains that the aim of the DTS is to "describe what translations actually are, rather than simply prescribing how they should be".

The data analysed in this chapter reveal that there are five types of challenges encountered when translating abbreviations in the *INDC* document from English into Sesotho. The identified challenges are, therefore, classified into: lack of equivalent abbreviations; handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations; omission of the ST abbreviation; maintaining consistency in the translation of the ST abbreviations; and comprehending the meaning of ST abbreviations that are not spelled out in their first-time use.

4.1 Lack of Equivalent Abbreviations

The first challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document is the lack of equivalent abbreviations in the target language. Lack of equivalence is a translation situation between the source and target language where the target language does not have an appropriate word to translate the meaning of a word used in the ST. As indicated by Odero (2017:397), in some instances, the translators encounter a lack of sufficient terminology to name concepts or the target language has no direct equivalent term for the source text word. In the context of this study, lack of equivalent abbreviations refers to a situation where

abbreviations used in the English version of the *INDC* document seem to have no Sesotho counterparts in the target document. In the light of this background, the following excerpts, which are numbered from (41) to (44) and presented in Table 4.1 below, illustrate instances of lack of equivalent abbreviations experienced in the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document.

Table 4. 1: Instances of Lack of Equivalent Abbreviations

No.	Source Text	Page No.	Target Text	Page No.
41.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations …	4	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa **GEF-SGP** Lesotho tse sebetsang le NGO…*	8
42.	Rehabilitation of **2MW** Mantšonyane hydropower plant.	13	*Nchafatso ea **2MW** ea setsi sa phehlo ea motlakase Mantšonyane.*	16
43.	In 1997/98, **GCM** simulation of future (2030,2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios…	5	*Ka 1997/89 **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2075) ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo…*	3
44.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	10	***Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola…*	11

Ulitkin, Filipova, Ivanova and Babaev (2020) indicated that one way of implementing the General and axiomatic principle of abbreviation translation is by replacing a ST abbreviation with an equivalent one in the target language. This may suggest that some languages may have equivalent abbreviations for the ones used in the source text. However, when translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho, it can be expected that there would be no equivalent abbreviations between the ST and the TT. In Table 4.1 above, excerpts (41) to (44) illustrate the lack of corresponding target language abbreviations for the ones used in the original version of the *INDC* document. In other words, Sesotho does not have the TL abbreviations for the ST abbreviations, 'GEF-SGP', '2MW', 'GCM' and 'GHG', respectively, which are used in excerpts

(41), (42), (43) and (44). This suggests that such abbreviations could not be translated into Sesotho using Sesotho equivalent abbreviations. As a result, the translator had to use other means to render the meaning of the abbreviations in question. For instance, in excerpts (41) and (42), the translator adopted the ST abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' and '2MW', respectively, in their Sesotho translation when they faced with the lack of TL equivalent abbreviations. On the other hand, in excerpts (43) and (44), the translator opted for the descriptive translation plus borrowing *'lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele* (GCM)' (Forecasting scientific tools) to render the meaning of the ST abbreviations 'GCM' and *'likhase tse silafatsang moea'* (Air polluting gases) for 'GHG'.

When exploring the problems of translating acronyms from English into Arabic, Kamil (2017:199) observed and concluded that acronyms are genera specific as they are quite frequent in the fields of technology and politics and rare in other fields of study. One can also argue that the lack of the TL abbreviations is due to the fact that the use of abbreviations is more popular in certain languages than the others. In support of this view, Hosseinzadeh (2021:123) asserts that translating abbreviations into other languages is a challenge since abbreviations have not been proliferated in all the languages as much as English. For instance, Sesotho does not seem to form and use more abbreviations in different communicative contexts as English does. While currently, Sesotho is gradually absorbing some English abbreviations into its vocabulary, "[…] abbreviations of various types penetrate into all layers of the lexicon of modern European languages" (Ulitkin *et al.*, 2020:6).

Furthermore, Ndhlovu (2014:327) argues that "[…] translators who translate from developed Western languages into African languages often encounter lack of adequate terminology in their efforts to communicate between these languages'', and the similar view is still true when it comes to the translation

of abbreviations in Sesotho. Awadh and Khan (2020:1998) indicate that achieving an accurate translation is very difficult when the translators are faced with the challenge of lack of equivalence. This affirms that there are some instances in translation where a translator may fail to render the ST term with its suitable TL term in the TT due to the lack of equivalence.

Generally, when dealing with the lack of equivalent terms in translation, borrowing is often one of the strategies that the translators resort to. However, Kočote and Smirnova (2016:112) warn that the direct and/or indirect borrowing of a vocabulary should be used with extreme caution as a solution to the problem of lack of equivalence. As illustrated in Table 4.1 above, the translator had to employ different translation strategies such as adoption of the ST abbreviation in the TT, descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations as well as descriptive translation plus adoption of the ST abbreviation, to address the lack of equivalent TL abbreviations that they were faced with. This, suggests that there is a need for coining Sesotho abbreviations in all fields. Drawing from the DTS principles, the researcher has observed that the translation of abbreviations from English into Sesotho involves, amongst other things, the lack of TL equivalent abbreviations as a challenge. This is because Toury (1995:15) sees DTS as the study of what translation "DOES involve, under various sets of circumstances, along with the REASONS for that involvement".

4.2 Handling the Grammatical Meaning of ST Abbreviations

Handling the grammatical meaning of the ST Abbreviations in the TT is discussed in this section as the second challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. Kunjamma (2019:110) explains grammatical meaning as:

> […] the meaning in terms of grammar, that is the part of meaning which indicates[,] among[st] other things[,] the relations between formatives such as tense meaning, singular meaning and consists of word classes such as nouns and inflected paradigms such as plurality.

In other words, grammatical meaning refers to the type of meaning that can be expressed by grammatical signals, such as, plural forms, tense and agreement, just to mention a few. By handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations, the researcher suggests that the translations of the ST abbreviations in the TT should accommodate not only their contextual meaning, but also their grammatical meanings. However, the following excerpts, illustrated in Table 4.2 below, exemplify instances where the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations is neglected in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document.

Table 4. 2: The Negligence of the Grammatical Meaning of the ST Abbreviations in the TT

No.	Source Text	Page No.	Target Text	Page No.
45.	Recognising concerns about the legal nature of **INDCs**,…	1	*Ho etsoe hloko lingongoreho ka taba ea boemo ba molao oa* **INDC***,…*	I
46.	Rationale and Process for Developing **INDCs** on Adaptation.	4	*Mabaka le methati ea ho kenyelletsa boikamahanyo tokomaneng ea* **INDC***.*	2
47.	The apparent national adaptation goal(s) towards 2030 embraces all tenets of the **MDGs**…	5	*Litebello tsa naha tsa hajoale tsa boikamahanyo ho habiloe 2030 li kenyeletsa maikutlo 'ohle a* **MDG***…*	3

Table 4.2 provides instances where the grammatical meaning of the abbreviations in the English *INDC* document is neglected in the Sesotho version. As suggested earlier, a grammatical meaning is a type of meaning that can be expressed by, amongst other things, grammatical signals, such as, plural

forms, tense and agreement. The ST abbreviations, in excerpts (45) to (47) above, are in their plural forms. The plural forms consist of the upper case letters of the abbreviations and the small /s/ added at the end of each abbreviation.

The fact that the abbreviations illustrated above seem to have a syntactic function to perform in the original version based on the grammatical rules of English, the translator was supposed to have paid attention to such syntactic functions, which, in this case, is pluralising the abbreviations. However, the TT, in excerpts (45) to (47) above, suggests that the translator had difficulties in expressing the grammatical meaning of the plural ST abbreviations in the TT; as a result, the Sesotho translations deviate from the grammatical meaning expressed by the ST abbreviations. Another possible point could be that the translator did not pay enough attention to the grammatical meaning of the abbreviations in question. For example, the English abbreviation 'INDCs' used in excerpts (45) and (46), in the source text column, is in the plural form as it stands for the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. In both instances, the Sesotho translations do not seem to take care of the plurality expressed by the small /-s/ attached at the end of the abbreviations in question.

