



## Exploring the Impact of Globalization on Indigenous Languages : A Comparative Analysis of Eve and English in Translation

Yaovi d'Almeida <sup>a</sup>

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### Abstract

Globalization has created both opportunities and challenges for indigenous languages. While it has enabled the dissemination and promotion of these languages through digital platforms and global communication networks, it has also introduced significant challenges, particularly in the field of translation. Effective translation requires a deep understanding of the syntactic, semantic, and cultural nuances of both the source and target languages. This article explores the impact of globalization on the Eve language, an indigenous language spoken in parts of West Africa, and compares it with English through the lens of the Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework. By analyzing linguistic and cultural differences, the study identifies the key challenges faced in translating between these two languages and proposes strategies to improve cross-cultural understanding. The findings demonstrate that a comprehensive understanding of these differences can improve translation practices, leading to more accurate and culturally sensitive communication.

### Résumé

La mondialisation a engendré à la fois des opportunités et des défis pour les langues indigènes. Bien qu'elle ait permis la diffusion et la promotion de ces langues à travers les plateformes numériques et les réseaux de communication mondiaux, elle a également introduit des défis significatifs, notamment dans le domaine de la traduction. Une traduction efficace nécessite une compréhension approfondie des nuances syntaxiques, sémantiques et culturelles des langues source et cible. Cet article explore l'impact de la mondialisation sur la langue évé, une langue indigène parlée dans certaines régions de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, et la compare à l'anglais à travers le prisme du cadre théorique de la grammaire rôle et référence (RRG). En analysant les différences linguistiques et culturelles, l'étude identifie les principaux défis rencontrés lors de la traduction entre ces deux langues et propose des stratégies pour améliorer la compréhension interculturelle. Les résultats démontrent qu'une compréhension approfondie de ces différences peut améliorer les pratiques de traduction, menant à une communication plus précise et culturellement sensible.

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### Corresponding author:

D'Almeida, Yaovi,

Université de Lomé, Togo

Email address: [daluyaoville@yahoo.fr](mailto:daluyaoville@yahoo.fr)

<sup>a</sup> Université de Lomé, Togo

## Introduction

Globalization has become a powerful force shaping languages around the globe, particularly impacting indigenous languages that are less widely spoken. On one hand, globalization has enabled the preservation and dissemination of these languages through digital media and global communication networks. However, it has also posed significant challenges to their unique linguistic and cultural features, especially in the field of translation. For indigenous languages like Ewe—spoken primarily in regions of West Africa, including Ghana, Togo, and Benin—the process of translation presents distinct challenges. These challenges stem from the significant differences in syntax, semantics, and cultural context when compared to more globally dominant languages such as English.

This article aims to explore the effects of globalization on the translation of Ewe and English. Specifically, it examines how these effects manifest when using the Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework, which is particularly suited for analyzing the intricate sentence structures and meanings that are characteristic of languages with complex or non-standard constructions.

The study employs the Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework, a theoretical approach that provides a comprehensive method for analyzing sentence structure and meaning across different languages. By applying RRG to both Ewe and English, this article seeks to reveal how linguistic and cultural differences influence translation practices, particularly in the context of globalization.

This article is organized into five critical sections to address the complexities of translating between Ewe and English. The first section outlines the theoretical framework and key challenges in this translation process. The second section provides a comparative analysis of the linguistic features of Ewe and English, with particular emphasis on phonology, verb serialization, syntactic structure, and semantic roles. The third section focuses on the practical challenges of translation, especially those arising from structural and cultural differences between the two languages. The fourth section proposes strategies for enhancing translation practices, including the development of cultural sensitivity and the application of linguistic frameworks such as Role and Reference Grammar (RRG). The final section presents case studies

illustrating the complexities involved in translating idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and culturally specific terms, offering insights into real-world translation scenarios.

