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## **A TRANSLATION FRAMEWORK: FROM LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATION**

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*The insight into the conceptual nature of the translation process has been given Cultural differences and discourse strategies as an integral part of the translation process have been regarded.*

Key words: translation framework, cross-cultural communication, a decision-making process, an interdisciplinary character.

### **1. Introduction**

Many people assume that any literate person who knows more than one language can automatically translate and interpret. Nothing is further from the truth. Advanced language skills are only the beginning. Subject knowledge, background knowledge, social and cultural competence within two linguistic communities, professional skills and ethics round off the profile of a professional translator. Translation is a natural and necessary activity, a craft and an art. Translators as mediators between different languages and different cultures will always be needed.

The act of translation is a multi-dimensional and multi-layered process. It has many points of contact with other disciplines, especially linguistics, pragmatics, corpus linguistics, lexicography, language teaching, comparative literature, cultural studies, gender studies, anthropology, ethnography etc.

### **2. The Nature of translation**

Translation is a process of conveying messages (ideas, thoughts, concepts etc) across linguistic and cultural barriers. "The fact that we are able to produce an equivalent in English for every word does not mean that we can give an adequate translation of the text. Translation implies that we have the capacity to enter into the mind, the world, and the culture of the speakers or writers and we can express their thought in a manner that is not only parallel to the original, but also acceptable to the target language" [1, p.111]. According to Larson [3], translation involves changing the form of the message from one language to the appropriate form in the second language without changing the deeper meaning. Often, language classes focus on surface meaning only which is carried by words, grammar, and sounds. Deep meaning involves ideas, concepts, the intended communicative purpose and cultural understanding. The goal in translation and communication is to find equivalent surface structures in two languages which correspond to the common deep meaning. The faithfulness of translation is achieved by producing the appropriate deep structure of an utterance which may cause some transformations of its surface structure [3]. Translation balances between the wish to be faithful to the original and the wish to fit into the new cultural context of the target language. The question of what happens when a text is imported from one cultural context into another is central to the study of this aspect. There is a fundamental difference between formal equivalence, on the one hand, and semantic and pragmatic equivalence, on the other hand. Formal equivalence and preserving the syntactic relations of the original may accompany semantic and pragmatic equivalence but they are by no means mandatory. Communication goes beyond the use of words. Translation at word and sentence levels may be ambiguous and lead to miscommunication. Adequate translation means a conceptual identity in both, the source and target languages. In conceptual translation, the unit of translation is neither the word nor the sentence; rather it is the concept. The best example is the translation of idioms and proverbs, e.g.: *When in Rome do as Romans do; He kicked the bucket; red tape etc.* Such idioms and proverbs cannot be translated word for word; rather they should be translated into equivalent concepts to convey the same meaning and produce the same effect on the recipients of the message.

The translator must be aware of different discourse strategies on SL and TL. Translation is a totally communicative process. Translation/interpreting is performed within the communicative framework and manifests cognitive involvement in language use. The translator/interpreter is a mediator between two languages and two

cultures, between the processes of encoding and decoding the message. The cognitive component of communication effectiveness involves the ways in which we process the information. Decoding and encoding the message must be carried out in such a way that no information is lost or gained.

Thus, translation activities can help develop not only linguistic competence in lexicon, syntax and morphology, but also develop the sociolinguistic aspects of appropriate communication..

### 3. Cultural implications of translation

Translation may be regarded as a response to a problem of communication between two language-bound cultural entities. Wierzbicka argues that we are "different people" not only because we speak different languages, but we think differently, feel differently and relate to other people differently [8]. An awareness or an understanding of the other party's cultural background is no doubt an essential first step. More specifically concerned with language and translation, Newmark defines culture as "the way of life and its manifestations" [4, p.94]. Culture, in a broad sense, is viewed as a process, a way of perceiving, interpreting, feeling, and being in the world. It is central for intercultural education that cultural issues of values, beliefs and attitudes are the most difficult to teach. Scollon and Scollon, experts in intercultural communication, argue that "many aspects of western culture, especially western patterns of discourse, are carried within English" [7, p.7]. Discussing the problems of correspondence in translation, Nida confers equal importance to both linguistic and cultural differences between the source and the target languages and concludes that "differences between cultures may cause more severe complications for a translator that do differences in language structure" [5, p.130]. One of the challenges that a translator faces is how to manifest the cultural nuances of the SL. It is essential to focus on the usage and cultural context in the translation process. Although an equivalent of the of a word may exist in another language, many times it lacks the cultural connotations associated with it, e.g.: *car pool, red curb, brown paper lunch, to take a red eye* etc. Faithful translation pertains the idiom of both SL and TL as a specific character, a form of expression peculiar these languages. A word is more than what is found in a dictionary, and it contains a series of semantic levels dictated by the cultural context.

Thus, it is crucial for performing translation "to develop the skill to look beyond words into the realm of meaning" [6, p.8]. Cultural boundaries may never be overcome but they can be lessened to the point that effective interaction may occur.

### 4. Conclusion

The multidimensional and multilayered nature of translation proves that it is a decision making process.. Translation may be regarded as the "fifth skill" in addition to the four basic communicative skills (listening, reading writing and speaking) [2].. Translation is a key to international understanding. In this vast world of communication and information we need competent translators who have both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to do their jobs well. The importance of theoretical knowledge lies in the fact that it helps translators acquire an understanding of how linguistic choices in texts reflect other relationships between senders and receivers of the information. It is important to know that it takes much more than a dictionary to be a good translator. To be a good translator requires a sizeable investment in both source and target languages. It is one of the most challenging tasks to switch safely and faithfully between two universes of discourse.

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