A similar observation is made in relation to excerpt (47), where the plurality indicated by the small /-s/ suffixed to the ST abbreviation 'MDGs' (which stands for Millennium Development Goals), is neglected in the translation. In other words, while the English abbreviations indicate that the entities referred to are more than one, the borrowed abbreviations in the TT refer to only one entity. Dweik and Othman (2017:89) argue that the failure to render the grammatical meaning accurately usually occurs when the translators adopt the rules and structure of the source language. In the context of this study, the translator adopted the ST abbreviations in the TT and omitted the ST rules of

plurality without introducing the TT grammatical rules, which could have resulted into nuclear loan-blend of abbreviations, such as, *'li-INDC'* and *'li-MDG'*. Nuclear loan-blends refer to the importation of a morpheme from the source language combined with the morpheme from the target language (Petzell, 2005:88). In the case of this study, that would, therefore, mean the adoption of the ST abbreviations merged with the plural prefixes from the borrowing language, which in this context, is Sesotho. Based on the arguments raised in the DTS, the researcher observed that the translation of abbreviations from English into Sesotho involves the challenge of handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations in addition to the lack of TL equivalent abbreviations.

4.3 Omission of the ST Abbreviation

The third challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document is the omission of the ST abbreviation in the TT. The omission has to do with the deletion of certain ST elements in a given translation. According to Røvik (2016:297), omission in the translation process means "toning down or subtraction of certain aspects of a desired source version in the recipient version". In this study, the researcher focuses on the translation instances where the translator seems to have omitted some ST abbreviations in their Sesotho translation. Excerpts (48) to (51) in Table 4.3 below, are examples of such instances where the translator has deleted the ST abbreviations in the TT.

Table 4. 3: Instances Where the ST Abbreviations are Deleted in the TT

No.	Source text	Page No.	Target text	Page No.
48.	The energy sector will require an additional investment of about **USD**	11	*Lefapha la matla le tla hloka letsete la tlatsetso le hakanyetsoang ho limilone tse 15 ka 2020 le tse 20 ka 2030.*	12

	15 million in 2020 and USD 20 million in 2030.			
49.	However, in the emission of the **SNC**, emissions from forestry and other land uses, as well as in industrial processes have not been analysed.	15	*Leha ho le joalo, tlhahiso ho tsoa merung le libakeng tse ling tsa tšebeliso ea mobu esita le tšebetso mesebetsing e meholo ha li a ka tsa manolloa ka hobane li na le seabo se fokolang kakaretsong ea tlhahiso ea khase e silafatsang leholimo.*	18
50.	…LMS is the focal point in the planning and co-ordination of activities for Lesotho's commitments under **UNFCCC.**	15	*...LMS ke mohokahanyi oa Lesotho le linaha tsa machaba a kopaneng tse loantšang pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo.*	19
51.	The committee serves as the body of the **LMS.**	15	*NCCC e boetse ke sethala seo litho li arolelanang litaba tsa pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo ka hare ho naha.*	

Excerpts (48) to (51) in Table 4.3 above, provide illustrations of instances where the translator has deleted the ST abbreviations in the TT. While the scholars such as Al-Shehab (2013) and Xiaoli (2019) have dealt with omission as one of the types of translation errors, Abdullatief (2020) perceives omission as both a translation problem and a strategy, which corresponds with deletion and simply means that the professional translators delete some parts of the source texts. Xiaoli (2019:191) shows that omission is a translation error when its application leads to the TT failing to fulfil the translation faithfulness, for instance, by not conveying the whole message of the source text. Abdullatief (2020:18-19), on the other hand, sees it as a strategy when it is employed in translation to adjust – linguistically, pragmatically, culturally or ideologically – the translated text for the target readers. In addition, omission as a strategy may be useful for the translators to avoid lengthily explanations. The translator omits a word or an expression that carries the meaning, which is not essential for comprehension of the target text (Yovita, Agus, Metta and Thennoza,

2020:31). Abdullatief (2020:17) explains that most of the time, people believe that it is essential to express themselves in a brief and clearer way, and therefore, opt for omission to avoid redundancy so that they can be concise. This, suggests that when omission is used as a strategy, a translator attempts to be precise by covering a lot of information in their translation without engaging excessive details.

However, in the context of this chapter, the omission of abbreviations is treated as a challenge and labelled the situation where the translation does not cover the meaning of the abbreviated forms in the TT. Omission can be said to be a problem if the omitted sections of the ST in the TT can hamper the target reader's comprehension of the translated text. In such cases, that would mean that the translator had a challenge to maintain the accuracy of the ST abbreviation transference into the TT. Additionally, the omission of the ST abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document might have occurred as a translator's failure to integrate the abbreviations in question and/or their meanings into the translator's Sesotho version. For instance, in excerpt (48), the meaning of the ST abbreviation 'USD', which stands for 'United States Dollar', has been deleted in the TT.

Similarly, in excerpt (49), (50) and (51) above, the meanings of the ST abbreviations 'SNC', 'UNFCCC' and 'LMS', which stand for 'Second National Communication', 'United National Framework Convention on Climate Change' and 'Lesotho Meteorological Services', respectively, have also been omitted in the TT. Generally, the omissions of the ST abbreviations in question may have a negative impact on the message communicated by the TT. For example, failure to render the meaning of the ST abbreviation 'USD', in excerpt (48), has affected the message of the TT as the reader is not told as to how much exactly does the Energy Sector need as an additional investment.

This is because in the context of Lesotho, USD15 million to USD20 million would mean different figures of Maloti. However, the reader is not told if the amount is in US dollars or Maloti. This, therefore, suggests that some parts of the target text in which the translator has adopted the use of omission, are likely to share some insufficient information or mislead the readers, especially in the cases where the TT readers are not even aware that some ST abbreviations have been deleted in the TT. This observation concurs with Lotz and Van Rensburg's (2016:78) argument that omission in translation is a high-risk practice as some uninformed target readers may not even be aware of some missing information in the TT. This is also supported by Salam, Akil and Rahman (2017:200) when they explain that the intention of the ST may not be completely transferred by the TT when the idea or some ideas have been excluded in the TT. In other words, the TT may fail to convey the intended message of the ST because sometimes the omitted parts may be crucial to the meaning and intention of the ST. In other words, in all the instances where the ST abbreviation has been deleted in the TT that has degenerated into under-translation.

Still based on the DTS, this section, therefore, argues that the translation of abbreviations tended to involve some omissions of the meaning of the ST abbreviations in the TT due to the translator's failure to integrate the abbreviations in question and/or their meanings into the Sesotho version. The researcher further argues that the lack of clear and fixed guidelines of translating abbreviations from one language into another may be perceived as the challenge in translation.

4.4 Maintaining Consistency in the Translations of ST Abbreviations

This section discusses maintaining consistency in the translations of ST abbreviations in the TT as the fourth challenge that abbreviations seem to have

posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. In translation, the term 'consistency' suggests that a lexical unit should be rendered the same way each time it appears in a text. Failure to do so often results in some inconsistencies in the translation of the same lexical unit. Yaseen (2013:xii) defines 'inconsistency' as "the lack of consistency in the selection of terms or assigning different translations to the same SL terms throughout a text or across relevant texts". In other words, inconsistency in translation refers to the giving of alternating translations of the same item expressed in a given term in the source text.

In the case of this study, failure to maintain consistency in the translation of ST abbreviations denotes the translator's choice to provide variant translations of the ST abbreviations in the TT. Excerpts (52) to (61) in Table 4.4 below, illustrate some instances where the translator has failed to keep the same translations in the TT for some abbreviations used in the English *INDC* document.

