GRADUATION PROJECT

Final Draft

The Role of Equivalence in Translation to Achieve a Convenient Target Text

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(I certify that this paper is a result of my effort without any interference or any assistance.)

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1- Abstract:

The influence of translation in the field of procuration the information is getting bigger and bigger day after day. As a result, translation is taking the high priority in the science of language. The translation as a branch of the science of language took care by scholars and discussed many theories to improve the translating as a process, consequently, came to the light what is known as _**"Equivalence."**_ In this study, the perspectives of scholars and researchers are varying in many fields. However, they agree on the importance of the equivalence in the conceptual meaning, while they theorize the technique that it should be used to achieve the perfect result for the translated text.

2- Introduction:

Translation is considered the most important mean of communication between nations, which can play a huge role to help people to understand many aspects of the life of the other nations and races. Consequently, the translation was given an enormous concern since the earlier centuries when it appeared when the Roman whom they were considered the ancestors of translation since they translate the Greeks' works in many fields such as philosophy and culture, regardless the way of translation that they used in that era. After many centuries precisely in the 20th century came to light what was called Theory of Translation as an independent approach by many scholars who shed the light on the mechanism of translation that was led to many target text categories like sacred, literary, economic, political, and medical texts. Most of these scholars agreed on one important thing that gives the translators or interpreters the perfection of the translating as a process, which can convey the message of the source language text into the target language text in the perfect way, is **Equivalence**, which plays the most important role in the translating as a process.

3- Literature review:

Throughout researches and studies that discussed equivalence, the thoughts and beliefs have polyphonic tones represent the multitude perspectives of the scholars, regarding the importance of equivalence as a central notion in translation reflecting the original picture of the source language in an ideal picture for the target text.

3.1- The conception of equivalence:

Theorists agreed on the meaning of equivalence in both practical and theoretical aspects, when equivalence was defined, as the target text should have the similar meaning of the source text. In other words, equivalence is the sameness or the symmetry of the meaning of the target text to the text of origin.

3.2- <u>Equivalence in scale of studies:</u>

In fact, some theorists linked translation to equivalence in unseparable link, when the translation was defined as equivalence in itself, Mona Baker declared in her article The **<u>Status of Equivalence in Translation Studies: An Appraisal:</u>**

<u>"Equivalence has been a central notion in discussions of translation across the ages, whether these discussions are theoretical or practical. In fact, it has been so central that translation itself is defined in terms of equivalence, for example in Nida (1959:19), Catford (1965:20), and Wilss (1982:62)".</u>

While **Roman Jacobson** viewed equivalence in a different way, when he announced, *"there is ordinarily no full equivalence between code units."* (Quoted by Munday, 2001). Hence, there is not matching in the words between two languages (word-for-word translation). Moreover, he sees that there is a problem in the meaning and equivalence at the level of terminology, structure, and grammar and lexical form of the two languages; he announced, *"equivalence in difference is the cardinal problem of language and the pivotal concern of linguistics."* (Cited by Munday, 2001). Jacobson saw translation via three stages:

1- **intralingual** (translate in the same language or explaining the meaning of the words)

2- **interlingual** (translate between two languages)

3- **intersemiotic** (reforming the written text in a different form).

The stage that is important here is when Roman Jacobson sees equivalence in only interlingual in translation between two different languages. For instance, the word (fence), the meaning of the word in the rural community differs from the meaning of the prison facility, or even for the fighters who are using swords (fencing). In these cases, the semantic meaning is the main criterion for the translation of the word fence for Jacobson.

Eugene Nida in his works is giving two types of equivalence as he believes:

1-**Formal equivalence** that concentrate on the message of the source text itself; he said*, "formal equivalence focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content…The message in the receptor language should match as closely as possible the different elements in the source language."* In other words, formal equivalence from Nidas' perspective takes care of preciseness of the source text in grammatical structure, and lexical details of the source language. Formal equivalence is mostly used in formal meetings such as diplomatic meetings or business meetings, and that can guarantee fidelity to the translation of the original language, and that can give high accuracy.

2- **Dynamic equivalence** that concentrate on the target text; he declared, *"The relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message."* In contrast to formal equivalence, dynamic equivalence concentrates on the semantic meaning of the message. In other words, dynamic equivalence is dealing with sense-for-sense translation, which is commonly used in literature translations such as novels, poems, short stories, etc.

Peter Newmark thinks the total equivalence in virtual is impossible when there are differences between the source language and the target language (Munday p:44). Respectively, Newmark replaced the two types of Nidas' (**formal, dynamic**) with:

1- **Semantic equivalence**: that deals with the meaning.
2- **Communicative equivalence**: that deals with the effect.

The distinction between communicative translation and semantic translation is that the latter focuses on the meaning and the syntactic structure of the TL while the former focuses on the effect on the reader of the translated text comparing to the effect of the readers of the original text.

