

A SURVEY ON TRANSLATION PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

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ABSTRACT

Translation is the process of replacing an original text, known as the source text with one known as the target text. The process is usually an interlingual translation in that the message in the source language text is rendered as a target text in a different language. Procedures are considered essential for translation and the translators need to use some procedures for the realization of a translation that might be objectively correlative to the original text both in form and content, some procedures are used by translators when they formulate an equivalence for the purpose of transferring elements of meaning from the source texts to the target text.

This article reviews a taxonomy of translation procedures used for dealing with the translation shifts proposed by two French scholars named Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet who explored the linguistic aspects of translation and first proposed seven methods or procedures in 1973, their work has opened the door for later taxonomies of translation techniques, I decided to outline a widely-accepted list of these translation procedures and techniques in the hope that the reader may become interested in knowing a little bit more about translation procedures and their nuances.

KEYWORDS: Translation, Procedures, Technique, Source Language, Target Language

INTRODUCTION

It is important that the reader realizes that he/she can call on a great many procedures or techniques to move from one language to another and must at all costs avoid word-for-word translation. Translation procedures are used for sentences and smaller units of language within that text. The unit is defined as “the smallest segment of the utterance whose signs are linked in such a way that they should not be translated individually” (Vinay & Darbelnet 1958).

The small, yet meaningful, changes that occur in the process of translation are called translation shifts. Catford (1965/2000: 141) defines them as “departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL”. Although Catford was the first to use the term shift, a comprehensive taxonomy of shifts that occur in translation was established by Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet (1958), who developed taxonomy of translation procedures.

When structural and conceptual elements of the source language can be transposed into the target language the translator uses direct procedures.

The following are the main direct procedures or techniques: Borrowing, Calque, and Literal Translation.

BORROWING

“This is the simplest, most straightforward technique in the translator's arsenal. It consists, in fact, in not translating at all and in conserving unchanged a word or an expression from the source language in the target language. It should not be a panacea and ought to be used pertinently and parsimoniously, to give the passage a note of local color or

when no satisfactory equivalent exists" see (François Gallix & Michael Walsh, 1997).

Examples

La Bibliothèque Nationale ... rue de Richelieu (the Bibliothèque Nationale ... the Rue de Richelieu), these are obligatory borrowings, since all cultural institutions, including famous streets, must be maintained in their original form. English does, however; apply its own rules of orthography to the borrowing, hence the capital letter of "Rue"

More Examples

-Software in the field of technology and funk in culture.

Abbatoire, café, passé and résumé from French

CALQUE

Calque is a particular type of borrowing in which the translator borrows an expression from the source text by translating literally every part of the original elements.

It can be in lexical or in structural the system of the target text. Sometimes calques work, sometimes they don't.

Examples

Table 1

Source Language	Target Language
Quality assurance	Assurance qualité.
Breakfast.	Breakfast
Designed to create	désigner.
A former prisoner	Un ancien prisonnier.
Secret location	Location secret
Marriage of convenience	Marriage de convenance

LITERAL TRANSLATION

Unlike the borrowing, the word-for-word or literal translation translates the word or the expression literally. This option occasionally creates the frequently false impression that one has avoided a lazy,

A word-for-word translation can be used in some languages and not others dependent on the sentence structure: In practice, literal translation occurs most commonly when translating between two languages of the same family, such as French and Italian, and works most efficiently when they also share the same culture. Despite seemingly limited scope of applications, this procedure is among preferred ways of translating in those functional contexts where more emphasis is laid on preserving the verbatim meaning of the original text than attaining stylistic elegance, which is often the case with legal translation.

OBLIQUE TRANSLATION PROCEDURES

It was Vinay and Darbelnet (1958) who first put oblique translation technique on the map, which allow translators to exert a strict control over the reliability of their efforts.

