

Translation Process: Consideration of Theory and Factual Aspects

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Abstract

In the globalized world today, human being has reached to the culmination of cultural exchange, its amalgamation and technological superiority in all. While human lives are governed by the routine of existence, the emotional needs are persisting and as usual there are issues which are required to be touched in the hustle-bustle of success and failures of different assignments of survival. Since time immemorial, speech is particular and sounds in general have been ably connecting all living beings on the earth to each other, none is spared and the subject is of utmost significance today too. Linguistics, a special branch of knowledge on languages has played a significant role in classification, branching and specialization of language traits. This has provided a sophisticated platform and knowledge base to the entire academics to look into it through a different lense and study the connections of life and language of human being. Nevertheless, researchers have strongly concentrated on the issues of this connection with the help of an even compartmentalized stream of 'translation' and found that it has the capacity to create a stronger bond for all. Though there are associated facts on language and vocabulary, patterns and content, grammar and technical by-passes in its application, translation has become a much of centre-space programme for many researchers. It cannot be denied that beyond the physical appearance of vocabulary and transmission of information, there are emotional ties that are required to be taken great care of and that forms a larger canvass for the present scenario in case of studies in languages.

Key Words: translation, translation procedure, translation strategy, translation in native language

All the languages on the earth used by human beings do not merely play communication as the only role but they are also able to present us all a socio-cultural reality of the existing period. And it is for this reason consideration of linguistics aspects of translation becomes important. It is true that with the help of translation that we gain access to the entire system of meanings of other cultures and socio-economic as well political lives of human society but we should never miss on the interpretation part of it as we move through

the content. In its fundamental meanings, translation implies in reality a correct and clear reproduction of what it expressed in one language by means of other language.

There are theories of translation and they have added lot of researched notions on the process of translation. Of course, there are varied perspectives on the theories and what is being followed in many good translations. Translation theory basically works on translation procedure, translation strategy, translation method, translation technique and translation transformation. There are

types of translation, its purposes and the difficulties that translators encounter in the process of translation. To its basics, there are three translation techniques: Literal, Cultural and Artistic when the academic circles are considered. Literal translation is one of the most popular techniques known over the years. Literal translation is otherwise known as direct translation and it is easier to understand that it is a literal, direct translation of source content into a target language. This follows the simplest process of taking content from one language and translating it mostly word-for-word (or sentence by sentence) into the target language.

In the world of technology today, such translations are done by machines, i.e. web based applications which are mostly free. It has very minimum risk when it is applied for word by word but creates risk levels when done for sentence by sentence or paragraphs. Only a layman with limited approach of fulfilling an informal job may opt for this procedure. Academic translations will never be opted using these tools. Though we can uphold this process for it involves a number of advantages such as it saves lot of time, creates easier and understandable content in target language as well as keeps intact all the units on which translation is sought.

Cultural and artistic translations are but serious areas and both require categorically separate efforts on understanding the content as well as context of the origin and target language. In plain words, it can be said that cultural translation works on matching contexts, artistic translation works on matching reactions. The translating process includes two mental processes – understanding and verbalization. First, the

translator understands the contents of ST (Source Text), that is, reduces the information it contains to his own mental program, and then he develops this program into TT (Target Text).

If we consider the existing models of the translating process we find that they are based on the situational (or referential) model, which is based on the uniqueness of the circumstances described in the original text and in the translation, and the semantic-transformational model proposes the similarity of basic notions and nuclear structures in different languages.

In reality, these assumptions explain the vibrant aspects of translation. To mention in other words, it is generally presumed that the translator actually makes a mental travel from the original to some interlingual level of correspondence and then further on to the text of translation. In the situational model this intermediate level is extralinguistic. The process of translating presumably consists in the translator getting beyond the original text to the actual situation described in it and this is the first step of the process, i.e. the breakthrough to the situation. The second step is for the translator to describe this situation in the target language. Thus the process goes from the text in one language through the extralinguistic situation to the text in another language. (Harliani, Susi)

In this context the translating process may be described as a series of transformations. The transformational model postulates that in any two languages there is a number of nuclear structures which are fully equivalent to each other. Each language has an area of equivalence in respect to the other language. There are three stages: 1. Stage of analysis; 2. Stage of translation

proper and 3. Stage of synthesis –he develops the latter into the terminal structures in the text of translation.

It is better to keep in mind before we have touched any type of translation that sometimes it involves lot of complexity and emotional approach to reach to the exact translation. While literal translation keeps itself closest to the word units and provides minimum options to choose from. We need an additional faculty of judging the quality of artistic translation and what fits better to create a perfect meaning that does not deviate from the intentions of the source language.

It is generally understood that translation is just a means of cross-language communication. On the other hand but translation is also considered a form of linguistic mediation, in which the content of a source language is transferred into another language by creating in another language an information and communication equivalent to previous text.

Translation or process of translation has been defined by many scholars in the most scholarly manner and it is worth touching a few of them. Darwish says that “Translation is a complex dichotomous and cumulative process that involves a host of activities drawing upon other disciplines related to language, writing, linguistics and culture”. This multi-disciplinary process suggests that three major activities run concomitantly: 1. Transfer of data from the source language to the target language; 2. Synchro-analysis of text and translation and research of subject-matter; 3. Continuous self-development and learning (Darwish). E. Breus says that “Translation is a process of inter-lingual communication. Not only two languages

interact in the translation process, but also two cultures (Jordan Corina). With these definitions, it becomes clear that translation ensures a type of cross-language communication in such a manner, so that the created text in the target language could act as a complete communication replacement of the original and equate the original in terms of function, structure and content.

