

Theme 2 : Interpretation vs translation

1.1 Written translation

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The translation is not only an interaction between two languages, but also between two cultures, the translator must be informed about the historical, linguistic, and cultural context of the languages in which he/she translates. Hence, recent studies have paid particular attention to the translator's competence and knowledge with respect to culture.

Interpretation vs. Translation

- A translator's work is more methodical and exact.
- All interpreters, but especially consecutive interpreters, should have superior short-term memory.
- An interpreter must have a good voice, excellent public speaking skills. She should feel comfortable in the spotlight.
- Consecutive interpreters tend to be more visible, as they usually are standing or sitting beside their principal.

But the translation should never be done literally. It should rather reflect the meaning and preserve the stylistic subtleties of the original. Even St. Jeronimo (Shen Jeronimi) (347-420) from Dalmacia in Illyria and Cicero emphasised the fact that a translation should never be done word-for-word, but meaning-for-meaning, so, in translation process, any translator should be looking for the best possible way to decode the original meaning. This means that he has to think and reflect about it, clearly and conveying it into another language while Interpretation focuses more on paraphrasing the content that the speaker is trying to convey. An interpreter, someone who repeats the message but in a different language, deals with live conversation, which can include translating meetings, conferences, appointments, live TV, ...ect, therefore we find translators focus on working with written materials like print or websites, which is one main difference between translation and interpretation.

1.1 Written translation types :

1.1.1 General translation

Considered as the simplest type of translation as it implies only ordinary, day to day speech. This type of translation does not usually demand a specific expertise or a specialized background for a translator. However, to do this type of translation, a translator still needs to be an expert in linguistics, the local market, and the customs. Professional translators who have postgraduate background and who reside in the area where the target language is used are the best choice. You will be able to find a reliable and a high-level, for which the translator doesn't need extensive knowledge or experience of a specific specialist area. These include, for example, news articles, travelogues, private or business letters and job applications.

1.1.2 Literary translation

Literary translation is one of the most complex genres of translation, requiring in-depth literary knowledge among people involved in this field. The literary translator deals with various textual contents where elements of suggestive expressions prevail. This requires him to reach an aesthetic goal through working on renewed forms of expression. Thus, he produces a text that simulates its original counterpart in terms of structure and meaning. In other words, he intends to create an immediate effect through an aesthetic language

structure, which is called the achievement of semantic equivalence in translation work.

Some see that translating literary texts needs gifted, talented translators who have literary taste to this job; i.e. a poem needs a poet to translate. They must have literary sense and skills to deal with all aesthetic values of the source text, and this is what makes translating literary texts a hard job. On the other hand, others say that it's not necessarily to have a poet to translate a poem as the poem could be translated by any translators.

Comparing literary texts with scientific texts, there are some differences; for instance, the translator who deals with a literary text is very much concerned about the manner (form); on the other hand, the translator who translates a scientific text is concerned about the global meaning.

Moreover, translating a literary text needs the translator to have literary sense and taste; in contrast, translating a scientific text needs the translator to have good knowledge in the field s/he is translating. Finally, the translator of a literary can work hard to find a suitable substitute in the target language if they are to drop a part of the source text; to drop a metaphor that could be shocking in the target language for example;

A- Metaphors Translation

Meagre years	سنوات عجاف
A dog's life	حياة بائسة
Save up for a rainy day	خبئ قرشك الأبيض ليومك الأسود

B- Some of translated proverbs from English into Arabic :

A chip of the old block	- ذاك الشبل من ذاك الأسد، من شابه أباه فما ظلم
Add fuel to the fire	- يزيد الطين بلة
Les eaux calmes sont les plus profondes	- تحت السواهي دواهي
Charity begins at home	- الأقربون أولى بالمعروف

c- Idiomatic Expressions TR

English Idioms	Arabic Equivalences
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All is grist that comes to his mill - Get out of hand - Let someone off the hook - That's the last straw - Hit the nail on the head - John beat around the bush 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - إنه ينتفع بكل ما يقع تحت يديه - يخرج عن السيطرة - يهرب من العقاب - القشة التي قسمت ظهر البعير - يصيب كبد الحقيقة - جون يدور حول الموضوع (يراوغ)
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C- Literary translated text