Finally, Mona **Baker** (1992:11-12) investigated the notion of equivalence at variable levels. When she confirms that, there are three types of equivalence. Which are:

1. Grammatical equivalence is dealing with the diversity of grammatical classes across language. Grammatical rules across languages may differ, and this may create a problem in correspondence in the target language. The Arabic language can deal with tow things in one word, and this is call (المثنى) while in The English language there is either singular or plural.

2. Textual equivalence is dealing with the equivalence between the source language and text regarding information and cohesion. The text has feature of arrangement that differentiate it from non-text, that is to say from a simple combination of sentences and paragraphs, characteristics that are always language and culture-specific. Cohesiveness is an important feature in translation since it provides useful guidelines for the understanding and analysis of the ST which helps the translator in his or her effort to produce a cohesive and coherent text to the target audience in a particular context.

3. Pragmatic equivalence is dealing with implicatures and strategies of avoidance during the translation process. According to Baker: *"Pragmatics is the study of language in use. It is the study of meaning, not as generated by the linguistic system but as conveyed and manipulated by participants in a communicative situation."*

In fact, there is no dissimilarity regarding the equivalence is the most important element of translation trying to interpret the source text into the target text. On the contrary, there is a dissimilarity in the mechanism and technique when dealing with the equivalence through the perspectives of scholars and researchers.

4- <u>Significance of research:</u>

This study guides the translators to the importance of interpreting and conveying the meaning of the source text into the target text to achieve the translating in exact meaning as much as possible. Moreover, to help the translator how to deal with the variety of the text types to get efficiency in the process of the translation.

5- <u>Research question:</u>

This paper aims to clarify the importance of equivalence in the field of translation, and the role that it can play to achieve an adequate translation. Also, try to answer these questions:

A. How importance is the equivalence in the process of translation?

B. How to deal with text types? Should we translate all genres at the same level, or we deal with each genre with a special treat?

C. Is the translator free or bounded in translating the text types?

6- <u>Methodology:</u>

The research materials in this project will depend on the references and the researches of scholars in the field of translation, and the websites that discuss this subject.

7- <u>Limitation of research:</u>

Pre-graduate students English language specialized at King Faisal University will perform this questionnaire, and the study will measure their ability in translation due to their background in this field.

8- <u>Expected results:</u>

The expected results for this paper will show the level of importance of equivalence in the process of the translation, And how to deal with the diversity of text types, and what should the translator commit to accomplishing the translation at high-class.

9- Conclusion:

It is hard to determine the exact meaning of a word so; equivalence is bounded by the elements of translation, which are SL, ST, translator, translated text, TL, and TT. Subsequently, obtaining the exact meaning of the words will not go far away of these elements adding to that the religious and cultural background of the translator.

10- References:

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❖ Jeremy Munday. (2001). *Introducing Translation Studies, Theories, and Applications*. London and New York: Routledge.

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❖ Peter Newmark. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. London and New York: Prentice Hall International (UK) Ltd.

❖ Nida, Eugene A. (1964*) Toward a Science of Translating, with Special Reference to Principles and Procedures Involved in Bible Translating,* Leiden: E. J. Brill.

❖ Baker, Mona. (1992). *In Other Words. A Coursebook on Translation.* London: Routledge.

❖ Baker, Mona. (2004). *The Status of Equivalence in Translation Studies: An Appraisal*. An article appeared in Yang Zijian (ed.) *English-Chinese Comparative Study and Translation*, Shanghai: Foreign Languages Education Press. Page numbering in this version does not reflect actual page numbering in the published version.

11- Helpful websites:

❖ http://www.translationdirectory.com

❖ www.academia.edu

❖ http://www.researchgate.net

❖ http://www.researchschool.org

12- <u>Appendix:</u>

Survey:

A. What kind of translation is more achievable for the meaning from your point of view?

    1. Word-for-word translation.

    2. Sense-for-sense translation.

B. Do you think full equivalence in translation between words is possible?

    1. Yes.

    2. No.

C. For the literary texts, which translation is convenient?

    1. Translating every single word for the texts.

    2. Translating the whole meaning of the texts and paraphrase the sentences.

D. For the sacred texts (religious texts), which kind of translation fulfills the meaning?

    1. Taking the implying sense of the text beyond the literal sense of what is explicitly stated.

    2. Taking the plain meaning of the text.

E. For formal meetings such as diplomatic and business meetings, what is the appropriate way for translation?

    1. Translating as precise as possible to guarantee the accuracy of the translation.

    2. Translating the meaning of the source texts regardless the accuracy in translation.

F. How shall the translator deal with text types in translation?

    1. He should translate all text types at the same level regardless the variety of them.

    2. He should deal with every single genre with what its demand for the benefit of translation.

G. Is the translator:

    1. Bounded to the meaning to translate a text.

    2. Free to translate the text, as he chooses.