Table 4. 4: Instances Exemplifying the Inconsistency in the Translation of ST Abbreviations

No.	Source Text	Page No.	Target Text	Page No.
52.	The first of these was the **Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)**…	4	*E itlhommeng ka pele-pele ho tsena tse ling ke **leoa la phokotso ea bofuma (PRS)***…	2
53.	…the key poverty targets of the **PRS** while seeking to, hence forth consolidate all development goals…	4	*…lintlha tse ka sehloohong tse ka fihlelloang mabapi le **phokotso ea bofuma** ebile e ntse e leka ho hokella 'moho litebello tsohle tsa ntlafatso*…	2
54.	In the 1997/98, **GCM** simulations of future (2030,2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios…	5	*Ka 1997/98, **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030, 2050 le 2075) ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo...*	3

55.	…climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six **GCMs**.	5	*...ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka **lisebelisoa** tse tšeletseng **tsa chebelo-pele**.*	3
56.	Lesotho is committed to reduce unconditionally 10% of its GHG emissions by 2030 compared to a **Business-as-usual (BAU)** scenario.	13	*Lesotho le ikemiselitse ho fokotsa kantle ho lipehelo 25% ea tlhahiso ea lona ea likhase tsa GHG ka 2030 papisong le **boemo ba Tšebetso kamoo ho tloaelehileng ka teng (BAU)**.*	16
57.	In the period 2015-2030, additional investments (relative to **BAU** scenario)…	13	*Nakong e pakeng tsa 2015 ho ea ho 2030, matsete a tlatsetso (papisong le **boemo bo tloaelehileng**)…*	16
58.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	10	***Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola…*	11
59	Nitrous Oxide emissions are the largest **GHG**…	10	*Khase e bitsoang Nitrous Oxide ke e ngata haholo **likhaseng tse silafatsang leholimo (GHG)**…*	11
60.	…29% to energy emissions and 8.99% of the total **GHG** emissions.	12	*...29% kakaretso ea likhase tse tsoang tšebelisong ea matla le 8.88% kakaretso ea **likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea leholimo (GHG)**.*	14
61.	Though Lesotho's **GHG** emissions represent only 0.005% of global emissions and net per capita emissions inclusive …	16	*Lehoja tlhahiso ea Lesotho ea **likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo (GHG)** e emeloa ka ho tlatsetsa feela ka 0.005% lefatšeng ka kakaretso…*	20

Excerpts (52) to (61) in Table 4.4 above, are examples of some inconsistencies that exist in Sesotho translations of some abbreviations used in the English version of the *INDC* document. This suggests that there is lack of consistency in some Sesotho translations, which are produced to render the meaning of some ST abbreviations in the TT. This is due to assigning different translations to some ST abbreviations in the TT. In other words, such excerpts provide examples of instances where a translator failed to maintain consistency in the translations of some ST abbreviations in the TT.

In the Source Text Column, the excerpts in Table 4.4 have used abbreviations on their own, with excerpts (52) and (56) being exceptions in that they have provided both the full names and the abbreviations at the same time. Due to the lack of corresponding target language abbreviations for the ones used in the ST, the TT, on the other hand, has employed descriptive translation as a strategy to render the ST abbreviations. In the process of creating such descriptive translations, there seem to be some inconsistencies in the translations of some ST abbreviations in the TT. In other words, the Sesotho *INDC* document seems to have assigned different translations to one and the same ST abbreviation throughout the document. For instance, in excerpt (52), in Table 4.4 above, the translator provided the translation *'leoa la phokotso ea bofuma (PRS)'* for 'Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)'. This suggests that when the ST abbreviation 'PRS' is used in the text on its own the translator would employ either a borrowed abbreviation 'PRS' or a descriptive translation *'leoa la phokotso ea bofuma'*. However, that is not the case in excerpt (53) as the translator has descriptively translated the ST abbreviation 'PRS' as *'phokotso ea bofuma'*, which means 'Poverty Reduction' rather than 'Poverty Reduction Strategy'.

In excerpts (54) and (55), the ST used the abbreviation 'GCM'. The difference between excerpts (54) and (55) is that, in excerpt (54), the ST abbreviation is in its singular form while in excerpt (55) it is in its plural form. Nonetheless, the translator has provided two different descriptive translations for the ST abbreviation 'GCM(s)'. In excerpt (54), the ST abbreviation 'GCM' has been translated as *'lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele'* (forecasting scientific tools) while in excerpt (55) the same abbreviation has been translated as *'lisebelisoa tsa chebelo-pele'* (forecasting tools). Therefore, the two descriptive translations, *lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele'* (Forecasting

Scientific tools) and *'lisebelisoa tsa chebelo-pele'* (Forecasting tools) are the Sesotho variant translations of the same ST abbreviation 'GCM'.

A similar case of translation inconsistency is evident in excerpts (56) and (57) where the ST abbreviation 'BAU' has two different descriptive translations. It is worth nothing that excerpt (56) introduces the ST abbreviation 'BAU' by providing the abbreviation as well as its full name 'Business-as-usual' preceding it. In excerpt (57), the same ST abbreviation is used on its own without being preceded by the full name. When the ST abbreviation 'BAU' together with its full name were first translated into Sesotho in excerpt (56), the translator provided a descriptive translation *'tšebetso kamoo ho tloaelehileng kateng'* (work as usual) together with the adopted ST abbreviation 'BAU' enclosed in brackets. In excerpts (57), however, the translator used a different translation *'boemo bo tloaelehileng'* (usual situation) to render the meaning of the same ST abbreviation 'BAU'.

Another instance of translation inconsistency that is evident in the Sesotho version of the INDC document is in relation to the ST abbreviation 'GHG'. In excerpts (58) to (61), the translator assigned different Sesotho translations to the ST abbreviation 'GHG'. For instance, in excerpts (58), (59), (60) and (61), the translator used different translation such as *'likhase tse silafatsang moea'* (air polluting gases), *'likhase tse silafatsang leholimo'* (atmosphere polluting gases), *'likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea leholimo'* (gases causing climate changes)*, and *'likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo'* (gases bringing changes in weather conditions), respectively, when rendering the meaning of the ST abbreviation 'GHG'.

As indicated earlier, the ST abbreviations translated in Table 4.4 have been translated using either descriptive translation or descriptive translation plus

adoption of the ST abbreviation in the TT. Therefore, the inconsistency that is evident in this Table might have stemmed from the need to shorten some of the descriptive translations produced or to clarify the information already provided in the descriptive translations. This suggests that the shortening of the descriptive translations will make them brief by omitting some pieces of information while clarifying the information that is already provided in the descriptive translations will make them long by adding extra information.

In some instances, inconsistency is due to the translator's use of words with a related semantic content, such as, talking about *'leholimo'* (atmosphere) and *'maemo a leholimo'* (weather conditions) where the latter is the condition of the former over a certain period of time. Saraireh (2001:18) argues that the use of synonymous words in the TT may result into ambiguity and inconsistency between the concept and signifier correspondence, and the TT may raise confusion, which is cleared in the ST. Carpuat and Simard (2012:448-449) add that "[t]ranslation inconsistency in human translation projects the problems of lack of terminology in translation and may be used to detect the words and phrases that are hard to translate for a given system". They further indicate that inconsistently translated terms contribute to translation errors much more than consistent ones. This means that when trying to find the appropriate or equivalent term in the TL, a translator may end up producing different translations for the same word or concept, which lead to the problem of inconsistency. This is because in trying to find the adequate term, a translator may decide to use different synonymous TL terms even though this variation of terms may pose more errors rather than when only one translation is used throughout the TT. This, therefore, suggests that the target readers may end up confused and sometimes fail to get the meaning of some concepts when the translator keeps using different TL terms to refer to a specific ST lexical item.

In this section, the researcher has illustrated that the translation of abbreviations from English into Sesotho tended to involve some inconsistencies. This section has argued that such inconsistencies may have resulted from the translator's use of different synonymous and/or semantically related TL terms in their attempt to find more adequate term. This becomes even worse when the translator does not know and/or realise the impact of such inconsistencies on their translation.

4.5 Comprehending ST Abbreviations not Spelt Out in their First-time Use

The fifth and the last challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document is the failure to comprehend and/or handle the meaning of ST abbreviations that are not spelt out in their first-time use the ST. Generally, the abbreviated lexical units are often written in full and their abbreviations are introduced in the parenthesis before such abbreviations can be used on their own. Scholars such as Mack (2013:1) suggest that what is always required of the author when using abbreviations is spelling out the abbreviations for the first time before they can appear on their own in the body of a text. This implies that abbreviations should be presented in their full version along with their contracted forms in order to enhance the reader's comprehension of them in a text. However, excerpts (62) to (66) in Table 4.5 below, illustrate some instances where the ST abbreviations are not spelt out in their first occurrence in the original text.