Oblique translation procedures are used when the structural or conceptual elements of the source language cannot be directly translated without altering meaning or upsetting the grammatical and stylistic elements of the target language,

the translators use Oblique or indirect Translation Techniques which includes:

- Transposition
- Modulation
- Reformulation or Equivalence
- Adaptation
- Compensation

TRANSPOSITION

Here, the translator changes the grammatical category of the word. It may be compulsory or optional and multiple combinations are possible. It is a shift in word class without changing meaning. (Verb-adjectif-adverb-preposition...).

Examples

Table 2

Source Language	Target Language
Noun The hour of indulgence	Verb le moment de se faire plaisir
Noun At some level of consciousness	Adverb plus ou moins consciemment
Adjectif festival paper	Noun papier-cadeau, litt. : papier de fête
Adjectih Endless	Verb ne s'arrête jamais, n'en finit pas,
Verb Ta bleep	Noun le bip-bip
Adverb with a certain testy reluctance	Noun avec une certaine réticence et quelque irritation

Table 3

Source Language	Target Language
proposition Into a shallow rippled expanse	verb pour former une étendue peu profonde et ridée.
driving through the city	Traversant la ville en voiture
run up the stairs	monter l'escalier en courant.
ski down the slope	descendre la piste à ski.
verb heralding the approach This is an optional transposition of the relative to the participal but it does lighten the syntax. An additional transposition, of the substantive passage to the participle approaching might have been envisaged were it not for the rather awkward effect of two successive participle forms.	preposition qui annonçaient le passage
dans l'espoir ▪ This is an almost obligatory transpsition of the preposition and substantive to the participle form, since a more literal rendering by the noun phrase in the hope would convolute the syntax of the sentence.	hoping

qui suivait • Here the transposition of the relative, while optional, just as in our first example supra, nonetheless allows the sentence to run more smoothly.	travelling
son passage This is an obligatory transposition since English does not possess a substantive for passage in this context	as he walks by
son genre de vie • This is an optional transposition. It is advisable, however, in order to avoid a term such as lifestyle the register of which is too familiar.	the kind of life he leads

Adaptation

Here we reach the outer limit of translation. Adaptation needs to be used in situations where the metalinguistic situation referred to in the original text does not exist in the target language. It is therefore necessary to adapt the original reference to a phenomenon which does exist in the target language, in order to preserve the meaning of the allusion.

Examples

à qui les entendrait le dernier (at who-heard-it-last),: this slight adaptation seems necessary in English to underline the habitual character of their game.

le beau para d'Indochine (her wild colonial boy),: while the French is not, strictly speaking, a collocation, it has the ring of one and we opted to translate it by reference to the popular ballad.

Modulation

This procedure involves switching angle or point of view in order to translate a word or expression that "moves" awkwardly from one language to another. It operates by metonymic transfer- the part for the whole, the container for the content, etc...

Examples

les occupations auxquelles il passe la plus grande partie de ses heures (the occupations that take up most of his day),: There is a double modulation here, the dative relative pronoun becomes the nominative and the metonymic "heures" is expanded to "days".

le milieu avec lequel il est en contact (the circles in which he moves),: The quasi-collocational character of the phrase makes it necessary to opt for the dynamic verb in English.

vu son attitude (in view of his behaviour),: Similarly, this compulsory modulation involves swapping a static lexeme, "attitude", for the more dynamic "behaviour". The problem is that the English "attitude" concerns either a general approach to a problem or, on a more physical technical register, the angle or posture adopted by a person or an object.

There are two types of modulation:

Metonymical Modulation

The translator changes the part for the whole or the cause for the effect or the container for the content.

More Examples

Table 4

Source Language	Target Language
he swung the bill in my face	Il m'agita l'addition sous le nez. the part for the whole
He chin nuzzled into his breast	le monton rentré dans le cou.
She cleared her throat	elle s'éclaircit la voix.
Life jacket	gilet de sauvtage.
Sun-lamp	lampe a bronzer.
Sac de couchage	sleeping bed .
Paper weight	presse -papier .
Windshield	pare-brise.
I 've got you under my skin.	Je t'ai dans la peau
he died one hundred years ago.	Il est mort depuis cent ans

Grammatical modulation:

The translator changes affirmative to negative or injunction to interrogation or passive voice into active. Etc....

