



INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

Translation is the ability to either transmit speech literally or act from one language to another without increasing or decreasing in a way that helps the reader or listener understand the translated text as the original text reader or listener understands it. The translation is an essential component of the interaction between peoples and civilizations. Besides, through translation, you can learn and get much knowledge about the heritage of nations, their ideas, literature, and the science they produced by taking full advantage of it. This research paper tried to shed light on the translation as a concept and then touched its methods, kinds, strategies, and equivalence as one of its most famous theories.

Key words: Translation, Source Language, Target Language.

INTRODUCTION

Translation is an important means of achieving communication between one community and another. Translation is one of the important human activities that depend entirely on converting written or audible texts from one language to another language while preserving all the meanings contained within these texts. As a matter of fact, translation has a vital role in enriching society with information from other countries, through the integration and fusion of different cultures and from each other. Undoubtedly, the change of the target meaning of the translated text is the most dangerous matter in translation. This is due to the different meanings to the source text of the original author to be translated. That is how wrong and distorted information will be passed on to the reader. Therefore, translated texts must be very similar to or at least identical to the original text in meaning. This is for the sake of being in ensure that the author's intent is delivered, as the aim and purpose of translation are to

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communicate and transmit knowledge in all its dimensions with honesty, accuracy, and correctness.

Definition of Translation:

There are a few meanings of translation, as indicated by Wilss that translation is a transfer process, which aims at the transformation of a written Source Language Text (SLT) into an optimally equivalent Target Language Text (TLT), and which requires the syntactic, the semantic, and the pragmatic understanding and analytical processing of the source text. He added Syntactic Comprehension is identified with style and sense. Comprehension of Semantics is importantly related to the activity. As a final point is Pragmatic Understanding that is related to the message of a sentence. The previous definition does not declare what is transferred. To a certain extent, it presents the requirement of the procedures. (1)

Other specialists, Nida and Taber see translation as a process of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. (2)

In other words, translation is a conveyance of meaning, message, and style from one SLT to the TLT. In the request of need, style is set the last. Thus, the things to reproduce or transfer is acknowledged, message.

Another definition produced by Newmark “The act of translating very briefly. ‘It is the act of transferring the meaning of a stretch or a unit of language, the whole or a part, from one language to another’”. (3)

Predicated on many definitions above, translation is a science composed of a process to transfer the -----source meaning from one language to the target language, whether in written or spoken form.

Kinds of Translation:

Essentially, some kinds of translation have their particular qualities and structures. A few types of translation are discovered due to the distinctions and likenesses of the source structures, various types of content that will be translated and the diverse aim behind translation.

Roman Jakobson in Hatim and Munday makes a very important distinction between three types of written translation. 1) Intralingual translation; translation within the same language, which can involve rewording or paraphrasing. 2) Interlingual translation; translation from one

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language to another. 3) Intersemiotic translation; translation of the verbal sign by non-verbal sign, for example, music or image. (4)

Kinds of translation were differentiated, such as “word for word translation, free translation, literal translation, dynamic translation, pragmatic translation, aesthetic-poetic translation, ethnographic translation, linguistic translation, communicative translation, and semantic translation.

On the other hand, and according to Brislin, translation can be divided into four types: (a) pragmatic, (b) aesthetic-poetic, (c) ethnographic, and (d) linguistic translation. The pragmatic translation is the translation of a message with an interest in the accuracy of the information meant to be communicated in the target language form. Belonging to such translation is the translation of technical information, such as repairing instructions. The second type is the aesthetic-poetic translation that does not only focus on the information but also the emotion, feeling, beauty involved in the original writing. The third is the ethnographic translation that explicates the cultural context of the source and second language versions. The last type is the linguistic translation, the one that is concerned with equivalent meanings of the constituent morphemes of the second language and with grammatical form. (5)

Another scholar, Newmark states eight methods in the translation process, which are 1) word-for-word translation, 2) literal translation, 3) faithful translation, 4) semantic translation, 5) adaptation translation, 6) free translation, 7) idiomatic translation, and 8) communicative translation.