Table 4. 5: Instances of ST Abbreviations Not Spelled Out in their First-time Use

No.	Source Text	Page No.	Target Text	Page No.
62.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations (NGO), community-based	8	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa* **GEF-SGP** *Lesotho tse sebetsang le* NGO, CBO *le mafapha a ikemetseng…*	8

	organizations (CBO) and the private sector…			
63.	Source: **PSIP** 2012-2017	8	*Mohloli:* **PSIP** *2012-2017 Lekala la Ntšetsopele ea Sechaba*	7
64.	*…(using the **SAPP** grid emission factor of 0.92).*	11	*…(ho sebelisoa palo e hloailoeng ea mofuta oa **SAPP** oa motlakase o hoketsoeng ea 0.92).*	13
65.	Initiatives in carbon trading promoted by **SMARDT** save80 stove funded by Atmosfair and DHL…	14	*Mehato ea thekiso ea Carbon e hlahisitsoeng ke **SMARDT**, Setofo sa Save80 ka tšehetso ea Atmosfair le DHL…*	17
66.	…Energy Efficient **ISILIE** project by TED under GEF-SGP funded projects .	14	*Tšebeliso e Nepahetseng ea Matla (**ISILIE**) o filoeng lichelete ke TED ka tlas'a sekhele sa merero e thusoang ka lichelete GEF-SGP.*	17

Excerpts (62) to (66) in Table 4.5 above, illustrate some instances where some ST abbreviations are not spelt out on their first-time use in the original text. The argument, which this section raises is that the translator may have failed to employ any other target-oriented translation strategies, such as, a descriptive translation and/or a descriptive translation plus the adoptive, due to the failure to comprehend the meanings of the ST abbreviations that were not spelled out on their first-time occurrence in the ST. Scholars, such as, Lang (2019) and Ulitkin, Filipova, Ivanova, and Babaev (2020) have a common understanding that contracted lexical items "[…] should be spelt out on their first occurrence and only then be followed by the abbreviation in parentheses" Ulitkin *et al.* (2020:5). Lang (2019:12) clarifies that abbreviations, which are uncommon and those that are common, should be defined upon their first-time use in a text because some abbreviations are ambiguous.

The excerpts from (62) to (66) in Table 4.5 above, have the ST abbreviations, such as, 'GEF-SGP', 'PSIP', 'SAPP', 'SMARDT' and 'ISILIE', respectively,

which are not spelt out on their first-time use in the original text. The ST abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' in excerpt (62) above, is a compound abbreviation formed from the 'GEF' (Global Environment Facility) and 'SGP' (Small Grants Programme). This compound ST abbreviation 'GEF-SGP', therefore, stands for 'Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme'. In excerpt (63), the ST abbreviation 'PSIP' stands for 'Public Sector Investment Program'. In the original text, this programme name seems to have been used on its own prior to the occurrence of its abbreviated form. This means that it was used without its abbreviation being enclosed in brackets as a way of introducing the abbreviation in question before it can be used on its own. Another ST abbreviation is 'SAPP' (Southern African Power Pool), which is used in the source text without being spelt out in full at its first-time occurrence. Similarly, in excerpts (65) and (66), the abbreviations 'SMARDT' and 'ISILIE' are used without being spelt out in full. According to Drave *et al.* (2018:2) "[t]he abbreviation 'SMARDT' is related to the German term *'Spezifikations-Methode für Anforderung, Design und Test'* (specifications method for requirements design and test)". On the other hand, 'ISILIE' stands for 'Improved Stoves Improved Livelihoods Improved Environment'.

Based on the DTS, a translation can be described in terms of both norms and/or constraints (Al Agha, 2006:30). Hermans (1985:15) adds that the DTS describes translation by attempting to find grounds that "[…] can explain why there is what there is" in a translated text. Therefore, drawing from the theoretical principles and the descriptive nature of the DTS, the researcher argues that when all the necessary information is not spelled out before using the abbreviations on their own, it is difficult for the translator to explore other means of translating the ST abbreviations other than adopting the concerned ST abbreviations in the TT, as it is the case in excerpts (62) to (66). The translator took the ST abbreviations as they are and used them in their Sesotho

translations. Lang (2019:12) argues that undefined abbreviations are time consuming and sometimes the search in finding their meanings may not be successful.

4.6 Conclusion

The main aim of this chapter was to examine the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. From the data that was extracted from the English and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document, this chapter identified five challenges, namely, lack of equivalent abbreviations, handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations, omission of the ST abbreviation, maintaining consistency in the translation of ST abbreviations and comprehending the meaning of the ST abbreviations that were not spelt out in their first-time use.

The data analysed in this chapter revealed lack of equivalent abbreviations as one of the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. This chapter attempted to illustrate how the LMS translator was confronted by the lack of corresponding target language abbreviations for the ones used in the original version of the *INDC* document. For instance, in excerpts (41) and (42), the translator adopted the ST abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' and '2MW', respectively, in their Sesotho translation when they were faced with the lack of the TL equivalent abbreviations. The researcher argued in this chapter that lack of the TL abbreviations is due to the fact that the use of abbreviations is at the present moment more popular in certain languages than the others. One of the observations that this chapter made is that, Sesotho does not seem to create and use more abbreviations in various communication settings as English does.

Another challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document has to do with handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations. As it was explained in the discussion, the grammatical meaning is a type of meaning that can be expressed by grammatical signals, such as, plural forms, tense and agreement. This chapter has illustrated some instances where the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations were neglected in the Sesotho version. Excerpts (45) to (47) illustrated in Table 4.2 show that the translator had some difficulties in expressing the grammatical meanings of the plural ST abbreviations in the TT, and/or they simply did not pay attention to such a grammatical meaning. For instance, in excerpt (47), where the plurality indicated by the small /-s/ is suffixed to the abbreviation, 'MDGs', which stands for 'Millennium Development Goals', is neglected in the translation '…*li kenyelletsa maikutlo 'ohle a MDG…*' for '… embraces all tenets of MDGs…'.

This chapter also identified omission of the ST abbreviation as another challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. While other scholars have dealt with omission as 'a strategy' (Shirinzadeh and Mahadi 2014) and/or 'an error' (Xiaoli, 2019) in translation, this chapter analysed it as 'a challenge'. This chapter has argued that omission can be said to be a translation problem if the deleted part of the ST in the TT can hamper the target reader's understanding of the translated text. The researcher further pointed out that the omission of the ST abbreviation in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document might have occurred as a translator's failure to integrate the ST abbreviations and/or their meanings in the Sesotho version. For example, in excerpt (48), the meaning of the abbreviation 'USD', which stands for 'United States Dollar', has been omitted in the Sesotho version of the INDC document. This means that in the Sesotho translation *'…limilone tse 15 ka 2020 le tse 20 ka 2030'* (15 million in

2020 and 20 million in 2030) the meaning of the ST abbreviation 'USD' is missing.

Apart from that, this chapter further identified maintaining consistency in the translation of the ST abbreviations as one of the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. This chapter revealed that due to the lack of corresponding TL abbreviations for the ones used in the ST, the translator ended up using descriptive translation strategy to render the ST abbreviations. However, in the process of creating such descriptive translations, there seems to be some inconsistencies that occurred in the translations of some ST abbreviations in the TT. This means that the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document seems to have assigned different translations for one and the same ST abbreviations throughout the document. The researcher argued that such inconsistencies might have resulted from the translator's use of synonymous and/or semantically related TL terms in their attempt to find the more adequate term. Additionally, this chapter has further noted that this becomes even worse when the translator does not know and/or realise the impact of such inconsistencies their translation.

Finally, this chapter identified comprehending ST abbreviations not spelt out in their first-time use as the last challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. This chapter illustrated instances where some ST abbreviations seem to have not been spelled out on their first-time occurrence in the original text. Scholars such as Lang (2019) and Ulitkin *et al.* (2020) share the same opinion that contracted lexical items "[…] should be spelled out on their first-time use and only then be followed by abbreviations in parentheses" (Ulitkin *et al.,* 2020:5). However, this was not the case in the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC*

document as abbreviations such as 'SAPP' (Southern African Power Pool) in excerpt (64) are used in the source text without being spelt out in full on their first-time occurrence. To translate such ST abbreviations in the TL, the translator just adopted the ST abbreviation concerned in the TT. Therefore, drawing from the theoretical principles of the DTS, the researcher argued that when all the necessary information is not spelt out before using the abbreviations on their own, it is not easy for the translator to explore other means of translating the ST abbreviations other than adopting the concerned ST abbreviations in the TT, as it is the case in excerpts (62) to (66). The translator took the ST abbreviations and used them in his or her Sesotho translations without any attempt of modifying them.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This final chapter consists of the summary of the findings made in the previous chapters of this study. The chapter draws the study's overall conclusions and further records its recommendations.

