

TRANSLATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE

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The Oxford English Dictionary defines the term 'Translation' as 'translating from one language to another'. The English word 'Translation' is derived from Latin word 'Translatus'. 'Translatus' in Latin means 'carried across'.

Translation is a human activity, which enables human beings to exchange ideas and thoughts. Translation acts as a bridge in linking language based communities. Through the Translation the social, cultural and linguistic values are being transferred from one language to another. And the Translation is accepted as a creative, it needs creative ability to make the Translation process successful without deviating from the original. A good Translation is one that carries all the ideas of original as well as its structural and cultural features.

Translation is an action of interpretation of the meaning of a text and subsequent production of an equivalent text. It communicates the same message in another language.

Translation is considered as an art, since it requires expertise, resourcefulness and extensive training. And it also comprises as set of rules and traditions as in the case of other arts such as dance, music and drama. Although there had been various definitions for the term 'Translation' so far, a basic point merits the attention in this regard. Because of the word to word Translation of a text from the source language into target language is not considered as a Translation. Translation must take into consideration of the constraints that include the context, the rules of grammar of the two languages, their writing conventions, their culture and their idioms. A common misconception is that there exists a simple word to word correspondence between any two languages and that Translation is a straight forward mechanical process translating from one language to another. A word to word Translation does not take into the consideration of the context, grammar, conventions, culture and idioms.

The ideal Translation will be accurate as to the meaning and natural as to the receptor language forms used. An intended audience who is unfamiliar with the source text will readily understand it. The success of a Translation is measured by how closely it measures up to this ideal. Therefore it should be the reader-centered. Reasonably a good Translation should not look like a translated version. Translation is implicit in every act of communication. It is an act of domesticating the author. A successful Translation remains a close approximation to the text in the original.

It is a language-based activity; it depends on the grammar of two languages and linguistics norms. And it should have aims, purposes and objectives etc. Translation is a laudable attempt to break the barriers among languages.

Translation is a process based on the theory that it is possible to abstract the meaning of source text from its forms and reproduce that meaning with the very different forms of a second language without destruction.

Translation, then, consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its clear meaning, and then reconstructing this same meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure, which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context.¹

J.C. Catford defines Translation as "The replacement of the textural material in one language (SL) by equivalent textural material in another language (TL)"². According to Catford, Translation is an operation performed on languages, a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another.

Susan Bassnett says that, "Translation is conversion of meaning expressed in source language into target language. Translation is a process connected with all the languages in the world. Translation gives the import or version of something from one language to another. Translation is as great as original though it differs in form. The context remains in the translation. Translation is not just a reading, it is devotion. A translation should read like an original"³

A Language develops through Translation. The main aim of Translation is to bring out the ideas of source language to target language more or less without changing the ideas. A translator should bring out all the source language ideas into target language. Translation is an art but not science. Translation is an act of humility.⁴

The art of Translation is a subsidiary act and derivative. On this account it has never been granted the dignity of original work and has suffered too much in the general judgment of letter. The Translation should give a complete manuscript of the idea of the original work. Translation is a process of thought and afterthought. The best ideas may occur later.⁵

According to Nida, Essentially all Translation process is one in which a person who knows both the source and the receptor language, decodes the message of the source language and encodes it into an appropriate equivalent from the receptor language.

Isadore Pinchuck defines; "Translation is a practical method of finding equivalence for the source language in the target language"⁶

A good Translation is easily understood, fluent, smooth, and idiomatic. It conveys to some extent the literary subtleties of the original, distinguishes between the metaphorical and the literal, and reconstructs the social, cultural or historical context of the original.

Translation is an activity of enormous importance in the modern world and it is a needed subject not only to linguists, language teachers and professional translators but also to those who work for social harmony and peace. It is used as an important tool for the development of human race. And the importance of Translation has been thought and practiced from ages. The Translation has become an indispensable necessity all over the world in all movements of life such as academically, administratively, politically, economically, socially and culturally.

The modern society has varied needs, interests and attraction; it is interested in all the fields like art, literatures, science and technology. It is not contented with its intense knowledge in a single

field. It tries to gain knowledge from other fields. It is possible only through Translation. If there are no works on Translation, knowledge as well as literature in every language could remain isolated or segregated from others.

