

TECHNIQUES AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF TRANSLATION

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Abstract: The following article is about the differences between translation methods and techniques also it includes the categories of the techniques with their usage within a procedure, additionally; it distinguishes the categories from each other.

Key words: bilingualism, mechanical copying, transcription, transliteration, grammatical, lexical, semantic, complex transformation, borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, reformulation, adaption.

Inevitably, translation is one of the most ancient types of human activities. As various languages appeared in the development of humanity, bilingualism also thrived in order to provide comprehension between two or more people, communities and nations with different languages. Not only is translation ancient, but also it is a difficult and vital key to social development and the quote “Without translation, we would be living in provinces bordering on silence” said by a French critic George Steiner determines the importance of proper translation again.

First of all, we have to identify the difference between a translation method and a technique. A translation method is applied to the whole text to be translated while a translation technique may vary within the same text depending on the specific verbal elements to be translated, if explained more simply, a translator uses one method to translate the whole text, but several techniques to translate the sentences in the same text which shows the connection between methods and techniques that is why it is suggested that all techniques should be mastered in order to obtain an appropriate result.

In order to transfer a form from one language to another with different alphabets remaining the basic context, a translator either copies the form by letters of the target language or making transformations.

There are two types of mechanical copying or transfer words of the source language:

- **Transcription** or the act of copying the sound form of the source language word by the letters of the target language: for instance: hockey –хоккей, baseball-бейсбол, garage-гараж, trolleybus-троллейбус, firework-фейерверк, hake – хек, eau de cologne – одеколон, verbal – вербальный, non – verbal – не вербальный and etc.
- **Transliteration** or copying the letters of the source language by the target language letters of another system, for example: Uzbekistan-Узбекистан Berlin-Берлин, Vena-Вена, communism-коммунизм, transposition-транспозиция, liberalization-либерализация, telecommunication.

But some linguists, V.N Komissarov for example, consider calque translation as a mechanical copying. Calque is translation by parts. For example: overloaded-перегруженный, sunglasses-солнечные очки, for example-на пример, underuse-недоиспользовать, bilingual-двухязычный, future president-будущий президент, shopping centre- торговый центр and etc. However, the calqued word is not just a mechanical borrowing of the word form, but it undergoes some changes, this method, to some extent, an actual translation including translation forms, for instance: wildlife-животный мир, market economy-рыночная экономика, восстановить-restore etc.

Translation transformations are complete changes of the appearance of a translated word, phrase, or sentence. They can be of 3 categories:

- Grammatical transformations
- Lexical (semantic) translations
- Complex (lexical and grammatical) translations

When structural and conceptual elements of the source language can be translated into the target language the translator uses direct procedures. There are three main direct techniques:

Borrowing, Calque, Literal translation

Borrowing:

This is the easiest and most straightforward technique in translation. It is the way of not translating at all, all the translator has to do is just conserving the word or an expression unchanged from the source language into the target one. It should not be transferred, but

instead ought to be used directly in order to give the passage the basic sense when no equal word exists in the target language.

Examples: la Bibliothe`que Nationale... rue de Richelieu – the Bibliothe`que Nationale... the Rue de Richelieu, NATO-HATO, NASA-HACA, UNESCO – ЮНЕСКО, UNICEF – ЮНИСЕФ, and etc, not only are these obligatory borrowings in English or Russian, but also in many other languages since all institutions, including names of organizations, names of streets, must be maintained in the original form, furthermore the abbreviations of famous organizations are recognized by their original names, that is the reason that we remain the basic form.

More examples: samovar, troika, poshlost, nadryv, khamstvo, toska, kolkhoz, vodka and etc.

Calque:

As explained above it is a particular type of borrowing in which an expression is borrowed from the source text by translating every word or part of a word separately. Sometimes calques work, but sometimes they do not.