5.1 Summary of the Study

This study attempted to identify and analyse the various linguistic units that have been contracted by means of abbreviations in the English version of the *INDC* document. The study further analysed the strategies that have been used to translate into Sesotho abbreviations employed in the English version of the document under study. The final stage of the analysis of this study focused on examining different challenges that abbreviations seemed to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document.

Chapter one is the introductory chapter of this study. This chapter focused on the background, the statement of the problem, the research questions, the hypothesis, the aim, the significance and the scope of the study. The chapter also reviewed the related literature, identified theoretical and methodological principles needed to guide the data collection and analysis processes of this study and finally, it presented how this study is organised.

The purpose of this chapter was to identify different linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. In attempt to fulfil the goal of this chapter, the researcher identified seven linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the

document under study, namely, programme names, project names, classification of organisations, names of departments or divisions, names of institutions and centres, names of gases and units of measurements.

This chapter identified programme names as the first lexical items that have been abbreviated in the English *INDC* document. The researcher argued that the abbreviations analysed under programme names can be divided into acronyms and initialism (alphabetism). For instance, the abbreviation 'NAPA', which is formed from 'National Adaptation Programme of Action', is an acronym because it can be pronounced just like regular words. On the other hand, the abbreviation, 'GEF-SGP' can only be pronounced letter by letter, not as a word; hence, it is classified as an example of initialism.

The data presented and analysed in this chapter revealed that there are projects whose names were also abbreviated. All the abbreviations analysed under project names were regarded as examples of initialisms. For example, such abbreviations are 'LHDP', 'CDM', 'EEP' and 'SHP', all of which cannot be pronounced as words.

Another example of lexical items that have been abbreviated, and which this chapter analysed is classification of organisations. Kwiatek (2021:551) discovered that names of well-known organisations and companies are commonly abbreviated as a set of initials written with the capital letters but without full stops in both Polish and English. Focusing merely on the abbreviated forms of the classification of organisations other than their names, this chapter revealed that even the abbreviations analysed in this section are initialisms. The abbreviations in question are in their plural form as they are capitalised, but they have a small /-s/ suffixed to indicate plurality. For

example, the small /-s/ at the end of the abbreviations 'NGOs' and 'CBOs' shows that they are in their plural form.

Names of departments or divisions make another example of the lexical items that have been abbreviated in the document under study. The departments or divisions were defined in this chapter as sectors that form part of the programme that is held responsible for specific issues. The researcher has observed that generally, the formation of abbreviations seems to exclude the initials for short function words like articles and prepositions, amongst the others. However, the researcher's argument is that even though the initials of the short function words are usually not used when abbreviating linguistic units, there may be some linguistic situations that may trigger their inclusion in some abbreviations.

The data analysed in this chapter further revealed that the names of institutions and centres are additional linguistic units that have been abbreviated in the original version of the *INDC* document. The abbreviations of the names of the institutions and centres that this section discussed are also part of initialisms as they can only be pronounced letter by letter. For example, the abbreviation, 'USTB' formed from 'The University of Science and Technology Beijing', can be pronounced as /U-S-T-B/ (letter by letter).

Another batch of lexical items that have been abbreviated in the English version of the *INDC* document under study is the units of measurement. This chapter argued that various units are used to measure different physical properties of objects, such as, length, distance, weight and temperature, just to mention a few. The chapter indicated that, in communication, measurement units are often used in their contracted forms, and when they are used, the results of measuring the physical properties of an object are indicated by a number that

is followed immediately by a relevant unit. For example, in excerpt (16) in the column labelled 'Source Text', a numerical measure of '2' is given where the source text author said: "Rehabilitation of 2MW Mantšonyane hydropower plant", to indicate the results of the measurement of energy capacity of the hydropower plant referred to.

The last batch of lexical items that have been contracted by using abbreviations is the names of gases. The chapter argues that usually, the names of gases are created from single-word or multi-word phrases, which are often abbreviated in communication. For example, the lexical item '**G**reen**h**ouse **G**ases' is a multi-word name, and it has been abbreviated into 'GHG'.

Drawing from the functional-relational concept of the DTS theory, this chapter argued that abbreviations are part of the linguistic resources of language. Since they are short forms of the original words and/or phrases, they have a relationship with the lexical items that they stand for. Furthermore, the researcher argued that abbreviations are able to name projects just as the linguistic units discussed in this section. Zerkina, Kostina and Pitina (2015:139) maintain that "an abbreviation unit has its ability to name…" This is often evident in communication where abbreviations are able to take the place of the original and full multi-word names. For example, the abbreviation 'CDM' has a correlation with the full multi-word name '**C**lean **D**evelopment **M**echanism', and as a result, it is able to replace it in text. This means that the process of abbreviating the names or lexical units analysed in this chapter became possible because abbreviations have the ability to name as Zerkina *et al*. (2015:139) further explain that "an abbreviation, being a symbol, names an object having categorical properties of a formed concept." This chapter, therefore, maintains that the abbreviations discussed in this chapter are equivalent to their full multi-word names that they can also replace in a text.

This chapter was set to explore the strategies that have been used to translate abbreviations from English into Sesotho in the *INDC* document. The chapter discovered various strategies that were employed in the *INDC* document to translate English abbreviations into Sesotho and employed the General and Axiomatic Translation principle to guide its categorisation of the strategies used for translating abbreviations. Therefore, the categorisation that this chapter came up with is as follows: borrowing a ST abbreviation in the TT, omission of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviations and explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation.

Based on the Descriptive Translation Studies (DTS) theory, whose goal is to "[…] identify how people actually do translate, no matter the supposed quality" (Pym, 2010:3), this chapter analysed the identified strategies that were used in the translation of the abbreviations in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document. The analysis explained what those strategies are and highlighted their strengths and weaknesses in expressing the meaning of abbreviations from one language into another. To achieve this, the chapter used data extracted from both the English and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document.

The data presented and analysed in this chapter revealed that the Lesotho Meteorological services translator employed borrowing of the ST abbreviations in the TT when working on the translation of the *INDC* document. In the light of the DTS theory, the chapter argued that such borrowing was used to address the lack of corresponding Sesotho abbreviations that the translator was faced with for the abbreviations that were used in the English *INDC* document. For example, it was illustrated in the discussion that the translator borrowed the ST abbreviation 'NSDP' (National Strategic Development Plan) as it is in the Sesotho *INDC* document. Furthermore, the

researcher's assumption was that, using other strategies might have seemed impossible to the translator. Apart from that, even though borrowing seemed to be the quickest way to deal with the zero-equivalence in translation, Kuitert (2013:7) warns that it may threaten the existence of the TL in some communicative contexts.

The data analysed in this chapter revealed that the LMS translator also used omission of the ST abbreviations in the TT. The discussion showed that the translator decided to delete ST abbreviations in the TT where the ST author has introduced the ST abbreviations by spelling them out before s/he could use them independently in the text. For example, where the English abbreviation 'GHG' has been preceded by its full form 'Greenhouse gas', the translator focused his or her translation only on the full form producing translation such as '*ea likhase tse silafatsang leholimo*' and decided to delete the abbreviation. Scholars such as Alrumayh (2020: 9) argue that omission in the TT eliminates repetition of the insignificant information. In light of that, the researcher explained that the deletion of the ST abbreviations as illustrated in Table 4.1, above, has no semantic impact on the message expressed by the TT because the meaning of the abbreviations in question has been retained in the translation of their full names. The researcher further argued that based on the Toury's DTS theory, the translator has freedom to choose on how best s/he can communicate with the target readership.

This chapter has further shown that other ST abbreviations were translated into Sesotho using a descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations. This means that the ST abbreviations were translated into Sesotho employing brief explanations and/or full names (titles) of what such abbreviations stand for. For example, when the translator was confronted by the lack of TL equivalent abbreviations for the ST abbreviation, 'NGOs', s/he employed the descriptive translation

'mekhatlo e ikemetseng' in the TT and that was found to be in harmony with the General and Axiomatic Principle of abbreviations Translation. In line with the DTS theory, the researcher argued that the descriptive translation enabled the translator to situate his or her translation of abbreviations within the culture of the TL and that such a translation communicates the message or the meaning expressed in the ST without violating the culture and rules that govern the use of the TL.

