

## Lecture 2

What is a Translator?

### Communication Versus Translation

- ❑ All communicators are translators, because they receive signals in speech and in writing containing messages encoded in a communication system which is not identical with their own.
- ❑ All communicators tend to face the same problems as those of translators, because they need to read the text, make sense of a text. They need to deconstruct it and then reconstruct it.
- ❑ Therefore, we can say that any model of communication is a model of translation.

### What is the difference between a normal communicator and a Translator?

When taking a turn as a sender, the monolingual is obliged to:

- a) encode into the language used by the sender.
- b) encode messages which are different from those received.
- c) and transmit them to the previous sender.

The Translator's acts contrast on that:

- a) the encoding consists of **re-encoding** into a different language.
- b) concerns the same message as was Received.
- c) it is aimed at a group receivers who are **not the same** as the original sender.
- It is the **re-encoding process** which marks the bilingual translator off from the monolingual communicator.

## How important are memory, meaning and language to the Translator?

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Like other communicators, translators need excellent memory to enable them use the semantic knowledge, syntactic knowledge and rhetorical knowledge of two different languages and two different cultures.

- ❑ **Memory**: contains 'records' of past experiences, has plans for action on the basis of what we know and what we have done.
- ❑ **Language**: much of our experience of the external world of the senses and the inner world of the mind is mediated by language.

Translators must be good at storing experiences in memory, and at retrieving those experiences whenever needed to solve complex translation problems.

## How does a translator move from one language to another in the course of translation?

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**When translating a written communication, the translator go through the following nine steps:**

1. Translator receives signal 1 containing message
2. Recognises code 1
3. Decodes signal 1
4. Retrieves message
5. Comprehend message
6. Translator selects code 2
7. Encodes message by means of code 2
8. Select channel
9. Transmits signal 2 containing message.

## What does the translator's knowledge-base contain?

**A professional translator has access to five distinct kinds of knowledge:**

- Target Language knowledge (TL)
- Text-Type knowledge
- Source Language knowledge (SL)
- Subject-area knowledge
- And contrastive knowledge

## What does the translator's communicative competence consist of ?

The translator communicative competences consists of the following components:

- Grammatical competence:** knowledge of the rules of the code, including vocabulary and word formation, pronunciation/spelling and sentence structure.
- Sociolinguistic Competence:** knowledge of and ability to produce and understand utterances appropriately in context, i.e. as constrained by topic, the status of the participant, purpose of the interaction, etc.
- Discourse competence:** The ability to combine form and meaning to achieve a unified spoken or written texts in different genres. This unity depends on cohesion in form (i.e. the way in which utterances are linked structurally to facilitate interpretation of text) and coherence in meaning (i.e. the relationships among the different meanings in a text, literal meaning, communicative function or social meaning)
- Strategic competence:** the mastery of communication strategies which may be used to improve communication or to compensate for breakdowns in actual communication.



## What are the primary characteristics of a good translator?

The following are just a few of the primary characteristics of a good translator:

- ❑ **A Translator thinks and** talks about translation from inside the process, knowing how it's done, possessing a practical real-world sense of the problems involved.
- ❑ **Reliability:** He acts in reliable ways delivering reliable translation by deadlines.
- ❑ **Timeliness:** He should be timely, in the sense of not getting the translation arrive past the time of its usefulness or value.
- ❑ **Ethics:** He should be ethical. In other words, it is unethical for the translator to distort the meaning of the source text.
- ❑ **Speed:** A translator should be able to know when to speed and when to seeped. This depends on the following factors:  
) 1) **Typing speed** 2) **The level of text difficulty** 3) **Personal preferences or style** 4) **Job stress, general mental state.**
- ❑ **Memory:** A Translator must be good at storing experiences in memory and retrieving those experiences whenever needed to solve complex translation problems.
- ❑ **Professional Pride:** a Translator should have a professional integrity and professional self-esteem in what he/she does. He should feel that the job he is doing is important and people appreciate his work.
- ❑ **A Translator can write plainly, economically, gracefully, elegantly in a repertoire of registers, factual as well as emotional, popular as well as technical, official as well as slang.**



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