Example

Source language	Target language
rename	Переименовать
secret location	Секретное расположение
a former prisoner	Бывший заключенный
unaccomplished	Недоделанный
group mates	Однокурсники
brainwashing	Промывка мозгов
headache	Головная боль
trademark	Торговая марка
schoolboy	Школьник

But calque can be very tricky as it may lead to the translators false friend (direct and incorrect translation), for example: водохранилище-reservoir (not water keep), restroom-туалет (not комната отдыха), water melon-арбуз (not водяная дыня), water closet-туалет

(not водяная полка), headway-прогресс (not головной путь), feedback-мнение (not еда назад), freshman-первокурсник (not свежий человек) and etc.

Literal translation:

Unlike borrowing, literal translation is the procedure of translating each word separately, without looking at how the words are used in a phrase or a sentence. It was claimed by J.P Vinay and J.Parbalet that literal translation can only be used between two languages with extremely close culture terms, it may only be accepted when the translated texts retains the same syntax, the same meaning and the function as the original text, for example: Quelle heure est-il? – What time is it? But if the same question was literally translated it would sound like “Какое это время?” and would have the right meaning asked in the basic question because the literal translation may lead to mistranslating of idioms and proverbs that is why it is better to learn the type of the sentence and look for the equivalents. For example, the Uzbek proverb “Sabrning tagi sariq oltin” may literally be mistranslated as “the base of patience is yellow gold” which does not give any sense of comprehension, but in the case of selecting an equivalent, it would sound like “Rome wasn’t built in a day” or “Everything comes to him who waits” which would be more natural. If the idiom “Put your feet in your mouth”, which means “to say something without thinking”, was literally translated into Russian, we would end up with “Положить свою ногу в рот” or another idiom “Feel under the weather”, which has the meaning “to feel slightly ill”, would be like “Быть под погодой” in the case of the literal translation, which would not only be wrong, but definitely extraordinary. Proverbs and idiom have to be applied to the particular technique explained below.

According to the work of J.P.Vinay and J.Parbalet, which dates back to 1958, translation consists of another four categories excluding the ones we have already clarified.

- **Transposition** which means transforming from one grammatical category in the source language to another in the target one without a change in the context. This technique of translation introduces a change in grammatical structure.

Example: You had better get up – Тебе следует встать, A summit was against global warming held in Moscow – в Москве прошёл саммит против глобального потепления, have you been invited to the conference? – Вас пригласили на конференцию?, My actions were approved personally by the director – директор лично подтвердил мои действия, etc

- **Modulation** is about changing the form of the text or the phrase by involving a semantic change.

Example: Unless you find a job, you will face trouble – Пока ты не найдешь работу, трудности будут тебя преследовать, he cannot but come to the meeting - он не может не прийти на собрание.

- **Equivalence or reformulation** is a technique which uses completely different expressions and words to give the same meaning, this technique is the one that should be used for idiom and proverb procedures rather than literal technique.

Example: Once burnt, twice shy - Sutdan og'zi kuygan, qatiqni puflab ichadi (Uzbek), Обжегшись молоком, будешь дуть и на воду (Russian), Keep your chin up – держи нос выше, pull somebody's legs – кого-то обмануть.

- **Adaption** (also called **cultural equivalent**) is a cultural element which replaces the original text with one that is the best suited to the cultural meaning of the word.

Example: Ko'pkari (Uzbek) – Horse race, Пасха – Easter, baseball – futbol, domino – narda, drums – dombra, stipendiay – scholarship, Namoz o'qish – pray – молиться (the word “Namoz o'qish” is adapted by the word “pray”. Although it is accepted as the translation of this word, they don't have the same meaning as the word “namoz o'qish” means “to fulfill the duty of the religion Islam” and Muslims fulfill Namaz not to ask something, but it is their obligations while the words “pray” in English and “молиться” in Russian mean to ask God for help or something else.

From all said above, we can conclude that all the techniques are important according to their functions within a text, a sentence or even a word. They ought to be used in the right place so that the translator can achieve the expected result from the procedure.

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