

Translating Literary Texts

Techniques of Translating Literary Texts: the word technique means a method of achieving something. A means by which a translation is done. According to the leading Spanish specialist in translation, Professor Amparo Hurtado Albir there are five literary translation techniques:

1. **Adaptation:** means replacing cultural items with its equivalents in the target culture.
2. **Linguistic amplification:** means adding more new linguistic elements in the target text.
3. **Compensation:** this is used with wordplays and stylistic features that does not exist in the target language (to gain what is lost we need to compensate).
4. **Elision:** is the process of condensing some parts of a text by removing some linguistic items. For instance; summarizing the meaning of a sentence.
5. **Borrowing:** requires using words or expressions of the original in the target text. Words or expressions that might be known by the readers.

English Translation:

One day there was a herdsman in a beautiful small rural village who used to take/herd the animals of the village to/in the nearby pastures every morning and bring them back in the evening.

Once in a beautiful day, the herdsman thought of scaring the people of the village. So, he stood on a hill overlooking the village and started shouting and saying: "Hurry up please wolves and beasts are attacking me and all the livestock". As soon as the villagers heard his voice they left their works and took their weapons and went up hill but when they arrived at him he started laughing and mocking at them. The villagers then went grumbling back down the hill.

After some days, the herdsman repeated the story and kept on repeating it day after day. But one morning before he decided to do it again as usual, he found that he and the livestock were surrounded by beasts and wolves. He started shouting as loudly as he could: "Hurry up please! Wolves and beasts are attacking me and all the livestock. Help! Please help me! I am not lying this time". The villagers heard the voice but ignored him/do not care anymore.

The sun went down and time has come for the herdsman to return with the livestock to the village. As darkness fell the herdsman did not return yet, so the villagers gathered and went where the herdsman used to herd but they found nothing except torn clothes and some body parts and bones. They were sad to come back to their village without the herdsman but since then they called him "The Man Who cried Wolf", "the Herdsman who lied".

Cry wolf= is an idiom means to make a false claim; asking for help when it is not needed.

English Text:

The morning of June 27th was clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day; the flowers were blossoming profusely and the grass was richly green. The people of the village began to gather in the square, between the post office and the bank, around ten o'clock; in some towns there were so many people that the lottery took two days and had to be started on June 2th. But in this village, where there were only about three hundred people, the whole lottery took less than two hours, so it could begin at ten o'clock in the morning and still be through in time to allow the villagers to get home for noon dinner.

Arabic Translation:

كان صباح الـ 27 من يونينو (جوان) صباحا صافيا ومشمسا يتخلله دفاء منعش يدوم اليوم كاملا (طوال يوم الصيف كله). كانت الأزهار تبدو وكأنها تتفتح على نحو متزايد أما الحشيش فكانت خضرتة يانعة. كان أهل القرية قد بدأوا يتجمعون في الساحة بين مكتب البريد والمصرف في قرابة العاشرة تماما، غير أنه في بعض المدن كان يحتشد ناس كثيرين من أجل لعبة اليانصيب حتى لقد كان يستغرق ذلك يومين كاملين حتى يبدأوا في الثاني من يونينو (جوان). أما في هذه القرية التي يبلغ عدد سكانها حوالي ثلاث مئة فرد فقط، فإن تجمعهم لا يستغرق سوى ساعتين على الأكثر، لذلك فقد كان من الممكن أن تنطلق في تمام العاشرة صباحا ويتبقى وقت كاف ليعود السكان لبيوتهم في الظهرية أو وقت/عند العشاء.