Without Translation there would be no international summits, laws and games etc., no science and technology, no war and peace, no social harmony and no education etc. And without Translation a language seems incomplete. Translation introduces knowledge from one language to another. The society can improve its knowledge by reading the Translations.

Jean Carrigue says, Translation is essential to humanism. It connects not only the past with the present. It is an ancient way too of making clear the kinship between men of different cultures, countries and ages. It is an exchange of recognitions.

Good theory is based on information gained from practice. Good practice is based on carefully worked-out theory. The two are interdependent.⁷ The ideal Translation should be...

- **Accurate:** reproducing as exactly as possible the meaning of the source text.
- **Natural:** using natural forms of the receptor language in a way that is appropriate to the kind of text being translated.
- **Communicative:** Expressing all aspects of the meaning in a way that is readily understandable to the intended audience.⁸

Readability, clarity, keeping intact the tone of the original text and spontaneity remain the essential qualities of a Translation. In short, the Translation should carry all distinguished features of the original text. The success of a translator does not depend alone on his ability to render a Translation without distorting the original meaning and emotions. The impacts and satisfactions it creates on the minds of the readers also assume importance. Otherwise such Translations would not make any visible impacts on society of ever increasing human needs. Translations go a long way in promoting understanding among societies and nations through exchange of ideas and fostering unity among diversity.

One of the French humanist and the first writers to formulate a theory of Translation was Etienne Dolet in 1540, published a short outline of the principles of Translation entitled 'How to translate well from one language into another' and defined following principles for a translator.

- The translator must fully understand the sense and meaning of the original author, although he is at liberty to clarify obscurities.
- The translator should have a perfect knowledge of both source language and Target language.
- The translator should avoid word to word renderings.
- The translator should use forms of speech in common use.
- The translator should choose and order words appropriately to produce the correct tone.⁹

Some scholars such as Theodre Savory define Translation as an 'art', others such as Eric Jacobsen define it as a 'craft', while others such as Eugene Nida define it as a 'science'. Horst Frenz claims that Translation is 'neither a creative art nor an imitative art, but stands somewhere between the two'.¹⁰

The famous linguist and translator Roman Jakobson, in his article 'On Linguistic aspects of Translation' distinguishes three types of Translation. They are:

- Intra-lingual Translation or Rewording: An interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs in the same language
- Inter-lingual Translation or Translation proper: An interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language.
- Inter-semiotic Translation or Transmutation: An interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign system.¹¹

Translation theories are formulated taking into consideration the basic principles of Translation. The practice of Translation is based on the general theories of Translation. For the better Translations the translators have to keep the conventions of the language and follow the general theories of Translation.

The scholars of the linguistics and Translation proposed three functions of translation. They are:

- Informative Function
- Expressive Function
- Imperative Function

The history of Translation theories shows that translators or creative writers follow various types of Translation for the effective outcomes of the works. Various scholars have classified Translation into various types based on several criteria.

Theodore Savory recognizes four different categories of Translation in 1957 as follows:

1. Perfect Translation
2. Adequate Translation
3. Composite Translation
4. Scientific and Technical Translation¹²

J.C.Catford, in 1965 has distinguished the types of Translation in terms of a) the extent, b) the levels and c) the ranks of Translation as follows:

1. Full vs Partial Translation
2. Total vs Restricted Translation
3. Rank-bound vs Rank-free Translation¹³

In 1974 Eugene A. Nida has distinguished two types of Translation based on the quality of Translation as follows:

1. Formal Correspondence
2. Dynamic Equivalence¹⁴

In 1979, New Mark differentiates eleven types of Translation such communicative, semantic, information, formal, full-prose, interlinear, literal, stylistic, analytical, imitation and service.¹⁵

And there are some more types of Translation are discussed by scholars. Word to word Translation, literal Translation, faithful Translation, semantic Translation, adaptive Translation, free Translation, Idiomatic Translation and communicative Translation are being considered as various types of Translation or method of Translation.

However, Translation can be classified basically into three major types such paraphrasing, adaptation or transcreation and total Translation.

Impossibility is one of the accepted truths of the Translation. The scholars of Translation say that, the Translation is a secret sin. It always never gives satisfactory and it is never completed only abundant.

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