



Translations in English

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Abstract

Language, a tool for conventional spoken or written symbols with which human beings, as members of a Social Group and participants in its culture, express their thoughts themselves. The functions of language include communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release.

Translation is nothing but the communication of the content from one language which is considered to be the source to another language which is said to be the target. There is a noticeable difference between translation and interpretation. Translation refers to written information, whereas interpretation refers to spoken information. The major purpose of translation is to convey the original tone and intent of a message, taking into consideration the cultural and regional differences between the source and target languages. Translation has been used by human beings for centuries, beginning after the written literature came into existence. The translators of modern days use sophisticated tools and technologies to accomplish their work, and rely heavily on software applications to ease their tasks. Organizations around the world, encompassing a multitude of sectors, missions, and mandates, heavily depend on translation for content as diverse as product labels, technical documentation, user reviews, promotional materials, annual reports, and much, much more. Due to its prominence, translation has been viewed differently. According to Ghazala (1995), "Translation is generally used to refer to all the process and methods used to convey the meaning of the source language in to the target language" (Ghazala's definition focuses on the notion of meaning as an essential element in translation. That is, when translating, understanding the meaning of source text is vital to have the appropriate equivalent in the target text thus, it is meaning that is translated in relation to grammar, style and sounds. This article is focused on the issues of literary translation and non-literary translation from source language text to the target language text. The general aspects of the same are being highlighted in this article. This article also centres about the decisive factors needed for translations. It also spotlights the differences between literary and non-literary translation.

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Introduction

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. Whereas interpreting undoubtedly antedates writing, translation began only after the appearance of written literature; there exist partial translations of the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh into Southwest Asian languages of the second millennium BCE. Translators always risk in appropriate spill-over of source-language idiom and usage into the target-language translation. On the other hand, spill-over have imported useful source-language calques and loanwords that have enriched the target languages. Indeed, translators have helped substantially to shape the languages into which they have translated. Due to the demands of business documentation consequent to the Industrial Revolution that began in the mid-18th century, some translation specialties have become formalized, with dedicated schools and professional associations. Because of the laboriousness of translation, since the 1940's engineers have sought to automate translation (machine translation) or to mechanically aid the human translator (computer-assisted translation). The rise of the Internet usage has fostered a world-wide market for translation services and has facilitated language localization.

Culture based problems in translations

The problem is that, some languages are loaded with cultural terms and expressions called (cultural specific). The

cultural specific expressions are somehow difficult to translate, even professional translators find them a hard nut to crack. That is because the cultural context is too vague, it represents the world view of a society, its beliefs, emotions and values. Thus it comprises some important factors which help in building up the information necessary to interpret the message; enable for the translator to translate easily and effectively. That's why, any term; one word or an expression is said to be cultural specific when it denotes concrete objects or abstract aspects that may be related to religious beliefs, social habits, customs and traditions or social situations, moral values, a type of cloth or a life style, kind of food, economical principle, political ideology...that are specific to the culture in question. Henceforth, when translating cultures linguistic element should be related to the cultural context they belong to. For E. Nida (1964: 90) "the person who is engaged in translating from one language into another ought to be constantly aware of the contrast in the entire range of culture represented by the two languages". Meaning that, language is considered as a part of culture and the society's identity. For instance, according to the Maya Indians who live in the tropical countries, there is no place without vegetation unless it has been cleared for Maize field.

Though some cultural concepts seem to be universal, they are not interpreted in the same way. Each language has its own interpretation according to its peoples' way of thinking, living style, and even their geographic position. Since as

said before by Ivir (1981: 56) that languages are equipped and lexicalized differently. The interpretations may be completely different as they may just slightly different, subtle overlaps. The differences between cultures and life perceptions from a society into another may cause a lot of problems to translators. They create a lot of gaps which lead to plenty of overlaps between language pairs. Hence it is evident that the translation task will be too complicated.

Dialect and dialectal problems in translation

Dialect is a style of language which is spoken in a particular part of a country and contains some different words, grammar and pronunciation from other forms of the same language. No language can be monolithic in character. One can find varieties within the language. No single language is absolutely superior or inferior to another language in any aspect. Some particular features of one language may differ from other language. There are varieties classified on the basis of users of a particular language. These varieties are called dialects with in a language. There are two sub-varieties of dialects. They are

- a. Varieties according to region, such as Tirunelveli Tamil, Kanyakumari Tamil, Chennai Tamil, and Kovai Tamil, and English such as British English, American English or Australian English.
- b. Varieties according to education and social standing (i.e.) the language used by the upper class people, the language used by the working classes and elite people.

Regional dialects and class or social dialects belong to above varieties (a) and (b) respectively. Cockney, being the variety of English, is used by the poorer working classes of London; it is both a regional and a class dialect. In a language, dialectal differences manifest themselves at three levels (a) pronunciation (b) vocabulary and (c) grammar which include both morphology and syntax. The translators have to select an equivalent target language dialect when a text passages is a dialect other than the unmarked dialect, and this is common in literary works, particularly in the dialogue of novels and plays.