Closely related to descriptive translation was the use of descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation in the TT. The researcher indicated that the translator's use of descriptive translation plus borrowing is an indication of some of the strategic decisions that a translator had to take in the process of translating the abbreviations from English into Sesotho. The researcher argued that, the use of this strategy was both product-oriented and source-oriented as it retained some relationship with the ST by borrowing its abbreviations, and also ensured that the target readers understand the TT by employing the descriptive translation.

Finally, this chapter analysed data that revealed that the Lesotho Meteorological Services translator translated the ST abbreviations into Sesotho by employing explicitation of the borrowed abbreviation. This means that the translator, in their Sesotho translation, added some explanatory information about the borrowed abbreviations from the original version of the *INDC* document. Scholars such as Vesterager (2017:106) argue that explicitation can evoke difficulty in understanding the TT, especially when the translator has added an inaccurate explanatory remarks. However, the researcher maintained that the translator's explicitation of the borrowed abbreviations that this chapter analysed can enhance the target reader's understanding of such abbreviations in the TT rather than evoking some difficulties in understanding the TT.

The main aim of this chapter was to examine the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. From the data that was extracted from the English and Sesotho versions of the *INDC* document, this chapter identified five challenges, namely, lack of equivalent abbreviations, handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations, omission of the ST abbreviation, maintaining consistency in the translation of ST abbreviations and comprehending the meaning of the ST abbreviations that were not spelt out in their first-time use.

The data analysed in this chapter revealed lack of equivalent abbreviations as one of the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. This chapter attempted to illustrate how the LMS translator was confronted by the lack of corresponding target language abbreviations for the ones used in the original version of the *INDC* document. For instance, in excerpts (41) and (42), the translator adopted the ST abbreviation 'GEF-SGP' and '2MW', respectively, in their Sesotho translation when they were faced with the lack of the TL equivalent abbreviations. The researcher argued in this chapter that lack of the TL abbreviations is due to the fact that the use of abbreviations is at the present moment more popular in certain languages than the others. One of the observations that this chapter made is that, Sesotho does not seem to create and use more abbreviations in various communication settings as English does.

Another challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document has to do with handling the grammatical meaning of the ST abbreviations. As it was explained in the discussion, the grammatical meaning is a type of meaning that can be expressed by grammatical signals, such as, plural forms, tense and agreement. This chapter has illustrated some instances where the grammatical meaning of the

ST abbreviations were neglected in the Sesotho version. Excerpts (45) to (47) illustrated in Table 4.2 show that the translator had some difficulties in expressing the grammatical meanings of the plural ST abbreviations in the TT, and/or they simply did not pay attention to such a grammatical meaning. For instance, in excerpt (47), where the plurality indicated by the small /-s/ is suffixed to the abbreviation, 'MDGs', which stands for 'Millennium Development Goals', is neglected in the translation '…*li kenyelletsa maikutlo 'ohle a MDG…*' for '… embraces all tenets of MGGs…'.

This chapter also identified omission of the ST abbreviation as another challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. While other scholars have dealt with omission as 'a strategy' (Shirinzadeh and Mahadi 2014) and/or 'an error' (Xiaoli, 2019) in translation, this chapter analysed it as 'a challenge'. This chapter has argued that omission can be said to be a translation problem if the deleted part of the ST in the TT can hamper the target reader's understanding of the translated text. The researcher further pointed out that the omission of the ST abbreviation in the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document might have occurred as a translator's failure to integrate the ST abbreviations and/or their meanings in the Sesotho version. For example, in excerpt (48), the meaning of the abbreviation 'USD', which stands for 'United States Dollar', has been omitted in the Sesotho version of the INDC document. This means that in the Sesotho translation '*…limilone tse 15 ka 2020 le tse 20 ka 2030*' (15 million in 2020 and 20 million in 2030) the meaning of the ST abbreviation 'USD' is missing.

Apart from that, this chapter further identified maintaining consistency in the translation of the ST abbreviations as one of the challenges that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC*

document. This chapter revealed that due to the lack of corresponding TL abbreviations for the ones used in the ST, the translator ended up using descriptive translation strategy to render the ST abbreviations. However, in the process of creating such descriptive translations, there seems to be some inconsistencies that occurred in the translations of some ST abbreviations in the TT. This means that the Sesotho version of the *INDC* document seems to have assigned different translations for one and the same ST abbreviations throughout the document. The researcher argued that such inconsistencies might have resulted from the translator's use of synonymous and/or semantically related TL terms in their attempt to find the more adequate term. Additionally, this chapter has further noted that this becomes even worse when the translator does not know and/or realise the impact of such inconsistencies their translation.

Finally, this chapter identified comprehending ST abbreviations not spelt out in their first-time use as the last challenge that abbreviations seem to have posed during the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document. This chapter illustrated instances where some ST abbreviations seem to have not been spelled out on their first-time occurrence in the original text. Scholars such as Lang (2019) and Ulitkin *et al.* (2020) share the same opinion that contracted lexical items "[…] should be spelled out on their first-time use and only then be followed by abbreviations in parentheses" (Ulitkin *et al.,* 2020:5). However, this was not the case in the English-Sesotho translation of the *INDC* document as abbreviations such as 'SAPP' (Southern African Power Pool) in excerpt (39) are used in the source text without being spelt out in full on their first-time occurrence. To translate such ST abbreviations in the TL, the translator just adopted the ST abbreviation concerned in the TT. Therefore, drawing from the theoretical principles of the DTS, the researcher argued that when all the necessary information is not spelt out before using the

abbreviations on their own, it is not easy for the translator to explore other means of translating the ST abbreviations other than adopting the concerned ST abbreviations in the TT, as it is the case in excerpts (62) to (66). The translator took the ST abbreviations and used them in his or her Sesotho translations without any attempt of modifying them.

5.2 Contributions to the Study

By highlighting some of the strategies of abbreviation translation and the challenges encountered in the process of translating abbreviations, this study has raised awareness of the dynamics of translating abbreviations. The study also seems to have contributed to the conceptual and theoretical body of knowledge in the field of translation in relation to the understanding of the abbreviation translation strategies and challenges of translating abbreviations. Finally, the study also equips translators with the knowledge that they should have in relation to the nature and use of the specific strategies of translating abbreviations.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

This study is a case study that focuses merely on the Sesotho abbreviation translations used in the *Lesotho's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)* document. This, therefore, suggests that the findings and the conclusions of this study may not be valid to other contexts. This also means that the study focusing on other translator's works may yield results that may challenge the findings of the present study.

Nonetheless, the research methodology adopted in this study enabled the researcher to design data collection and analysis procedures that led to the effective processing of relevant information of the document under study in order to give answers to the research questions of this study.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

For further research, this study makes two suggestions: The first has to do with the exploration of the merits and demerits of different strategies of translating abbreviations in communicating the intended meaning or message in the target language. Secondly, the examination of target users' views and attitudes towards the direct adaptation of source text abbreviations into Sesotho.

5.5 Conclusion

The study concludes that English uses a variety of abbreviations in different contexts while Sesotho seems to be dragging behind in its use of abbreviations. A s a result, the major challenge that the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) translator had to grapple with when translating abbreviations from English into Sesotho is lack of target language abbreviations. A number of English abbreviations were translated into Sesotho using borrowing of the source text (ST) abbreviations and descriptive translation of the source text abbreviations.

Another challenge is inconsistency in the translation of abbreviations, especially where the translator employed descriptive translation of the ST abbreviations. Abbreviations are usually confined to technical and scientific reference and as such their translation is in fact not an easy, straight-jacket translation process. As a matter of principle, abbreviations are not supposed to be translated because they differ from one language to another. It can be argued in this study that they should therefore preferably be left as they are because always they do not have Sesotho equivalents. Even when descriptive translations are applied, it always causes open questions as to whether they are indeed equivalent to their English source text counterparts. However, the data analysed in this study has shown that translators have found it necessary to translate them in order to communicate more effectively with the target readers

who may not be familiar with such ST abbreviations when they are used in the TT. This, therefore, suggests that there is a need to develop some clear guidelines for translating abbreviations from one language into another. A similar conclusion is made by Zandrahimi and Afzoon (2017) that inconsistency and lack of fixed rules as well as strategies were the biggest problems in rendering abbreviations and acronyms.

In relation to the use of abbreviation translation strategies, the study concludes that the LMS translator's choice of translation strategies seem to have been more target-oriented than source-oriented. The strategic use of omission of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation of the ST abbreviation, descriptive translation plus borrowing of the ST abbreviation and explicitation of the borrowed abbreviations is target-oriented. It tries to communicate the meaning and intent of the ST using more of the linguistic resources of the target language and culture. This, therefore, suggests that the target-oriented approach to translation is likely to result in translation that is easy and clear to be understood by the target readers.