المترجمون
السوريون
Syrian Translators

ترجمة

اللص والكلاب

نجيب محفوظ

مرة أخرى يتنفس نسمة الحرية، ولكن الجو غبار خانق وحر لا يطاق. وفي انتظاره وجد بدلته الزرقاء وحذاءه المطاط، وسواهما لم يجد في انتظاره أحدا. ها هي الدنيا تعود، وها هو باب السجن الأصم يبتعد منطويا على الأسرار اليانسة. هذه الطرقات المثقلة بالشمس، وهذه السيارات المجنونة، والعايرون والجالسون، والبيوت والدكاكين، ولاشفة تفتت عن ابتسامة.. وهو واحد، خسر الكثير، حتى الأعوام الغالية خسر منها أربعة غدرا، وسيقف عما قريب أمام الجميع متحديا. أن للغضب أن ينفجر وأن يحرق، وللخونة أن يياسوا حتى الموت، وللخيانة أن تكفر عن سحتها الشائنة.

The Thief and The Dogs

Translated By: Trevor Le Gassik, M. M. Badawi

Once more he breathed the air of freedom. But there was stifling dust in the air, almost unbearable heat, and no one was waiting for him; nothing but his blue suit and gym shoes.

As the prison gate and its unconfessable miseries receded, the world - streets belaboured by the sun, careening cars, crowds of people moving or still - returned.

No one smiled or seemed happy. But who of these people could have suffered more than he had, with four years lost, taken from him by betrayal? And the hour was coming when he would confront them, when his rage would explode and burn, when those who had betrayed him would despair unto death, when treachery would pay for what it had done.

أسس الترجمة - د. عز الدين محمد نجيب.

1.1.3 Specialised translation

People use languages and symbols to produce texts of all kinds: written, oral/aural, and visual; informative and imaginative; informal and formal;

mathematical, scientific, and technical. The importance of language is also reflected in the science curriculum which has a strand entitled Communicating in science.

However, the translator of a scientific text must keep every single word as every word is of a great value. To clarify my point, I will present the main features of scientific discourse in addition to some translated texts from English, French into Arabic.

Starting firstly by revealing scientific translation characteristics, which is really a challenge that not every translator should take. It requires an excellent knowledge of English/ French as well as very good knowledge of specialized terminology in general, for this reason specialized translation is one of the most difficult translations.

The main obstacles a scientific translator is likely to face are or technical specialised terminology and a specific knowledge. The prime concern of the following presentation is to indicate the aspects of difficulties and focus on the complexity of scientific translation with a medical nature.

- Learning the language of science (specialised language) :

In learning the language of science, as translator or student you need to learn not only a vocabulary but how words go together and when to use this way of communicating. The role for teachers is to help students build bridges between their known and familiar ways of using language, and academic ways of using language

3 What do we mean by the Scientific discourse ?

S D is the processes and methods used to communicate and debate scientific information. Discourse focuses on how to arrive at and how to present scientific ideas and thoughts, taking into account a diverse range of audiences. Those audiences include peers, students, teachers, the general public, business and government organizations, or any other potential audience that may benefit from or contribute to scientific theory .

Communication in scientific discourse refers to both written and spoken communication and often involves methods of reasoning as well as vocabularies used to present information, conclusions and ideas.

What does the language of science look like ?

1- Text Organisation

1-1 Text structure

Information is presented in a logical order where meaning is built up step by step.

1-2 Connectives

Connectives link ideas so that claims about knowledge can be formed and justified. The place of connectives within a sentence varies.

2- SL Feature

2-1 Technical language

Technical words are specific to a particular topic, field, or academic discipline. These words, i.e., their scientific meanings, are usually uncommon elsewhere.
Exp : (pollution; CO₂; solution, periodic table).

2-2 Academic language:

Academic words are common to the range of academic disciplines.