Catford says, "Dialect themselves also present translation problems. Many languages, as Catford points out, have a „standard“ or literary dialect which shows only slight variation from one to another and over long stretches of time. For translation purposes it may be regarded as unmarked and an unmarked text in the unmarked dialect of the source language can usually be translated into an equivalent unmarked target language dialect. If there is no such dialect the translator may have the exciting task of helping to create a new literary dialect of the TL or resort to other expedients."

According to Catford, all the varieties of a language have common features like grammatical, lexical and phonological forms. In addition to these, every variety has some peculiar features which are called the "makers" of the variety. It will be very hard to find an equivalent variety in the Source Language and Targeted Language, since are not genetically related. When a translator considers the above points, the translator can resort to Catford's strategy. Many languages have a "standard" or "literary" dialect which shows little variation in its written form at least from one locality to another.

Literary Translation

Translation of literature is fundamentally different from other categories. This is because the main principle of literary translation is the dominance of poetic communicative function. It means that in addition to rendering information to the reader, literary translation also has aesthetic functions. The artistic image created in the particular literary work (be it the image of a character or nature) will certainly have an impact on the reader. For this reason, the literary translator should take into account specific features of the text. It is the poetic focus of the text that makes this type of translation different from texts of an informative type. When reading a story, poem or any other type of literary work translated from a foreign language, we perceive the text itself with its meaning, emotions and characters. It is quite a challenging task to achieve the main goal of the translation - creating a particular image for the reader. Therefore, literary translation might involve some deviations from the standard rules. A literal translation cannot reflect the depth and meaning of the literary work. A literary translator reproduces a non-literal rendition of the original text. It is all about how the translator perceives it. He/she rewrites the text from the beginning to the very end. This applies, for example, when an obvious expression is replaced by synonyms or the structure of sentences is changed. Artistic translations play an important role in our translation agency because our approach to the source information allows us to provide the best quality of the rendered poetic text. Work is done by a concrete algorithm. The translator reads the text through, then allocates individual terms, divides the text into logical sections and translates these sections one by one. In addition, we pay great attention to the stylistic translation. The translated text is processed in several stages. Literary translation requires a lot of skill. We should not forget that the translation of a book or a poem, perhaps, will be read by thousands of readers. This means that the text needs to be adequate and more over we need to focus on the fact that the translated document should create the same image as the original. Perfectly executed work often makes the translator famous. The guild of masters of literary translation determines the best translators of the year.

Non-literary Translation

Non-literary ones belong to the world of facts. They are about objects, but both literary and non-literary texts are concerned with the fundamental truths of translation. No profession is as divided as that of translation. Non literary texts consist of knowledge, facts and ideas, information and reality. These kinds have clarity of information. Non-literary texts tend to allow the reader to simply enjoy the texts rather than having an intension to teach a person something. It is easy to translate. Sole purpose of literary text is for entertainment. It also usually lack in metaphor and symbols. There is no need to reread any of the text, because there are no layers of complication rather it means what it says. To be simple and frank, non-literary texts are more than mindless babble. It lacks in substance to be thought in a classroom and hence there won't be any difficulty while translating. Non-literary text stays simple and lacks in complicated lessons, the purpose of texts is given less important. But these texts are books that are more

popular and easier to read. Non-literary prose is informational writing, full of facts and hence there will not be any imagination. The examples for Non-literary prose are Informational Explanations, Text Books, News papers, Articles, Journals and Diary entries etc.

The language consists of signs and they have a pattern and structure of their own. The language which is a part and parcel of human society has signs which differ from one language to another. As Edward Sapir affirms that "No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached." It is clear that from the beginning of life on earth, there has been a basic need for translation, when literary and non-literary translation is considered.

Conclusion

Translation is the mode of communication. In any nation, unity can be achieved only through translation. Since people of most of the countries in the world do not speak a single language. This is most applicable to a nation like India where we have 1652 spoken languages 40 nationalized languages and only 18 official languages. The interaction between languages will enrich the literature and culture of a land. The needs, interests and attractions will vary from man to man. Translation helps in the overall growth of human life. The nature of people is to adapt themselves to all that is beautiful, potential, powerful and profitable. This is made possible only through translation. At present the scope, range, quality and significance of translation are felt all over the world. The work of translation in the field of communication is responsible for the spread of news. Alan Duff rightly points out the importance of translation in the modern world, in the following words: "Without translators, there would be no Summit Talks, no Glasnost or Perestroika, no Cannes Film Festival, no Noble Prizes, no advances in Medicine, Science or Engineering, no International Law, no Olympic Games, no Hamlet, no War and Peace." Translation has become an independent discipline in academic circles because the importance of translation is realized greatly at present days. The love and peace will be prevailed if the classics in all the languages are translated and read.

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