The use of borrowing of the ST abbreviations in the target text implies that there are some translation contexts where producing a completely target-oriented translation would be impossible. The use of borrowing is more process-oriented as it only speeds up the translation process without communicating for the target readers. This is because the English abbreviations may make sense to the source text readers while they would appear to be awkward and senseless to the target readers who may take time trying to figure out what such ST abbreviations mean in the TT, unless they are familiar with them.

5.6 Recommendations

The study's recommendations are as indicated below:

- Translation assignments should be given to people who are qualified to perform to the best of their knowledge, the translation tasks they are entrusted to do.

- Translators should keep abreast of different means of addressing the lack of equivalent abbreviations in the target language in order to find effective ways of translating abbreviations into Sesotho. Such methods may include, among other things, coining TT abbreviations, borrowing the ST abbreviations, and using the ST abbreviations plus providing a TL explanation.

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Appendix: A List of Excerpts that are Used in the Study

The data presented below is a sample of the English abbreviated lexical units and/or their abbreviations as well as the Sesotho translations of such abbreviations. This data was collected from the *Lesotho Intended Nationally Determined Contributions* document.

NO.	SOURCE TEXT	PAGE NO.	TARGET TEXT	PAGE NO.
1.	Subsequently, a **National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)** was developed in 2007…	Page 4	*Ho feta moo Lenaneo la Phethathatso la Naha la Boikamahanyo le ileng la roaloa ka 2007...*	Page 2
2.	Source: **PSIP** 2012-2017	Page 8	*Mohloli: **PSIP** 2012-2017 Lekalala Ntšetsopele ea Sechaba.*	Page 7
3.	**Forestry Initiative for Landscape Livelihoods Improvement (FILLI)** Program	Page 7	*Lenaneo la ntlafatso ea meralo ea meru bakeng sa ntlafatso ea mobu le mokhoa oa ho iphelisa (FILLI)*	Page 6
4.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations …	Page 8	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa GEF-SGP Lesotho tse sebetsang le NGO...*	Page 8
5.	… Pumped Storage Power Plant at either Kobong or Monontša under the auspices of **LHDP** Phase II.	Page 14	*...Setsi sa Pokello ea Metsi sa boemo ba 1200MW sebakeng sa Kobong kapa sa Monontša ka tlas'a sekhele sa LHDP mokhahlelong oa bobeli.*	Page 17
6.	Landfill gas recovery and flaring **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** project.	Page 14	*Morero oa tlhahiso ea khase le mokhoa oa ntlafatso ea ho ches lithole.*	Page 17
7.	The **Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP)** funded project piloting implementation of Prefabricated Biogas Plants in Rural Areas	Page 14	*Selekane sa Matla le Tikoloho se fane ka lichelete ho morero oa (ho kenya tšebetsong) Teko (ea) Limela tse hlahisang khase tse thoko le literopo.*	Page 17
8.	Developments of **Small Hydropower (SHP)**: A potential of up to 40 MW for SHP exists in perennial rivers …	Page 14	*Ho thehoa hoa litsi tse nyenyane tsa phehlo ea motlakase (SHP): Boikhoni ba ho fihlella 40MW sebakeng sa SHP*	Page 17
9.	In addition, a number of adaptation projects are	Page 8	*Ho feta mona, merero e mengatanyana ea*	Page 8

	undertaken at household and community levels by **NGOs** and CBOs		*boikamahanyo e ntse e tsoela pele malapeng le metseng ka mekhatlo e ikemetseng (**NGOs**) le Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (CBOs)*	
10.	In addition, a number of adaptation projects are undertaken at household and community levels by NGOs and **CBOs**	Page 8	*Ho feta mona, merero e mengatanyana ea boikamahanyo e ntse e tsoela pele malapeng le metseng ka mekhatlo e ikemetseng (NGOs) le Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (**CBOs**)*	Page 8
11.	Jointly funded with 207,900.00 by the governments of Finland, Austria and by the UK's **Department for Intentional Development (DFID)**…	Page 14	*EEP eo ka kopanelo e filoeng chelete e kaalo ka li-Euro tse 207,900.00 ke mebuso ea Finland, Austria le Lefapha la **UK** la **Ntlafatso ea Machaba (DFID)**,*	Page 18
12.	**Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS)**, under the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology…	Page 15	***Lekala la tsa Bolepi Lesotho (LMS)*** *katlas'a Lekala la Matla le Bolepi…*	Page 19
13.	**The University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB)**, China, through the centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation (CSES) contributes with a broad knowledge on biogas technology…	Page 15	***Sekolo se seholo sa Thuto ea Mahlale le Tšebeliso ea Mahlale Beijing (USTB),*** *China, ka setsi sa Tlhoekiso ea Tikoloho (CSES) se tlatsetsa ka litsebo tse pharaletseng litabeng tsa manollo ea tšebeliso ea mahlale a tlhahiso ea khase…*	Page 18
14.	The University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), China, through **the centre of Sustainable Environmental Sanitation (CSES)** contributes with a broad knowledge on biogas technology…	Page 15	*Sekolo se seholo sa Thuto ea Mahlale le Tšebeliso ea Mahlale Beijing (USTB), China, ka **setsi sa Tlhoekiso ea Tikoloho (CSES) se** tlatsetsa ka litsebo tse pharaletseng litabeng tsa manollo ea ts'ebeliso ea mahlale a tlhahiso ea khase…*	Page 18
15.	…the reduction potential in a CFL programme would be about 3,700 per year based on an average saving of 50 **kWh** per bulb per year…	Page 11	*…lenaneo la CLF le ka theola sekhahla sa tšilafatso ea ka 3,700 ka selemo 'me ka kakaretso ho tla be ho*	Page 13

			bolokiloe matla a 50kWh leboneng ka leng ka selemo.	
16.	Rehabilitation of 2**MW** Mantšonyane hydropower plant.	Page 13	*Nchafatso ea 2MW ea Setsi sa Phehlo ea Motlakase Mantšonyane*	Page 16
17.	We submit that these nationally intended contributions are fair and equitable commensurate to the national circumstances especially its low **GDP** per capital…	Page 16	*Kutloisiso ke hore litlatsetso tsena tseo naha e fanang ka tsona tse reriloeng lia amoheleha ebile li amme mahlakore a naha a moru, ka ho khetholoha GDP...*	Page 20
18.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal due to its predominant dependence on hydropower with a grid emission factor is 0.0038…	Page 10	***Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola, lebaka ke hore Lesotho le tlase moruong ebile le itšetlehile haholo holim'a matla a fehloang ka metsi a etsang linoko tse 0.0038...*	Page 11
19.	Residential emissions emanate from the use of the biomass, coal, **Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)** and paraffin.	Page 10	*Likhase tsa malapeng li hlahisoa ke tšebeliso ea libeso tse kang lisu/khapane, mashala, khase e phehang ea LPG le parafine.*	Page 11
20.	**Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)** is the major contributor accounting 41%...	Page 15	*Khase ea Nitrous Oxide (N2O) ke eona e ka sehlohong tšilafatsong bonyane ka 41%...*	Page 18
21.	In addition, a number of sector specific policies were adopted pursuant to the aspirations of **NSDP**.	Page 4	*Ka holimo ho moo maano a hlakileng a mafapha a ile a ananeloa ho lateloa maikutlo a NSDP.*	Page 2
22.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations (NGO)...	Page 8	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa GEF-SGP Lesotho tse sebetsang le NGO...*	Page 8
23.	…document **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emission from agriculture.	Page 14	*...ho ngola ka mokhoa oa pokello tlhahiso **ea likhase tse silafatsang leholimo** ho tsoa lefapheng la Temo.*	Page 17
24.	Landfill gas recovery and flaring **clean development mechanism (CDM)** project.	Page 14	*Morero oa tlhahiso ea khase le mokhoa oa **ntlafatso ea ho chesa lithole.***	Page 17
25.	… which embraced the key poverty targets of the **PRS** while seeking to, henceforth consolidate all development goals	Page 4	*... o neng o kenyelletsa litlha tse ka sehloohong tse ka fihlelloang mabapi le **phokotso ea bofuma** ebile e ntse e leka ho hokella 'moho litebello tsohle tsa ntlafatso*	Page 2