## 1. Theoretical Framework: Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) in Translation

Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) was developed in the 1980s by William A. Foley and Robert D. Van Valin Jr. as a linguistic theory designed to be universally applicable across languages. Unlike other linguistic theories that focus primarily on formal syntax, RRG adopts a functionalist approach. It emphasizes the communicative purposes of language and how syntactic structures are influenced by real-life usage. This makes RRG particularly well-suited for analyzing languages with diverse and complex syntactic structures, such as Ewe.

RRG provides a robust framework for analyzing both syntactic and semantic structures, making it a valuable tool in translation studies. When applied to the translation of Ewe and English, RRG allows for a detailed examination of how each language constructs meaning at the clause level.

### 1.1 Layered Structure of the Clause (LSC)

Central to RRG is the Layered Structure of the Clause (LSC), which breaks down a clause into several layers: the Nucleus, Core, and Periphery. The Nucleus typically contains the main verb or predicate, while the Core includes the Nucleus and its primary arguments, such as the subject and direct object. The Periphery adds context with information about time, place, or manner. This multi-layered approach is crucial for understanding how different languages, like Ewe and English, structure sentences and convey meaning. For instance, while both languages may use verbs to indicate actions, the arrangement of subjects, objects, and modifiers may differ significantly, posing challenges for translators. Start in English for instance can be expressed in Ewe as a fictive action<sup>3</sup> as shown in the example:

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<sup>3</sup> "Fictive" in this context refers to the use of action verbs to describe a state or condition rather than an actual physical action. In Ewe, verbs that typically convey an action are used to express states of being, such as illness, without implying that the subject is performing a physical activity. This contrasts with English, where such states are usually expressed with stative verbs or adjectives.

(1) a. **Aku is sick**

b. **Akou le dɔ**

*Akou catch sickness*

'Akou is sick.'

c. **Adɔme ɖu Afi**

*Stomach eat Afi*

'Afi had a stomachache.'

In examples (1b) and (1c), syntactically, the arguments *Aku* (the syntactic subject) and *Adɔme* (a fictive Actor) seem to perform actions—catching the sickness and eating *Afi* (the syntactic direct object), respectively. Activity verbs are used in both Ewe constructions. However, semantically, no actual action is occurring in these situations. The Nuclei in these examples, *le dɔ* ('catch sickness') and *adɔme ɖu* ('stomach ate'), despite their active forms, actually convey a state rather than an action.

## 1.2 Semantic Roles in RRG

In RRG, entities within a sentence are assigned macroroles based on their relationship to the verb's action. The primary macroroles are Actor (the entity performing the action) and Undergoer (the entity affected by the action). This distinction allows for a nuanced understanding of how languages like Ewe and English encode actions and participants. For example, in the English sentence "The teacher taught the students," "the teacher" is the Actor, and "the students" are the Undergoers.

In an Ewe sentence, while the macroroles may remain consistent, the Core elements, such as the Nucleus, often exhibit a more complex structure. This complexity is evidenced in the sentence "*Nufiala fia nu sukuviamo*" ("The teacher taught the students"), where the Predicate "*fia nu*" (teach) is composed of two content syntactic elements, reflecting the intricate nature of Ewe syntax.

However, when reconsidering Ewe examples, the Actor-Undergoer roles can be challenging to discern if only the syntactic aspects of the language are considered. The syntactic arguments do not always align with the semantic ones, making it crucial to analyze both syntactic and semantic dimensions to accurately identify the macroroles. As shown above, the term "*nu*" ("thing")

might appear to function as a syntactic argument, but this is not the case. It is rather part of the Nucleus.

### 1.3 Linking System

A key feature of RRG is its linking system, which connects the syntactic structure (sentence arrangement) with its semantic structure (meaning). This system is particularly useful in translating between languages with different word orders or sentence structures. For example, while English typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order, Ewe may use a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order, as in the sentence "*Ama Akuwa du-m*" ("*Ama* is insulting *Akuwa*"). These structural differences present specific challenges for translators, who must ensure that the intended meaning is preserved despite syntactic variations.

