
Translation Problems and Solutions Strategies

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Abstract

Translation has been a means of communication between humans and civilizations since time immemorial. It has played an important role in bringing one civilization closer to another.

The translation is a technical and professional task. The main component of translation is to transfer the complete and meaningful message of the source language into a target language.

Translators face various problems during translation. In this article, the problems faced by translators and their solutions have been highlighted. These problems include Issues of meaning, equivalence, culture, and Untransability of the source text.

Later, the solutions to the issues faced by the translator during translation and the techniques of translation are also described. Finally, many instructions will be mentioned which are necessary for a good translator to take care of during the translation.

Keywords: Translation, Meaning problem, cultural problem, Equivalence problem, Un-traceability problem, direct and indirect translation methods, Translator solutions

Background

The goal of the ancient peoples in translation was to get acquainted with each other's literature and civilization and to learn and benefit from what others made and access it in the fields of literature, science, and arts. The people who focused on translation were distinguished by their understanding of the cross-pollination of ideas and cultures and their awareness of the results and importance of this cross-pollination. In a quick review of the history of ancient civilizations, one discovers that civilizations flourished and shined when they were translated and fertilized. As for today, our world has witnessed a revolution in the means of communication and communication between humans, such that they started talking about a global village in which the word spreads through the air or through communication technology to reach the farthest corners of the earth within minutes or even seconds, and for this everyone began to dream that humanity will melt into one crucible of knowledge. Without a doubt, translation has been and still is a bridge through which

cultures cross with the rest of the societies around them without any permission. It plays a major role in creating a dialogue between different literatures, narrowing the gap between different civilizations and cultures, and preparing the conditions for finding a common global literature. This activity in itself has existed since time immemorial, as humans practiced it, whether by gesture, gesture, speech or writing, throughout the ages, so they exchanged information among themselves, and cultures and civilizations intermarried with each other as well. The theory of dialogue of civilizations has become today a global theory that enjoys the attention, respect and appreciation of many thought and opinion holders in the world, especially theorists and thinkers among them. Because Islam in its essence is a religion whose basic teachings are based on dialogue, and the first condition for dialogue is the recognition of diversity, pluralism and distinctions. In fact, this dialogue is an available possibility for advancement and uplifting the status of man and societies.¹

This can only be achieved through translation. Translation was and still is the pillar of the intellectual and cultural renaissance of peoples. Through translation, the cultural renaissance began in the first era of Islam, when Muslims realized the nation's need to use its intellectual nourishment. Through translation, valleys of various world cultures poured into the Arab River. Translation is the preferred means for getting acquainted with what other people have of useful and rich technologies and ideas, and also, in return, for introducing others to what people have, since culture is give and take and is not a one-way march, and as a whole it is a continuous successive stage that must be passed through in order to translate and Arabize every useful science and education, and to enrich Language and making it among the modern languages with its sciences, literature, arts and multiple technologies.

Since translation is inherent in human history, because the multiplicity of peoples and the different languages that emerged as a result of climate, environment, food and reproduction contributed to human civilization and made the phenomenon of translation the only tool to meet the need for communication between human beings, individually and collectively, and in all kinds of exchange. Civilized man has known the virtue of translation since a long time ago, as it is the bridge on which the culture of nations crosses over to one another, thus increasing knowledge and deepening the enjoyment of life in this world. It is the crutch of progress and renaissance in every country that has lagged behind civilization for one reason or another. It is the symbol and character of the civilization of the era that every rising nation represents. This communication has increased in abundance, especially in the present era, after the modern scientific, political, industrial and literary translations that are now spreading strong and overwhelming with the issuance of newspapers, magazines and popular translated stories.

1. DIFFICULTY IN THE MEANING²

The issue of translation problems and the difficulties that the translator faces when translating is considered one of the very important issues in translation studies, as these problems lie in some of the basic elements in the translation process

represented in linguistic and cultural concepts and terminology. As these concepts branch out from issues of meaning, equivalence, and the impossibility of translation, and meaning is considered one of the recurring and constant topics in dealing with it.