As in the first method *word-for-word* translation, it preserves the SL word and translates the words singly by their most common meanings, out of context. *Literal* translation converts the SL grammatical constructions to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. *Faithful* translation attempts to produce the accurate contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. *The semantic* translation must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text, compromising on ‘meaning’ where appropriate so that no wordplay or repetition jars in the last version. *Adaptation* translation is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten. *Free translation* produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original. *Idiomatic* translation reproduces the ‘message’ of the original but tends to change nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original. The last method is *the communicative* translation, which attempts to render the precise contextual meaning of the original so that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. A translator must have the capacity to pick which interpretation systems and methods to be utilized in translating a text. The



better technique and method a translator picks, the better he/she will pass on the meaning to the readers. (3)

Strategies of Translation:

Among all translation studies, there is no reasonable understanding concerning the notion of strategies as they may allude to 'methodology', 'approaches', 'strategies', 'standards', "choices" and so forth. Diverse researchers have distinctive marks for this notion. It is not inside of the extent of this study to examine the diverse terms and arguments among scholars and choose which one is more fitting. Krings defines translation strategy as "translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task". (6)

Vinay and Darbelnet identify two general strategies of translation; they are direct translation and oblique translation. (7) They added, those strategies of translation comprise seven procedures of which the direct translation covers the following: 1) Borrowing, which means that the SL word is transferred directly to the TL. 2) Calque that considered as 'a special kind of borrowing', where the SL expression or structure is transferred in a literal translation. 3) The literal translation is the third strategy that means 'word- for word' translation, which described as being most common between languages of the same family and culture. 4) The oblique translation covers four procedures that are transposition; this is a change of one part of speech for another without changing the sense. 5) Modulation translation identified by changes the semantics and point of view of the SL. 6) Equivalence translation, which describes the same situation by different stylistic or structural means. 7) Adaptation translation is the last strategy; it involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture.

Theories of translation:

Equivalence:

Equivalence per se considered by the theorists and researchers in the last 50 years as one of the significant and controversial topics to be discussed in the field of translation. Since, in descending, Munday (2001), Baker (1992), Newmark (1988), Nida and Taber (1969), Catford (1965), Jacobson (1959) and Vinay and Darbelnet (1958) have studied equivalence in relation to the translation process, via varied methods, and have proffered fertile and rich ideas for contribution of studying this subject. Munday comments on an equivalence that through its history in different parts of the world, translation practice and study have been subjugated by the debate over the degree of translation's equivalence, and degree of authenticity. Contrasts,



such as 'word-for-word' versus 'sense-for-sense' or 'literal' versus 'free' translations have been discussed in many professional and academic functions. (8)

Baker studies equivalence as form-based. She proposed five levels of equivalence: equivalence at a word level, equivalence above word level, grammatical equivalence, textual equivalence, and pragmatic equivalence. (9)

Firstly, equivalence at word level is defined as "word "and notes that word sometimes has different meanings in different languages, and relates the meaning of words with morpheme. Secondly, grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. She states that grammatical rules across languages may differ, which leads to some problems in finding a direct correspondence in the Target Language. Thirdly, textual equivalence refers to the equivalence between an SL text and a TL text regarding information and cohesion. Whether the cohesive relations between TL and SL should be maintained depends on three main factors, that is, the target audience, the purpose of the translation and the text type. Finally, pragmatic equivalence refers to the implication of the TL text. A translator has to recognize the implied meaning of SL text and then reproduce it in a way that readers of the Target Language can comprehend clearly without any cultural misunderstanding. Newmark classified equivalence into three parts, as mentioned before in the translation strategies: cultural equivalence, functional equivalence, and descriptive equivalence. (3)

Nida and Taber classified the concept of equivalence into two types concerning its functional basis. The first type is formal correspondence and the second dynamic equivalence. The former correspondence consists of a TL item that represents the closest equivalent of an SL word or phrase. They make it clear that there are not always formal equivalents between SL and TL. Therefore, they suggest that these formal equivalents should be used wherever possible if the translation aims at achieving formal rather than dynamic equivalence. The latter is defined as a translation principle according to which a translator seeks to translate the meaning of the original in such a way that the TL wording will produce the same impact on the audience as the original wording did upon the SL audience. (2)

Catford points out that translation equivalence is a phenomenon, which can be discovered by comparing the SL text and the TL text. Therefore, according to Catford, SL and TL words do not usually have precisely the same meaning in the linguistic sense. (10)

CONCLUSION:

To sum up, this research paper focused on four dimensions pertaining to the science of translation, starting with its definition as three diverse definitions from different scholars

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have given. The next dimension was the kinds of translation and in this regard, three perspectives have explained. The first scholar stated three types and the second scholar declared four types, while the third and the last one provided eight types of translation. Then the strategies of translation that introduced at first by its definition followed by viewing seven strategies. Finally, equivalence as one of the most important theories in translation as it shed light only on five scholars' views.

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