### 1.4 Relevance to Indigenous Languages

RRG is especially suitable for analyzing indigenous languages like Ewe, which may feature non-standard or flexible sentence structures. The theory's ability to accommodate diverse syntactic patterns makes it an ideal framework for studying languages that do not conform to the norms of more widely spoken languages like English. Indigenous languages often exhibit unique linguistic and cultural features that can be lost or diluted in translation, particularly under the influence of globalization. By applying RRG, translators can better solve these complexities, ensuring that the translation is both accurate and culturally sensitive, preserving the linguistic integrity of languages like Ewe while facilitating cross-cultural communication.

## 2. Comparative Analysis of Ewe and English in Translation

This section provides a comparative analysis of Ewe and English, focusing on their linguistic features and the challenges these differences present in translation.

### 2.1. Linguistic Features of Ewe and English

Ewe, a Niger-Congo language spoken in Ghana, Togo, and Benin, and English, a Germanic language with global influence, exhibit distinct linguistic features across phonological, semantic, and syntactic dimensions.

### **i. Phonology and Tonality:**

Eve is a tonal language, where tonal variations are crucial in distinguishing word meanings. For example, in Eve, *nu* ('mouth, entrance') differs from *nu* ('thing, matter') solely based on tone. Eve also features a relatively simple vowel system but a complex array of consonant clusters. In contrast, English, which is not a tonal language, has a more complex vowel system that includes diphthongs and a variety of consonant clusters. English stress patterns, such as in the noun "record" versus the verb "record," can also change meanings.

### **ii. Verb Serialization and Expressiveness**

Eve frequently uses verb serialization, where multiple verbs combine in a single clause to express sequences of actions or detailed aspects of an action, enhancing expressiveness. For instance, the sentence "Me-nɔ nu-fɔm ha-dzim dzu-fum<sup>4</sup>" translates to "I was talking, singing, and running" in English, where serialized verbs in Eve efficiently convey multiple actions. Additionally, Eve employs ideophones—expressive words that vividly capture sensory experiences, which are integral to the language's descriptive power.

English, on the other hand, uses a broad range of verb forms and prepositions to convey meaning. While it does not rely on verb serialization, English has a richer system of tense and aspect marking, allowing speakers to differentiate between ongoing, completed, habitual, or hypothetical actions, as in "She is running," "She ran," and "She has been running."

### **iii. Syntactic Structure**

Both Eve and English follow a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order, but Eve's syntax is more flexible. Eve often employs serial verb constructions (SVCs), linking multiple verbs without conjunctions to convey complex sequences in a single clause. For example, "Ama tso agbã na Kofi" means "Ama took the plate and gave it to Kofi," where the verbs "tso" (take) and "na" (give) are used sequentially without conjunctions. This flexibility in Eve

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<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from D'Almeida (2019)

allows for compact and expressive sentences, where syntax and semantics are tightly interwoven.

English syntax, by contrast, is more rigid and rarely uses serial verb constructions. Instead, English typically requires conjunctions like "and" to link multiple actions, as in "She went to the store and bought some groceries." English verbs are inflected to indicate tense, aspect, and subject agreement, relying on a relatively fixed word order and auxiliary verbs to express nuances of meaning. This rigidity can pose challenges when translating from Ewe, as the compactness and flexibility of Ewe's syntax often need to be restructured into multiple clauses or sentences to fit English grammatical norms.

## 2.2. Structural Differences

In Ewe, while SVO is the default syntactic structure, topicalization often leads to OSV structures, especially when emphasizing the object. This flexibility contrasts with the more rigid SVO order in English, where topicalization usually involves a cleft or passive construction.

Ewe verbs are less inflected than English verbs. Aspect in Ewe is often expressed through auxiliary verbs or verb serialization rather than through verb inflection. The language distinguishes between perfective and imperfective aspects but does not have the extensive tense system found in English.

English verbs are heavily inflected to mark tense, aspect, mood, and voice. The language has clear markers for past, present, and future tenses, as well as for progressive and perfect aspects<sup>5</sup>. English also frequently uses modal verbs to indicate possibility, necessity, or permission, which are expressed differently in Ewe.