Exp : (Affect, analyse, assess, concept, conclude, , define, design, estimate, formula, identify, indicate, interpret, , method, process, resource, relevant, select, similar, specific, theory).

2-3 Condensed language:

Information is densely packed, i.e., several ideas are packed into just a small amount of text.

Exp : Heavy rain causes the water to rise up high and spill over the banks" (an example of a child's use of everyday language to explain a process) is turned into "Heavy rain causes flooding" (an example of a more condensed form of language).

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1- Factual and objective:

The focus is on things and processes. People's thoughts, feelings and opinions are not usually of interest.

2- Passive voice:

The passive voice focuses attention on the action, not who did it.

Exp : Baking soda and vinegar [subject] were mixed [verb]. I.e., the baking soda and vinegar receive the action of the verb in that they were mixed.

We [subject] mixed the baking soda and vinegar [verb]. I.e., "We" (the students) is the agent or actor of the verb in that the students mixed the baking soda and vinegar.



2.2. Interpretation types :

The two main types (techniques) of oral and verbal interpretation are simultaneous and consecutive interpretation in addition to Whisper Interpreting, The goal for interpreting is not to paraphrase, but to convey the exact language.

1.1.1 Simultaneous Interpreting

In simultaneous interpreting, the interpreter must translate the sentence into the target language while simultaneously listening to and comprehending the next sentence. Strictly speaking, “simultaneous” is a misnomer: interpreters cannot start interpreting until they understand the general meaning of the sentence. It is used frequently in

- Business world communication.
- During big meetings, conferences or trade shows (This form of interpreting is similar to UN interpreting).

When , the interpreter sits in a booth wearing headphones and speaks into a microphone. In this context the speakers from different countries speaking different languages get on the stage and talk in their native language. Interpreters take their places in booths in the conference room and translate the speaker’s words for the audience, by memorizing the words that the source-language speaker is saying, while simultaneously outputting in the target language the translation of words the speaker said 5-10 seconds ago. In these types of Interpretation, the interpreters must be experts in linguistics and expert quick thinkers. This work can be very challenging, so they often work in pairs for simultaneous Interpretation. Both interpreters stay present in the booth working in shifts of 20 to 25 minutes each.



2.2 .2 Consecutive Interpreting

Is another most popular type of Interpretation. Consecutive Interpretation is the process of translating after each sentence or two sentences as a speaker delivers the speech. Therefore, the speaker must adjust their address's pace so that the consecutive interpreter can convert their meaning. This kind of Interpreting can help in a conversation between two individuals or discussions among a larger group of peoples. In this case, consecutive interpreting plays a vital role in facilitating conversations to overcome the language barrier. During this process the speaker stops every 1–5 minutes (usually at the end of every “paragraph” or complete thought), and the interpreter then steps in to render what was said into the target language.

Consecutive interpreting may be used for smaller business meetings or in court on the witness stand. This is a back and forth style of interpreting, with speakers of multiple languages taking turns speaking and being interpreted.

Interpreters must have :

- An excellent skills in note-taking and hearing without loss of detail.
- Extraordinary listening abilities.
- Interpreters must possess excellent public speaking skills, in addition to their extralinguistic and intellectual capacity to instantly transform idioms, colloquialisms .

2.1.1 Whisper Interpreting



3

From the French for ‘whispering’ is the chuchotage interpreting Is a less popular type of Interpretation than simultaneous and consecutive interpreting

It is similar to simultaneous interpreting but the interpreter does not use a headset or microphone, rather the interpreter sits next to the person (or group of people) who require interpreting and whispers or speaks softly while interpreting in the target language. **Whispering** involves the interpreter serving one or perhaps two listeners within a room.

This is often used for :

- 4 a business meeting where just one person requires interpreting.
- 5 In a courtroom where someone in the back of the room requires interpreting to understand what is being said.

⇒ **In these types of Interpretation, the speaker speaks, and the interpreter translates the sentences only for those listeners.**

⇒ **This form of interpreting is much harder on the interpreter’s voice.**

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