Eugene Nida in his book (Towards the Science of Translation) dealt with the meaning from three axes:

- a) Linguistic meaning: which the word obtains through its relationship with other words in the sentence according to the structure.
- b) Referential or referential meaning: which is determined precisely from the dictionary so that the signifier is employed in it according to the reference to the signified.
- c) Intuitive meaning: which means standing under the shadows of meaning by diving into the context according to the reader's sense. Many of those who have studied and practiced translation agree that the biggest problem with translation is the translator's inability to convey the exact meaning of the original text to the target language for several reasons, including:
 - Any language includes many similar synonyms and differs in a slight difference in meaning from each other.
 - Each of the languages has its own characteristics and rules and differs in how, structure and arrangement, as this difference leads to problems in translation according to the difference between the source culture and the target culture.
 - The lack of development of the translator's capabilities and his keeping up with the linguistic and cultural developments between languages according to the development of the times.³

2. EQUIVALENCE PROBLEM⁴

The concept of "equivalence" is still subject to disagreement and conflict among translation theorists. In the past, the target text equivalent to the original text was the focus of translation theorists. Despite the transformations that have taken place in the concept of equivalence, it remains a subject of conflict, and among the main reasons for this conflict is that most translation theories today look at translation as both a linguistic and extralinguistic phenomenon.

The origin of equivalence dates back historically to mathematics, where this concept is used to denote symmetry in value within the mathematical equation. If b has the same value as a, then b is equivalent to a. As for equivalence in translation, there is no explicit and specific date that shows us when equivalence was used. "It is difficult to determine when the concept of equivalence was used, given that Jacobson spoke about it in 1959. Some translation theorists assert that the term appeared in the field of mathematics and justify this hypothesis that the term equivalence refers to a similar relationship between data that can be replaced by another without making a major change.

From the foregoing, we say that the use of equivalence in its mathematical meaning within translation theory will be very difficult because the language of mathematics is a digital language, while the languages that are used in the translation are human languages in which there is a certain percentage of subjectivity. Although Naida used equivalence in his theory of "formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence," we find that he presents a perception of equivalence specific to translation. He believes that "mathematics requires equivalence, in whole or in part, in identity, but when we talk about languages, this meaning is almost impossible as long as there are two words in two languages that do not have the same meaning.

Many studies and literature published on translation dealt with some of the problems of translation according to templates and theoretical references, including the issue of equivalence. Therefore, the problem of equivalence is considered one of the greatest and most difficult translation problems faced by translators, which encouraged many researchers to address this problem, each in his own way in dealing with it, which covered many aspects of the problem, but it is certainly not a study that deals with the entire issue. The discussions related to equivalence came after the controversy aroused by searching for ways to distinguish between literal and free translations in form and content, given that the target text was equivalent to the source text in previous discussions between translation theorists in distinguishing between literal translation and free translation, as well as differentiating between form and content. Despite the concepts that have emerged on equivalence, it is still a place for discussion and study, given that most translation theories consider translation as a dual phenomenon, linguistic and non-linguistic at the same time.

According to Jeremy Mundy, "equivalence is the description and interpretation of the relationship between the source text and the target text that is measured and analyzed with five elements:

- Writing and editing words, whether sentences or texts
- Analysis of the lexical meaning, whether it is an explicit or implicit meaning.
- Communication effect caused by free valence.
- The similarity of linguistic characteristics induced by formal equivalence.
- The state, which is the target of the translational function induced by functional equivalence.

Scholars and theorists have differed in defining and classifying equivalence, and each group looks at it according to the vision it adopts based on language, type of text, and the function of equivalence. To this day, it has remained a place of discussion and disagreement among translation theorists, which made it witness a great development in terms of theorizing and handling.

Catford considers equivalence an essential phenomenon in translation at the theoretical and practical levels, and he specified conditions for it that he distinguished into two types:

Textual equivalence: It focuses on the possibility of finding an equivalent of the source text in the target language.

Formal compatibility: It focuses on replacing the linguistic elements in the source language with elements that match them in the target language according to the general system that governs the two languages.

Popovic defines equivalence in his book *TRANSLATION THEORY* as four types:

- a. **Linguistic equivalence:** It is the language in which the source and target texts converge to the degree of homogeneity, and this occurs in translation word for word.
- b. **Prototypical suggestive equivalence:** It is the one in which the elements and components of grammatical rules are similar.
- c. **Stylistic equivalence:** which is similar in meaning or message expressed between the original text and the translation.
- d. **Textual (contextual) equivalence:** It is the one in which the evidence, form and composition of texts are similar.

And through this distinction by which equivalence was classified, the identity of the message expressed appears between the source text and the target text. Therefore, whenever the translator moves away from the appropriate and accurate equivalence, the problem of equivalence appears clearly. And the problem of equivalence, despite its emergence on the surface in the work of translation, but the specialists among the linguists and the theorists of translation carried it more than its capacity through competition in defining and distinguishing equivalence in which the names differed more than the functional forms of equivalence.