## 2.3. Semantic Roles and Challenges

In Ewe, the Actor (doer of the action) is typically the subject of the sentence, and the Undergoer (the entity affected by the action) is the object. However, Ewe's flexible word order and use of topicalization can lead to variations where the Undergoer is fronted for emphasis. In translation,

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<sup>5</sup> Huddleston, R., & Pullum, G. K. (2002). *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press.

maintaining the focus and emphasis of the original Ewe sentence can be challenging when translating into the more rigid structure of English.

English also generally places the Actor as the subject and the Undergoer as the object, but it often uses passive constructions to emphasize the Undergoer. Translating Ewe sentences with topicalized Undergoers into English requires careful rephrasing to maintain the intended emphasis without distorting the meaning.

The use of tones in Ewe can affect meaning in ways that are not easily captured in English, which relies on stress and intonation rather than tone. Translators must find ways to convey tonal nuances through context or additional explanation.

Verb serialization in Ewe often encodes complex actions or sequences that may require multiple sentences or clauses to accurately render their meaning in English. This can lead to a loss of conciseness or a change in the narrative flow.

### **3. Impact of Globalization on Ewe and English**

This session discusses the impacts of globalization on languages in general and on indigenous languages in particular.

#### **3.1. Globalization and Language Shift**

Globalization has profoundly impacted indigenous languages like Ewe, leading to significant language shifts and increasing pressure to conform to dominant global languages, particularly English. As English has become the global lingua franca, Ewe speakers, especially younger generations, are increasingly exposed to English through various channels such as media, education, and commerce. This exposure often results in a preference for English over Ewe in key areas of life, including formal education, business, and even casual communication.

The dominance of English, driven by globalization, exerts pressure on indigenous languages, leading to their gradual decline. Crystal (2003) discusses how English's rise as a global language often undermines the use of local languages, contributing to language shifts and the potential loss of linguistic diversity. Similarly, Nettle and Romaine (2000) highlight the broader phenomenon of language endangerment, where globalization accelerates the



extinction of minority languages by promoting a shift towards more dominant languages like English.

Furthermore, the pressure to adopt English is not just a passive process; it is actively reinforced through institutional mechanisms such as education and media. Mufwene (2002) examines how globalization, akin to colonization, has fostered environments where indigenous languages are devalued, leading to their erosion as speakers increasingly adopt global languages for socioeconomic advancement. This trend is particularly pronounced among younger generations who view English as a means of accessing broader opportunities in the globalized world (Matsumoto 2010).

In the case of Eʋe, this shift is evident in the decreasing use of the language in various domains of daily life. As Omoniyi and Fishman (2006) discuss, the intersection of globalization and language practices often results in the marginalization of indigenous languages, as speakers gravitate toward more globally dominant languages. The preference for English over Eʋe is thus not merely a reflection of linguistic change but also a manifestation of broader cultural and economic forces that prioritize global integration over local linguistic traditions.

This language shift is not merely a change in linguistic preference but also a shift in cultural identity. Eʋe, with its rich oral traditions and cultural expressions, faces the risk of marginalization as English and other foreign languages become the preferred language for socioeconomic mobility. The pressure to conform to English norms can lead to the erosion of Eʋe's linguistic features, such as its tonal system and verb serialization, as speakers gradually adopt English grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Moreover, as English becomes more dominant, the intergenerational transmission of Eʋe is weakened. Younger speakers may become less fluent in Eʋe, often learning it as a secondary language or not at all, which further accelerates the language shift. This shift not only diminishes the use of Eʋe in everyday communication but also threatens the preservation of Eʋe's unique cultural and linguistic heritage.

### 3.2. Translation Challenges Arising from Globalization

The globalization-induced dominance of English presents significant challenges for translators working between Eʋe and English. One of the

primary challenges is syntactic standardization, where translators may feel compelled to align Eʋe translations with English syntax and structure. This pressure can lead to a loss of the linguistic diversity that characterizes Eʋe, as the nuanced and flexible syntax of Eʋe is forced into the more rigid structures of English. For instance, the use of serial verb constructions in Eʋe, which allows for compact and expressive sequences of actions, may be diluted or fragmented in English translations to fit conventional grammatical norms.