Examples

Table 5

Source Language	Target Language
not unlike his own	un peu comme le sien. (The opposite in the negative form) .
A gaudy tie	Une cravate peu discrete
He has been a source of disturbance ever since	Il n'a cessé d'être une source de problems depuis
Quite maliciously. .	Non sans malice.
The flight was not yet being called	on n'avait pas encore annoncé leur vol (Active instead of passive
He left a sudden lurch of money	un brusque déclic se fit soudain dans sa mémoire.
The joke was on me	je fis les frais de la plaisanterie(.the subject becomes the object).
Follow the fleet.	en suivant la flotte.(injunctive from substituted for affirmative form)
Say the word and you are dead	sit u pronounces ce mot, t'es mort .

Reformulation or Equivalence

This technique is often used when translating names of institutions, interjections, idioms or proverbs, translators used completely different expression to transfer the same meaning it is used for rendering more elaborate structures between SL and TL. The process is creative, but not always easy. Would you have translated?

Example: *Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide* ⇒ *once burned, twice shy.*

Adaptation

The most complex of Vinay and Darbelnet's translation procedures is the final one, adaptation which occurs when something specific to one language culture is expressed in a totally different way that is familiar or appropriate to another language culture. It is a shift in cultural environment. Should pincho (a Spanish restaurant menu dish) be translated as kebab in English? It involves changing the cultural reference when a situation in the source culture does not exist in the target culture (for example France has Belgian jokes and England has Irish jokes). Example: *baseball* ⇒ *football*

COMPENSATION

There is another translation technique called compensation ,it's used when the meaning is lost and the word or the expression cannot be translated from source to target language i.e it allows the translator to change a stylistic difficulty into another section of the language .

Translators use compensation Translators know that compensation needs careful, strategic application. Because the transfer of meanings from the source language to the target language continually involves some degree of loss .this is the reason why the translator must decide if and when this technique is used.

There is an example mentioned by Peter Fawcett. It concerns the translation of formality which use forms like (tu and used in Spanish and tu and vous in French.. ect) knowing that English has only (you) to expresses degrees of formality in different situations.

CONCLUSIONS

Finally, translation shifts can be viewed either as unwelcome deviations from the source text in the course of the translation act or as something indispensable and desired to overcome specific differences between the SL and TL (Bakker, Koster & van Leuven-Zwart 1998). Although the taxonomy introduced by Vinay and Darbelnet has been criticized for being nothing more than a comparison between English and French at the level of words, phrases, and sentences taken out of the context, it can be regarded as the proposal that formed a springboard for later taxonomies of translation techniques and strategies.

Vinay and Darbelnet's taxonomy of translation procedures encourages one to look beyond simple structural alterations between SL and TL to see the role of the translator as a creative intermediary between the original author and the target audience in the process of translation-mediated communication

Scholars exploring the translation shifts labeled and re-labeled them in the term translationese is a pejorative term used to refer to the language of translation that derives from calquing ST lexical or syntactic patterning (see Duff 1981). New mark (2003: 96) uses a similar term translatorese to refer to the automatic choice of the most common dictionary translation of a word where a less common alternative would be more appropriate. Translation Procedures various ways to achieve a more comprehensive and clear-cut categorizations (see Marco 2009 for a review of inconsistencies between the terms procedure, strategy, method, and technique within translation studies). For example, Nida (1964) uses the term techniques of adjustment to discuss processes targeted at producing semantically equivalent structures from a communicative perspective.

This study showed that the end product of translation is the result of a series of phrases that the translator undergoes consciously or unconsciously more or less intricated according to factors such as the characteristics of the original text to be translated, the translator's intellectual and material resources, the source and target language involved, the purpose of the translation and other basically external influences such as time and physical or emotional conditions for the task.

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