By addressing the problem of translation represented in the problem of equivalence, we find that the specialists from the theorists exchange roles in naming and classifying the types of equivalence with the same characteristics and treatments despite the difference. "Money Baker" considers equivalence to be the method that translators use more than others in the translation process, and has classified it under other names:

- I. Equivalence at the word level: This is concerned with meaning at the level of individual expressions and words as a meaningful linguistic unit.
- II. Above word level equivalence: which reveals two paired combinations of words and phrases (extensions of language).
- III. Textual equivalence: This is concerned with communicating accurate information, using consistency in the evidence between the source text and the target text, and discussing the text at the level of the order and coherence of speech.
- IV. Syntactic equivalence: which deals with categories and grammatical units.
- V. Pragmatic equivalence, which deals with linguistic intent and how texts are used, state of communication that involve variables such as writers, readers, and cultural context.

In finding a solution to the problem of translation, it is necessary to identify the elements and factors that cause the translator to encounter such problems. Among those factors:

- Most languages have a large number of vocabularies and synonyms that do not completely match the meaning.
- Languages take their own form in the formation of sentences and phrases, and the arrangement of vocabulary and grammar that makes them different from another language, as this difference leads to problems in translation, which puts the translator in a critical position if he does not possess the overall culture of those languages in order to accurately convey the required meaning from the culture of the source language to the culture of the target language during the translation process.
- If the translator has little culture, limited capabilities and does not keep pace with developments in languages and cultures.
- The above elements and factors on the one hand, and on the other hand as a treatment for the problem of equivalence, the translator must adhere to the linguistic arrangement of the source text in terms of dividing the text into units, paragraphs and punctuation marks, taking into account the rules of the target language in order not to cause confusion in the meaning and avoid ambiguity due to the neglect that sometimes happens to some Linguistic structures in terms of grammatical construction, methods and aesthetic images in the target language, especially in translation in which formal equivalence is used. This is given that the translator, when translating in which formal equivalence is used, sometimes contains a large amount of information that the reader does not perceive in the target language because the translator followed the method of literal transfer of phrases and terms written in the source text, and you need a translation strategy in order to adapt them in the culture of the target language to understand their meanings clearly. Likewise, translation, when trying to find the appropriate equivalent, needs a match in the relationship between the message and the recipient, as in the translation in which free equivalence is used in order to find a natural equivalent for the message in the source text, with the same effect that the source text has on the recipient when searching for providing a natural context in the target text.

3. Cultural Problem

Translation is closely related to culture. Culture is a series of behaviors, values, concepts, principles and ideas that people carry. It is complementary to language and language is complementary to culture, given that language is a means of expressing culture. Culture in its broadest sense is a set of values, knowledge, customs, morals, arts, beliefs, customs, and laws that a person acquires from the society and the environment in which he lives. In this context, we find that

translation is the human need to transfer information and communicate ideas between multiple languages for the purpose of interaction and cultural exchange between societies, bringing cultural concepts closer to those peoples. Within this understanding, the translator seeks to find a cultural equivalent or equivalence between the source text and the target text according to the nature and culture of the two languages. Hence, the cultural problematic in translation appears, which is represented in the cultural differences between nations due to the cultural disparity that leads the translation process to what translation scholars have known as the impossibility of translation. This happens because there is no terminology or expression in the target language that corresponds to what is in the source language. Thus, the problem of culture becomes the biggest dilemma in translation as a result of difficulties associated with some elements, including:

- beliefs
- Culture community environment
- Customs, traditions, laws, and customs of the cultural community
- The cultural and linguistic characteristics of the society of that culture

The problem of culture in translation has not been absent from the discussion of linguists and translation scholars. Culture is a large concept that includes a set of values, morals, beliefs, knowledge, arts, customs, laws, customs, and traditions acquired by man as a member of society.

Peter Newmark (1988 Newmark) considered that culture is the way of life and the manifestations that society shows through the use of that society for a specific language as a means of expression. When translating from one language to another, and from one culture to another culture, the translator faces those cultural problems, including political, religious, administrative, and literary terms, which makes it difficult for him to find a counterpart or equivalence commensurate with that in the target language and culture.

For example, in Arab culture, we find the name of a female camel (الناقة), which is the camel, which has no equal or equivalent in other languages such as English.