Another challenge is the loss of cultural context. Eʋe is deeply rooted in the cultural practices, beliefs, and experiences of its speakers. When translating into English, which may not have direct equivalents for certain Eʋe concepts or cultural references, translators often struggle to convey the full depth and richness of the original text. This can result in translations that are technically accurate but lack the cultural resonance of the original Eʋe expressions. This, for example is the case of picture words<sup>6</sup> in the language.

Furthermore, the influence of dominant languages like English can lead to the introduction of foreign concepts and idioms into Eʋe, altering its natural linguistic landscape. Translators might inadvertently infuse English idioms or phrases into Eʋe, leading to hybridized language forms that neither fully represent Eʋe nor English. This hybridization can create confusion and dilute the authenticity of the translation, making it less reflective of the original Eʋe language and culture.

Additionally, the economic and social incentives to produce translations that appeal to global audiences can further exacerbate these challenges. Translators may prioritize accessibility and marketability over linguistic and cultural fidelity, resulting in translations that cater to English-speaking audiences at the expense of preserving Eʋe's unique linguistic features.

In conclusion, globalization poses significant challenges to the translation of Eʋe and English, with language shift, syntactic standardization, and cultural loss being key concerns. Translators must navigate these challenges carefully, balancing the need for accurate and accessible

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<sup>6</sup> In Eʋe, a "picture word" refers to an **ideophone**—a vivid word that imitates a sound, action, or sensory experience. Ideophones in Eʋe are expressive and often used to convey sensory or emotional experiences in a way that is almost "pictorial" in nature. These words are used to create a more immediate, vivid mental image of the described event or state. (Ameka 2001; Childs, G. Tucker. 1994).

translations with the responsibility to preserve the linguistic and cultural integrity of Eve. As globalization continues to shape the linguistic landscape, the role of translators becomes increasingly vital in safeguarding the diversity and richness of indigenous languages like Eve.

#### **4. Strategies for Improving Translation Practices**

This section outlines strategies for improving translation practices between Eve and English, emphasizing the importance of mastering both linguistic structures and cultural nuances to ensure accuracy and authenticity in translation

##### **4.1. Enhancing Cultural Sensitivity**

To preserve cultural nuances and context in translations between Eve and English, translators must immerse themselves in the cultural fabric of both languages. This involves not just linguistic expertise but also a deep understanding of cultural practices, traditions, and the socio-historical context of the Eve language. Engaging with native speakers, participating in cultural events, and studying the cultural significance of specific expressions are essential steps in ensuring that translations reflect the original text's cultural essence.

Working closely with cultural experts, such as local scholars, anthropologists, and native speakers, can significantly enhance the cultural accuracy of translations. These experts provide valuable insights into the subtle cultural connotations of words and phrases that may be lost in direct translation. By consulting with these experts, translators can better navigate the complexities of conveying culturally rich concepts in a way that resonates with the target audience.

Instead of focusing solely on literal translations, translators should aim for contextual equivalence, which involves capturing the intended meaning, tone, and cultural significance of the original text. For example, certain Eve proverbs or idiomatic expressions might be replaced with culturally equivalent phrases in English that evoke a similar sentiment. This approach ensures that the translation maintains the original text's impact while being accessible to the target audience.

In situations where a direct translation might strip away cultural nuance, translators can use footnotes or annotations to provide additional context. For instance, an Ewe expression with deep cultural roots might require a brief explanation to help English-speaking readers fully grasp its significance. This strategy allows for greater cultural sensitivity without compromising the integrity of the original text.

#### **4.2. Utilizing the RRG Framework**

The Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework can be an effective tool for addressing specific translation challenges between Ewe and English:

RRG's focus on semantic roles, such as Actor and Undergoer, allows translators to systematically map these roles across languages, ensuring that the intended meaning is preserved despite differences in syntactic structures. For instance, understanding how Ewe handles actor-focused versus undergoer-focused sentences can guide the translator in maintaining the sentence's emphasis in English.

