

Basic Translation Devices

Lecture 8

Overview

- Translation devices within direct translation
- Translation devices within oblique translation
- Expansion and Contraction: recycling information
- Generalizing and Particularizing
- Compensation
- Restructing
- Iconic Linkage
- Pure syntactic devices

Basic Classification

Direct Translation

- Literal Translation
- Borrowing
- Calque

Oblique Translation

- Equivalence
- Transposition/Recategorization/Replacement
- Modulation
- Adaptation

Expansion and contraction: recycling information

Generalizing and Particularizing

Compensation

Restructuring

Iconic Linkage

Pure syntactic devices: partitioning and integration

Direct Translation

1. **Literal Translation** ≠ word-for word translation;
45,3 % - journalistic texts, **39,6 %** - technical texts

It involves producing a TT which reflects the content and features of the ST **as closely as** possible and only deviating from this where necessary in order to produce a TT which is grammatically correct and intelligible.

Can be: word-by-word, group-by-group,
clause-by-clause

No any: additions, omissions, paraphrasing and etc.

Direct Translation

2. **Borrowing** - transferring an SL lexical item into the TT without any form of modification except for transliteration.

Reasons:

- no existing word or concept in the TL
- Deliberate usage to create particular effect

Examples: Internet, email, pixel, Upstream, Downstream, looping, bypass.

Direct Translation

3. Calque involves the literal translation of the individual constituent parts of an SL word or phrase to create a new term, or neologism, in the TL.

Examples: skyscraper, semi-conductor

Note: introducing new words without good reason is inadvisable, particularly where there are perfectly acceptable alternatives in the TL.

Oblique Translation

Oblique translation is used when the grammatical, pragmatic and lexical differences between the SL and TL are too significant to allow direct translation.

Straightforward replacement is no longer useful because of the **stylistic** or **linguistic** features of the source text

Oblique Translation

1. **Equivalence** replicate the same situation as in the original whilst using completely different wording.

It is used when translating more directly would result in a translation which

- loses meaning or impact
- the idiomaticity or flow (set phrases)

Examples: Danger! -Risk of Death - Опасность

Wet Paint -Freshly Painted – Окрашено!

Oblique Translation

2. Transposition/Recategorization/

Replacement - the process of replacing one class or type of word in the ST with another type of word in the TT without changing the meaning.

It is any change in the target text at the morphological, lexical and syntactic levels.

Required because of differences in the way information is expressed in the SL and the TL to avoid **awkward** or **unintelligible** translation.

Oblique Translation

Examples of transpositions include:

- Nominalizations (noun to verb): "The regulation of the heating system is carried out by the main computer" vs. "The main computer regulates the heating system"
- Passive to active: "The new standard was approved by all member states" vs. "All member states approved the new standard".
- Passive to imperative: "safety mechanism is engaged prior to performing maintenance work" vs. "Engage the safety mechanism before carrying out maintenance work".

Oblique Translation

3. Modulation refers to the process of changing the form of information by presenting it from a different point of view.

Some modulations are compulsory (or fixed), while others (known as free or optional modulations) are not.

Modulations might involve changing a sentence from a positive to a negative

Oblique Translation

- "Never turn off the refrigeration unit" vs. "Leave the refrigeration turned on at all times". "
- "Easy to use" vs. "Not difficult".
- "Protects against most viruses" vs. "Only allows a few viruses through"
- "This X-ray machine does not damage photographic films" vs. "Photographic films can be scanned by this X-ray machine without being damaged".
- other modulations involve a concept “part for whole” or “whole for part”

Oblique Translation

4. Adaptation – extreme limit of translation
as it may involve a significant amount of
deviation from the ST.

Key procedures - cultural substitution,
paraphrasing and omission (final stage –
transcreation – extremely free form of
translation)

It is used when the ST describes a situation or
concept which does not exist in the TL culture or
which does not have the same connotations or
relevance to members of the TL audience

Oblique Translation

Scenario	Solution
The ST is an on-screen help system for a satellite receiver which advises readers to consult a named specialist magazine for details of satellite co-ordinates which only exists in the SL country.	The TT replaces the ST reference with the name of a corresponding publication in TL country (a cultural substitution). Ideally, however, generic <i>undertranslations</i> should be used to avoid problems caused by the TL being used in more than one TL country.
The source text is a technical data sheet for a chemical product advising readers to comply with the regulations set out in a specific law applicable only to the SL country when disposing of the product.	The TT replaces the reference to the SL law with one which is applicable in the TL country. Again, a generic <i>undertranslation</i> should be used to avoid problems caused by the TL being used in more than one TL country.

Expansion & Contraction

Expansion (explicitation)

Making smth which implicit in the ST explicit:

- Adding explanatory phrases to clarify terms;
- Adding connectors to improve cohesion of TT

Workers of all industries /

Gun license /

Contraction

Making something less detailed in the TT

Reasons:

Adapt the TT to the perceived expectations

The proposal was rejected and repudiated /.....

Recycling Information (ST expansion)

taking information from one part of a text and using or reusing it somewhere else in the text

Maintenance guide:

Usually modular in design (system integration, equipment maintenance features, safety measures, entering specification information.....faulty component replacement)

NOTE: recycling does not involve introducing new information into a text

Generalizing and Particularizing

Generalizing

making information in the ST less detailed when it is transferred to the TT

Forms: 1) omitting information
2) replacing a specific word with a word which has a less specific meaning

Reasons: 1) no similar specialized or specific word 2) translating a specialized text for a general audience

Particularizing/specification

using more specific term to the one contained in the ST

Reasons: 1) generic term used in the ST is simply too broad in the TL 2) generic term have connotations which are undesirable in the TT

Challenge: to ensure the understanding of the subject matter of the text sufficiently

Generalizing and Particularizing

Although, there are many factors contributing to corrosion under conventional insulation..... / ...

It is urgent to discuss the issues concerning waste utilization.../...

Compensation

making up for the loss of certain source text features in the target text by introducing other features elsewhere in the translation which are not necessarily present in the source text.

translation of humorous text or film

In scientific or technical texts - redistribution information and textual features throughout the text - to balance out the information load or make the style more consistent

Compensation Types

- 1) Compensation in kind replacing one type of textual feature in the ST with another type of feature in the TT (infinitive forms – to imperative forms);
- 2) Compensation in place is used to make up for the loss of a particular feature or effect at a particular point in the ST by recreating it elsewhere in the TT;

Compensation Types

- 3) Compensation by splitting - used where the ST contains a word for which there is no corresponding TL word which conveys the same range of meanings (# fastener = bolts, screws, clips, clamps and pins)
- 4) Compensation by merging allows us to condense features or information presented in the ST and to present it in a shorter phrase or even in a single word

Restructuring

The sequence in which information is presented to readers in a text or even in individual sections, paragraphs or sentences can play an important role in the success of a translation.

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Iconic Linkage

Minimizing variation and ensuring the same information is expressed in the same way can improve the usability of translations:

- Technical text: grammatical parallel constructions
- Scientific texts: one and the same terms

Reasons: it improves clarity, aids learning and comprehension, and looks more consistent and professional.

Syntactic devices:

Partitioning - either replacing in translation of a source sentence by two or more target ones or converting a simple source sentence into a compound or complex target one

Inner partitioning
(Verbal Complexes)

Outer partitioning
(Sentence level)

Syntactic devices:

Integration - combining two or (seldom) more source sentences into one target sentence.

Example:

The aromatic hydrocarbons include asphaltic compounds. These compounds are divided into the resins, which are soluble in n-pentane, and the asphaltenes, which are not.