The she-camel (الناقة) is a name that has a heavy presence in the Arab culture and is mentioned in religious texts and in the Holy Qur'an, such as the camel of the Prophet Salih (PBUH) as well as in the prophetic biography of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (his she-camel, Al-Qaswa). In addition the word camel is generally used in Arabic poetry.

Differences between languages are accompanied by differences between cultures. For example; The difference between the language of the source and the target is accompanied by the difference between the cultures; The source and target clearly affect the process of communication between the two different cultures. Thus, it affects the translation process. From here, the importance of the cultural background and its effect on the translation process is evident, and thus the emergence of the problem of dimensions and cultural characteristics as a result of the elements of the environment and civilization related to the two cultures transferred to and from them.

In English, an expression that makes the translator in a difficult position if he does not understand the culture is: "if you were in my shoes", which is understood by the ordinary person who is not aware of the culture as "if you were in my shoes", which is a literal translation that is ambiguous in the intended meaning and which we can understand on "If you are in my position or if you are in my circumstances"

Another example is

"I have kept some money in the chest for a rainy day". The cultural problem appears in the word Chest, which is understood in the target culture as chest, while in the source culture, it means the treasury, as well as in the phrase *Day Rainy*, which is understood in the target culture as "rainy day" while it is in the source culture. The source culture means *"black day"* and therefore the correct translation is "I kept some money in the treasury for a black day".

Thus, distance and cultural differences between languages and cultures play an important role in the translation process.

The expressions and terms that have a cultural dimension carry more significance in any language than the same dimension may not be found in other languages, which makes it necessary to adapt the content according to the data of the two cultures. And since translation is a process of linguistic approximation based on the cultural factors shared between the source language and the target language, the translator should address the cultural problems by immersing himself in the culture of the communities of both the target and target languages.

4. Untransability Problem

The problem of inability to translate is considered one of the most difficult translation difficulties related to the cultural and linguistic dimensions, in which the translator stands at a loss and is an inability to find a counterpart or equivalent for some terms or expressions in the target language. Consequently, translation is impossible or almost impossible. John Catford says in his book (*Linguistic Theory of Translation 1965*): "It is not possible to replace an element or structure in the source language structure with another element in the target language."⁵

This is considered a natural impossibility as a result of the difference in language systems, as any language has its own system that differs from another language. As for the other impossibility, which is more difficult than the previous one, it is a result of the difference in cultures and the environment that differs from one nation to another, and here the problem in culture and civilization enables the human experience, not the language.

Methods And Solution Strategies

According to the scientific concept, the method is a set of methods, procedures, and means used by the translator to achieve the desired goal of translating the source text into the target language.

In this sense, the method is almost the style. The style is the method or part of it in relation to the actions taken by the translator when translating texts or works to be translated from one language into another. The methods and methods used in the translation are divided into two ways.

Direct and indirect i.e (direct translation and indirect translation) given that the method is part of the strategy The English word was taken from the Greek word *Stratēgia*. It is basically a military term that means the plan and the art of planning operations. In the field of translation, Jean Delisle defined it as “the plan that the translator uses in a manner consistent with the goal pursued to translate a specific text or context.

Translation strategy directs the translator to follow the general approach towards the text to be translated, where the strategy is characterized as immediate decisions as an application in different translations.

From here it is clear that the translation strategy is the general approach that the translator follows and works with in translating the text from the source language to the target language. According to what translation theorists have agreed upon, translation strategies are used by translators to solve translation problems that they face during the translation process. These strategies are considered the techniques, methods, and procedures used by the translator to solve the problems of translating texts.⁶ Thus, strategies are classified into two types:

- **Source Strategies:** These are the ways and means of adhering to the characteristics, values and standards of the source language’s culture followed by the translator.
- **Target Strategies** are the ways and means of subjecting the source text to the requirements of the culture of the target language followed by the translator.

Based on the description of the source and the target, the strategies are divided into two parts:

- a. **Domestication Strategies** that aim at translating a sound text that accurately takes into account the taste of the recipient and the characteristics of the target language and culture.
- b. **Foreignization strategies** it aims at translating a sound text that accurately takes into account the spirit, culture, and style of the author of the source text within the target language, while preserving the specifics of the source. Below we summarize the sub-patterns of the translator's strategies, methods, and techniques, according to the visions of the specialists:

A. DIRECT TRANSLATION METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

- ✓ **Borrowing:** Borrowing is an easy method used by the translator to establish a specific or local style.
- ✓ **Calque:** It is a method used by the translator by quoting a specific expression literally copied from phrases in other languages. Copying is at two levels:
 - **Copying structures**, as in cases of translating texts related to science fiction, where new structures are translated into the target language.