RRG's layered clause structure can help translators break down complex serial verb constructions in Ewe, facilitating a more accurate translation into English. Translators can use RRG to identify the nucleus (main action) and peripheral elements (additional actions or context) and then translate these elements into separate clauses or sentences in English, preserving the sequence and meaning.

RRG's concept of operator projections (elements like tense, aspect, and modality) can be employed to manage the differences in how Ewe and English express these concepts. For example, by understanding how tense is projected in an Ewe sentence, translators can choose appropriate English verb forms to convey the same temporal nuances.

#### **4.3. Developing Cross-Linguistic Competence**

To improve cross-linguistic understanding and competence for translators working with indigenous languages like Ewe, consider the following recommendations:

- i. Establishing training programs that focus on the linguistic and cultural aspects of Ewe and English can help translators develop the necessary

skills. These programs should include modules on linguistic theory, cultural studies, and practical translation exercises using RRG and other frameworks.

- ii. Creating comprehensive bilingual lexicons that include cultural notes, idiomatic expressions, and examples of usage can be an invaluable resource for translators. These tools can help bridge the gap between the languages, providing translators with the information they need to make informed decisions.
- iii. Organizing workshops and collaborative projects with linguists, translators, and native speakers from both language communities can foster cross-linguistic competence. These interactions can help translators understand the subtleties of both languages, leading to more accurate and culturally sensitive translations.

## 5. Case Studies of Real-life Translation

This session illustrates real-life case studies that demonstrate how idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and culturally specific terms from Ewe can be effectively translated into English, highlighting the importance of cultural context and linguistic sensitivity in translation practices.

### 5.1. Translating Idiomatic Expressions

When translating between Ewe and English, idiomatic expressions often pose significant challenges due to the deep cultural contexts they embody. These expressions typically use metaphorical imagery that might not directly translate into the target language. The translator's task is to find an equivalent expression that conveys the same underlying meaning while resonating with the target audience. Below are examples illustrating how Ewe idiomatic expressions can be adapted to English:

(2).

**Ewe:** *Agbe dɔ aba le fafe fe ne<sup>7</sup>.*

**Literal Translation:** "Life lifted a mat under a canopy for him/her."

**English Equivalent:** "They are born with a silver spoon in their mouth."

<sup>7</sup> Inspired from Agbemabiese, retrieved from [https://www.academia.edu/1680762/\\_Ewe\\_Proverbs\\_their\\_origin\\_relevance\\_and\\_philosophy](https://www.academia.edu/1680762/_Ewe_Proverbs_their_origin_relevance_and_philosophy)

This Ewe idiomatic expression uses metaphorical imagery, where physical actions symbolize abstract ideas such as good fortune or privilege. The literal translation doesn't convey the intended meaning in English because it lacks the cultural nuance that informs the idiom's meaning. The English equivalent, "They are born with a silver spoon in their mouth," captures the same sentiment but through a different cultural metaphor. Translators must therefore interpret and adapt idiomatic expressions to ensure that the underlying message resonates with the target audience.

## 5.2. Translating Metaphors

Metaphors in Ewe often rely on vivid imagery rooted in the culture's daily life and experiences. These metaphors summarize complex ideas or character traits, which can be difficult to translate directly into English without losing some of their cultural significance. Translators must carefully deal with these expressions with care to preserve both their meaning and their emotional impact in the target language. Below are examples demonstrating how Ewe metaphors can be translated into English:

(3).

**Ewe:** *Kosi nye gbɔ matamata*

**Literal Translation:** "Kosi is an uncastrated goat."

**Intended Meaning:** "Kosi is a womanizer."

In this metaphor, the Ewe language uses the imagery of an "uncastrated goat" to symbolize uncontrolled or promiscuous behavior, particularly in men. The challenge for translators is to convey this metaphor in a way that retains its cultural and emotional weight in English. While the literal translation might confuse or mislead, the intended meaning, "Kosi is a womanizer," effectively captures the essence of the original expression without needing to replicate the specific cultural reference. An additional example is provided below:

(4).