26.	… GCM simulations of future (2030,2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six **GCMs**.	Page 5	*… lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM) tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2070 ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka **lisebelisoa tse tšeletseng tsa chebelo-pele.***	Page 3
27.	… **NGOs** / community based organisations currently at different implementations stages	Page 6	*...**Mekhatlo e ikemetseng**/ Mekhatlo ea Seschaba Metseng, liteko tseo hajoale li methating e fapaneng ea phethahatso.*	Page 4
28.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	Page 10	**Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola…	Page 11
29.	…**LDCs** can draw on specific strategies, plans or projects…	Page 1	*...**Linaha tse futsanehileng moruong tse tlase-tlase moruong (LDCs)** li ka iketsetsa maoala…*	Page i
30.	… **GCM** simulations of future (2030, 2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six GCMs.	Page 5	*… **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2070 ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka lisebelisoa tse tšeletseng tsa chebelo-pele.*	Page 3
31.	…the **NAPA** options remain the best…	Page 6	*...litšisinyo tsa **lenaneo laphethahatso la naha la Boikamahanyo (NAPA)** e sala e le tsona feela tse bohlokoahali...*	Page 4
32.	…at household and community levels by **NGOs** and CBOs.	Page 8	*...ka **Mekhatlo e Ikemetseng (NGOs)** le Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (CBOs)*	Page 8
33.	…at household and community levels by NGOs and **CBOs**.	Page 8	*...ka Mekhatlo e Ikemetseng (NGOs) le **Mekhatlo ea Sechaba Metseng (CBOs)***	Page 8
34.	…the **NSDP** has outlined the following strategies...	Page 8	**Moralo oa Tšebetso oa Naha (NSDP)** *o entse moralo o latelang oa maoa...*	Page 9
35.	…for reporting raw data which will take into consideration **IPCC** requirements…	Page 9	*...ho fana ka litaba li ntse li le joalo likenyeletsa litlhoko tsa **Moifo oa mebuso o shebaneng le pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo (IPCC)***...	Page 10
36.	…then make use of remotely sensed data and training on **GIS**.	Page 9	*...ho sebelisa **Mahlale a boithuto ba boleng ba lefatše (GIS)***.	Page 10

37.	Nitrous Oxide emissions are the largest **GHG**…	Page 10	*Khase e bitsoang Nitrous Oxide ke e ngata haholo **likhaseng likhaseng tse silafatsang leholimo (GHG)…***	Page 11
38.	Rationale and process for developing **INDCs** on adaptation	Page 4	Mabaka le methati ea ho kenyeletsa boikamahanyo **tokomaneng ea INDCs**.	Page 2
39.	The **SNC** shows that three major sectors account for the emission burden of the country.	Page 15	**Tokomane ea SNC e** bonts'a ha mafapha a mararo a maholo e le 'ona a itlhommeng pele ka hosilafatsa leholimo.	Page 18
40.	Replacement of fuel-wood with **LPG** at the rate of 10%...	Page 12	Ho fetola ts'ebeliso ea patsi ka **khase e phehang ea LGP** e le hore e fihlele boemo ba 10%...	Page 13
41.	Number of **GEF-SGP** in Lesotho accessed by non-governmental organizations …	Page 4	*Lihlopha tse 'maloa tsa **GEF-SGP** Lesotho tse sebetsang le NGO…*	Page 8
42.	Rehabilitation of **2MW** Mantšonyane hydropower plant.	Page 13	*Nchafatso ea **2MW** ea setsi sa phehlo ea motlakase Mantšonyane.*	Page 16
43.	In 1997/98, **GCM** simulation of future (2030,2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios…	Page 5	*Ka 1997/89 **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030,2050 le 2075) ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo…*	Page 3
44.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	Page 10	***Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola…*	Page 11
45.	Recognising concerns about the legal nature of **INDCs**,…	Page 1	*Ho etsoe hloko lingongoreho ka taba ea boemo ba molao oa **INDC**,…*	Page i
46.	Rationale and Process for Developing **INDCs** on Adaptation.	Page 4	*Mabaka le methati ea ho kenyelletsa boikamahanyo tokomaneng ea **INDC**.*	Page 2
47.	The apparent national adaptation goal(s) towards 2030 embraces all tenets of the **MDGs**…	Page 5	*Litebello tsa naha tsa hajoale tsa boikamahanyo ho habiloe 2030 li kenyeletsa maikutlo 'ohle a **MDG**…*	Page 3
48.	The energy sector will require an additional investment of about **USD** 15 million in 2020 and USD 20 million in 2030.	Page 11	*Lefapha la matla le tla hloka letsete la tlatsetso le hakanyetsoang ho limilone tse 15 ka 2020 le tse 20 ka 2030.*	Page 12

49.	However, in the emission of the **SNC**, emissions from forestry and other land uses, as well as in industrial processes have not been analysed.	Page 15	*Leha ho le joalo, tlhahiso ho tsoa merung le libakeng tse ling tsa tšebeliso ea mobu esita le tšebetso mesebetsing e meholo ha li a ka tsa manolloa ka hobane li na le seabo se fokolang kakaretsong ea tlhahiso ea khase e silafatsang leholimo.*	Page 18
50.	…LMS is the focal point in the planning and co-ordination of activities for Lesotho's commitments under **UNFCCC.**	Page 15	*...LMS ke mohokahanyi oa Lesotho le linaha tsa machaba a kopaneng tse loantšang pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo.*	Page 19
51.	The committee serves as the body of the **LMS.**	Page 15	*NCCC e boetse ke sethala seo litho li arolelanang litaba tsa pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo ka hare ho naha.*	Page 19
52.	The first of these was the **Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)**…	Page 4	*E itlhommeng ka pele-pele ho tsena tse ling ke **leoa la phokotso ea bofuma (PRS)**…*	Page 2
53.	…the key poverty targets of the **PRS** while seeking to, hence forth consolidate all development goals…	Page 4	*…lintlha tse ka sehloohong tse ka fihlelloang mabapi le **phokotso ea bofuma** ebile e ntse e leka ho hokella 'moho litebello tsohle tsa ntlafatso…*	Page 2
54.	In the 1997/98, **GCM** simulations of future (2030, 2050 and 2075 relative to 1961-1990) climate change scenarios…	Page 5	*Ka 1997/98, **lisebelisoa tsa mahlale a chebelo-pele (GCM)** tsa bokamoso (2030, 2050 le 2075) ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo...*	Page 3
55.	…climate change scenarios were generated using an assemble of six **GCMs**.	Page 5	*...ba pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo li ile tsa etsoa ka **lisebelisoa** tse tšeletseng **tsa chebelo-pele.***	Page 3
56.	Lesotho is committed to reduce unconditionally 10% of its GHG emissions by 2030 compared to a **Business-as-usual (BAU)** scenario.	Page 13	*Lesotho le ikemiselitse ho fokotsa kantle ho lipehelo 25% ea tlhahiso ea lona ea likhase tsa GHG ka 2030 papisong le **boemo ba Tšebetso kamoo ho tloaelehileng ka teng (BAU).***	Page 16

57.	In the period 2015-2030, additional investments (relative to **BAU** scenario)…	Page 13	*Nakong e pakeng tsa 2015 ho ea ho 2030, matsete a tlatsetso (papisong le **boemo bo tloaelehileng**)…*	Page 16
58.	Lesotho's **GHG** emissions are minimal…	Page 10	***Likhase tse silafatsang moea** Lesotho lia fokola…*	Page 11
59.	Nitrous Oxide emissions are the largest **GHG**…	Page 10	*Khase e bitsoang Nitrous Oxide ke e ngata haholo **likhaseng tse silafatsang leholimo (GHG)**…*	Page 11
60.	…29% to energy emissions and 8.99% of the total **GHG** emissions.	Page 12	*…29% kakaretso ea likhase tse tsoang tšebelisong ea matla le 8.88% kakaretso ea **likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea leholimo (GHG).***	Page 14
61.	Though Lesotho's **GHG** emissions represent only 0.005% of global emissions and net per capita emissions inclusive …	Page 16	*Lehoja tlhahiso ea Lesotho ea **likhase tse bakang pheto-phetoho ea maemo a leholimo (GHG)** e emeloa ka ho tlatsetsa feela ka 0.005% lefatšeng ka kakaretso…*	Page 20