

PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO TRANSLATION

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Translation is the interpretation of the meaning of a text in one language and production in another language of an equivalent text that communicates the same message. Translation must take into account a number of constraints, including context, the rules of grammar of the two languages, their writing conventions, their idioms and the like. Consequently, as has been recognized at least since the time of Martin Luther King's assassination, one translates best into the language that one knows best. Traditionally translation has been a human activity, though attempts have been made to computerize or otherwise automate the translation of natural-language texts (machine translation) or to use computers as an aid to translation (computer-assisted translation). Perhaps the most common misconception about translation is that there exists a simple "word-for-word" relation between any two languages, and that translation is therefore a straightforward and mechanical process. On the contrary, historical differences between languages often dictate differences of expression. Hence, source and target texts may differ significantly in length. In addition, translation is always fraught with uncertainties as well as the potential for inadvertent "spilling over" of idioms and usages from one language into the other, producing linguistic hybrids, for example, "Franglais" (French-English), "Spanglish" (Spanish-English) and "Poglish" (Polish-English).

Among multiple problems that modern linguistics studies an important role is played by studying of linguistic aspects of cross-language speaking activity that is called translation or translating activity. Translation is an ancient human's activity. Since different groups of people appeared in the history of mankind having different languages, the bilinguals became urgent as they helped communication between groups with different languages. Then writing appeared and along with oral interpreters written translators became urgent as well. They translated different texts of official, religious and business issues. From its very beginning translation played a significant social function allowing people of different languages communicate. Spreading of written translations gave people access to cultural achievements of other people and it made interacting and undersaturation of literatures and cultures feasible.

Knowledge of foreign languages allows reading books originally written in those languages.

The first theoretical ideas of translation were suggested by the translators who tried to generalize their own experience. Translators of ancient world discussed the issue of proximity degree to the source text. In early Bible translations or translations of other materials that were considered to be sacral and exemplary we can find word-for-word approach of the source text interpretation that sometimes led to partly or even full misunderstanding of translations. That is why later translators tried theoretically approve the right of a translator for reasonable variety in subject to the source text that meant the interpretation of meaning and the impression of the source text instead of word-for-word copying.

The foundations of scientific theory of translation started to be developed in the middle of the 20th century when the problematics of translating appeared to be urgent amongst linguists. Before that period, it was thought that translation is not the issue of a linguistic range. Translators themselves considered linguistic aspects to be non-significant but totally having a technical role. A translator was supposed to be fluent both in source and target languages but knowledge of the language was just a preliminary condition and did not cover its meaning.

By the middle of the 20th century the attitude to translation activity had changed and its systematic studying commenced. During this period the translation of political, commercial, scientific-technical and other texts was of great priority. In those types of translation, the features of an individual writer's style were not important. Due to this fact more and more attention was paid to the main difficulties of translation related to different structures and functioning of languages in this process.

The meaning of language units was emphasized by more precise requirements for the translation. During the translation of such materials, it was not enough to get "general" translation as the translation was supposed to provide information transmission in all details up to the meaning of single words. It was required to identify linguistic meaning of this process and what factors identified it and what range they have for information transmitting.

Though the basic characteristics of translation can be observed in all translation events, different types of translation can be singled out depending on the predominant communicative function of the source text or the form of speech involved in the translation process. Thus we can distinguish between literary and informative

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translation, on the one hand, and between written and oral translation (or interpretation), on the other hand.

Literary translation deals with literary texts, i. e. works of fiction or poetry the main function of which is to make an emotional or aesthetic impression upon the reader. Their communicative value depends, first and foremost, on their artistic quality and a translator's primary task is to reproduce this quality in translation.

Informative translation is rendering into the target language non-literary texts, the main purpose of which is to convey a certain number of ideas, to inform a reader. However, if the source text is of some length, its translation can be listed as literary or informative only as an approximation. A literary text may, in fact, include some parts of purely informative character. Contrariwise, informative translation may comprise some elements aimed at achieving an aesthetic effect. Within each group further gradations can be made to bring out more specific problems in literary or informative translation.

A number of subdivisions can be also suggested for informative translations, though the principles of classification here are somewhat different. Here we may single out translations of scientific and technical texts, of newspaper materials, of official papers and some other types of texts such as public speeches, political and propaganda materials, advertisements, etc., which are, in some sense, intermediate, in that there is a certain balance between the expressive and referential functions, between reasoning and emotional appeal.

There are two main types of translation: oral and written. The line of demarcation between written and oral translation is drawn not only because of their forms but also because of the sets of conditions in which the process takes place. The first is continuous, the other momentary. In written translation the original can be read and re-read as many times as a translator may need or like. The same goes for the final product. Translators can re-read their translation, compare it to the original, make the necessary corrections or start their work all over again. They can come back to the preceding part of the original or get the information they need from the subsequent messages. These are most favourable conditions and here we can expect the best performance and the highest level of equivalence. That is why in theoretical discussions we have usually examples from written translations where the translating process can be observed in all its aspects.

In conclusion, psychological approach frames translation as a complex cognitive process, scrutinizing the translator's decision-making, memory, and problem-solving. This perspective offers crucial insights into the mental operations

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shaping translations. Ultimately, it aims to enhance translator competence and optimize the entire process, emphasizing the vital role of the human mind.

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