**Ewe:** *Ame ɲtɔ fe aba vuvu me di na nya na ame o*

**Literal Translation:** "No one can be in trouble on his own worn-out bed."

**Intended Meaning:** This metaphor suggests that a person who is foolish or lacks wisdom is likely to find themselves in trouble.

**English Equivalent:** "A fool" or "A foolish person."

This metaphor uses the imagery of a "worn-out bed" to illustrate how someone might end up in a difficult situation due to their own poor decisions. The Ewe expression reflects a cultural perspective on wisdom and foolishness, which is important to convey in the translation. The English equivalents, "a fool" or "a foolish person," communicate the basic meaning, though some cultural nuances might be lost, underlining the need for cultural awareness in translation practices.

### 5.3 Translating Culturally Specific Terms

Translating culturally specific terms often presents a unique challenge, as these terms are deeply rooted in the traditions, beliefs, and everyday experiences of the source language's culture. Such expressions may carry meanings that are not immediately obvious to speakers of other languages, requiring translators to convey not just the words, but the underlying cultural significance. An illustrative example from Ewe is provided below:

(5).

**Ewe:** *Venavi deka yi anake gbe*

**Meaning:** "One of the twins went to fetch firewood."

**English Translation:** "One of the twins died."

This Ewe phrase demonstrates how culturally specific language can convey a meaning that is not readily apparent through direct translation. The expression "went to fetch firewood" serves as a euphemism in Ewe culture for death. A literal translation into English would fail to convey the true meaning, as the cultural context behind the phrase would be lost. Therefore, translators must recognize the cultural significance of such phrases and provide an equivalent that captures the intended meaning. In this case, translating the phrase as "One of the twins died" effectively communicates the message to an English-speaking audience while preserving the cultural nuance of the original expression.



## Conclusion

This article has explored the intricate relationship between globalization and the translation practices involving Èvè, an indigenous language spoken in West Africa, and English, a globally dominant language. Key findings reveal that globalization has significantly influenced Èvè, both in terms of language shift and the pressure to conform to English norms. Èvè's unique syntactic structures, such as serial verb constructions and its tonal phonology, present distinct challenges in translation. These challenges are compounded by the need to preserve cultural nuances and contextual meanings while adapting to English grammatical conventions.

The Role and Reference Grammar (RRG) framework has proven valuable in addressing these translation complexities. By offering a detailed analysis of syntactic and semantic structures, RRG provides tools for navigating the differences between Èvè and English. This framework helps in managing the difficulties associated with translating idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and culturally specific terms, ensuring that translations remain both accurate and culturally sensitive.

For translators and language professionals working with indigenous languages like Èvè, the findings underscore the importance of deep cultural understanding and linguistic flexibility. Translators must not only navigate syntactic and semantic differences but also address the impact of globalization on language use. They need to employ strategies that respect the integrity of the source language while adapting it to the target language. The use of frameworks like RRG can aid in this process, offering systematic approaches to overcoming translation challenges and preserving cultural nuances.

Future research should focus on several areas to further understand the impact of globalization on indigenous languages and translation practices:

1. **Longitudinal Studies on Language Shift:** Investigate how globalization is affecting language use over time in indigenous communities, particularly focusing on shifts in language proficiency and usage patterns.
2. **Cross-Linguistic Studies:** Conduct comparative studies on how different indigenous languages are affected by globalization and translation practices, using frameworks like RRG to analyze various linguistic features.



3. **Technological Impacts:** Examine the role of digital media and translation technology in shaping translation practices and language preservation efforts for indigenous languages.
4. **Cultural Adaptation Strategies:** Explore innovative strategies for adapting cultural content in translations, ensuring that the essence of indigenous languages is preserved while making the content accessible to global audiences.

By addressing these areas, researchers can contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between globalization and indigenous languages, ultimately supporting more effective and culturally respectful translation practices.

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