- **Copying expressions**, which take into account the grammatical systems in the source text.
- ✓ **Literal translation** or what is known as translation **word for word**: This is a method used by the translator to convey the rules and structure of the source text without violating the rules and systems of the target text.

B. INDIRECT TRANSLATION METHODS AND TECHNIQUES:

- I. **TRANSPOSITION**, This is a method used by the translator to change the form of the message sent by the writer of the source text and replace parts of the speech in the source language with other parts in the target language and from changing verbs, for example, to sources. The translator follows two types of substitution: a. **Compulsory** in which the translator is obligated in it, as there are no options in the context except for one formula in the target language. b. **Optional**, in which the translator finds several options for the context and chooses the wording that suits him.
- II. **MODULATION**: It is a method used by the translator to bring about a change in the linguistic significance of the source language. The translator resorts to it when he is forced by the nature of the source text that obliges him to change, or by his choice when there is a linguistic structure in the source text that requires that.
- III. **EQUIVALENCE** it is a method used by the translator when it is not feasible with translation to use substitution or semantic inclusion in expressing the spirit of the source text in the target language. There are several types of equivalence, as we mentioned earlier, and each type is used according to what is required by the nature of the text.
- IV. **ADAPTATION**: It is a method used by the translator in order to bring about a change in the cultural significance when there is a cultural situation used in the source culture and it does not exist in the target culture. Here, the translator is the one who determines whether the change is compulsory or optional according to the nature and culture of the target, as sometimes the culture used in the source language may be permissible, but in the language and culture of the target it is otherwise, especially if it offends modesty, public morals, or social and religious regulations.
- V. **COMPENSATION**: It is a method used by the translator to replace the elements of the source text that can be translated and replace them with other elements in the target text.

Translator Solutions and Strategies in Processing

Translation work is accompanied by various problems and difficulties; Syntactic, lexical, and cultural problems, problems of writing, formulation, meaning, and

language. Therefore, in order to remedy these problems, the translator must do the following:

- a. Excellent proficiency in the source and target languages and their cultures.
- b. Use aids that help in translation from dictionaries, sources, and modern means.
- c. Being able to find immediate solutions during the translation process, with the possibility of working in an atmosphere that suits the nature of translation work.
- d. Accuracy and honesty in the process of translation and transfer.
- e. Carry out continuous and keep abreast of developments in languages, translation, and culture. The translator, the professional, the practitioner, and the amateur must be aware of the differences between languages and cultures, which gives him the opportunity to follow the strategy that is commensurate with solving the problem of translation before him according to visions and procedures and techniques developed by philologists and theorists in the field of translation. Based on the knowledge and awareness of the translator and his awareness of solutions, strategies, and methods of addressing problems, any technique or method is chosen according to the nature of the problem.
- f. Sometimes we find the translator adopting the strategies: Naturalization, General sense, Transliteration, Couplet Translation, Triplet Translation, Classifier, Neutralization, Componential Analysis, Paraphrase, Deletion, Adaptation, Foreignization, Domestication, Borrowing, and others.

Conclusion

This article sheds light on translation-related issues and their solutions. Meaning is one of the most important problems that a translator usually faces during translation. During translation, it is important to consider literal, sensory, and conscious meanings.

Another important issue is equivalence. While translating, sometimes it is difficult to choose a substitute word from the source language for the target language. This equivalence can be at the word level as well as at the sentence level.

The third important issue is the cultural problem. This includes beliefs, environment, tradition, and cultural and lexical features of a language.

The fourth problem is the impossibility of translation. This means the problem of not being able to substitute the source language into the target language while translating it.

After identifying these problems, linguists have described various strategies to solve them. In Direct Translation *Borrowing*, *Calque*, and *Literal translation* techniques can be adopted. And for Indirect translation *transposition*, *modulation*, *equivalence*, *adaptation*, and *compensation* techniques can be used.

In addition, to minimize these problems, a translator needs to have excellent proficiency in the source and target languages and their cultures. He needs to use

aids that help in translation from dictionaries, sources, and modern means. He must have accuracy and honesty in the process of translation and transfer. He should carry out continuous and keep abreast of developments in languages, translation, and culture.

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