According to Peter Newmark, translation has five purposes. 1. To contribute to peace and understanding between people, groups and nations. 2. To render knowledge in a simple, correct and accessible language. 3. To explain and mediate between cultures taking into consideration the common humanity, showing regard to their positive characteristics and implicitly showing their negative characteristics. 4. To translate the world’s best books, the universal works in which the human soul is kept safe and lives: drama, poetry, fiction, philosophy, religion, history, the influential works of psychology, politics and sociology, of social and individual behavior. These works should be retranslated for each generation, where the universal is more important than cultural. 5. The fifth purpose is as a general help necessary in learning a foreign language.(Jakobson). All of these may fetch significance as per the situations and cannot be put in a hierarchy.

On a larger plane, we should also consider the types of translations in connection with the previous ones. Roman Jakobson distinguishes 3 types of translation:

1. Intralingual translation, or rewording (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs in the same language);
2. Interlingual translation, or translation proper (an interpretation of verbal signs by means

of some other language); 3. Intersemiotic translation or transmutation (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of nonverbal sign systems). This involves lot of linguistic approaches and scientific considerations, theoretical inputs to go by these types.

The caution we require when we opt for translation of a text is to read the text by its all features. The first thing is reading for understanding the meaning of the text and the second is to read it from a translator's point of view. In both cases the approach goes different for sure and there are chances that both readings lead to different meanings of the same text. Situational analysis adds up to the complexity and of course it is the judgment of the translators that provides the final and faultless translation of the given text. It can also be said that the close reading of any text requires finding of meanings in the target language considering the inner and outer situations of the original text. For example, thorns may represent difficult situations in any given context including poetry but that may be achievements if we are talking about soldiers on a warfront. Let us be warned by a general guideline that we need not to invent any meanings but discover them from the given and target language. It is for this reason that we need to consider the intention of the given text. The words used in describing an event may be similar in source and target language but an area remains untouched and that is the grammatical structure of the sentences and this may also lead to different points of view.

According to Eugene Nida, distinction is made on four types of (literary or non-literary) text: 1. Narrative: a dynamic

sequence of events, where the emphasis is on the verbs or for English, 'dummy' or 'empty' verbs plus verb-nouns or phrasal verbs ('He made a sudden appearance', 'He burst in'). (2) Description, which is static, with emphasis on linking verbs, adjectives, adjectival nouns. (3) Discussion, a treatment of ideas, with emphasis on abstract nouns (concepts), verbs of thought, mental activity ('consider', 'argue', etc.), logical argument and connectives, (4) Dialogue, with emphasis on colloquialisms and phaticisms.

Requirements of a translator: according to Newmark, the average text for translation tends to be for an educated, middle-class readership in an informal, not colloquial style. Mostly what we understand by the source language helps us to decide of the degree of formality and emotional tone for the target language. We should be able to understand the register of the language so that the exact and meaningful translation is achieved the most sophisticated way. Translations considering the official, formal, neutral, informal, slang and taboo are some of the ways and formalities we generally observe while going for translations of any text. It is not at all wonderful to know that following each of these styles produces different grammatically structured sentences of target language. Emotional tones for translations could be intense and gentle sometimes and on the basis of this degree also the register changes leading different structures.

It is also possible that the source language may have different attitudes while writing a piece of text and the same content can be expressed with a different attitude. A translator should be equipped with this capacity to guess, observe and intelligently

understand the attitude so that the target language for translations remains intact to the meaning which was conceptualized by the original writer. Sometimes the text may be authoritative if the author has earned previously a higher status in a particular field and likely is that the language gives an impression of authority. While translating such text, the translator has to consider this all so that there is no loss of meaning and dignity of what is thought to be conveyed and in what particular manner. He has to differentiate between what can be just an informative text or authoritative so that the degree of the source language can be maintained.

Connotation and Denotation play an important role in translation. In a non-literary text the denotations of a word normally come before its connotations. But in a literary text, you have to give precedence to its connotations, since, if it is any good, it is an allegory, a comment on society, at the time and now, as well as on its strict setting. (Newmark)

A prerequisite of translation that fetches urgent attention is that translators can do their job the best way in their native language that into a second language which is not a part of their culture and traditions. It has been considered so for the belief that translators (and we all) have a more in-depth cultural and linguistic background of their native language than of a second one. The second language which we or translators learn to achieve competence is not connected with them since birth or traditions of life they live in. Also, the translator who translates into their mother tongue has a more practical and natural knowledge of the different linguistic elements such as

lexicology, morphology, semantics, syntax than the one who translates into a foreign language.

In addition to many other advantages, translation into the first language makes it possible for the translators to render cultural elements such as idioms, proverbs, metaphors, collocations and others into correct equivalents in their native language because such translators are born and raised in the culture into which they translate these culture-bound words. Comparing the translator's first and second language we could say that the first language is naturally acquired and practiced, while the second one is learned in the course of their life. Thus, the cultural and linguistic knowledge of their second language is always in progress and never finished. (Newmark)

Conclusion:

It is needless to mention here that some translators have qualifications of a critic also and this may lead to a different appearance of translated text. Global translation strategies may also be called translation methods, while local translation strategies may also be called translation procedures, translation techniques or translation transformations. According to Dr. Sandip Sharma, "We can simply say that translation is an interpretative art, a scientific process, a skill of rewriting in which the contents of Source Language (SL) are reproduced into Target Language (TL). This reproduction should be very close to the meaning of SL where sense is usually maintained. The identities of culture, thematic, metaphoric, pragmatic and linguistic elements of Source Language should preferably be given due importance while recreating it into Target Language (TL)." (Sharma)

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