

Simple Definitions of Translation

1. Catford (1965): defines translation as “the replacement of textual material in one language SL by equivalent textual material in another language TL”.
2. Newmark (1982): defines it as “a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language”.
3. Bell (1991) mentions two views:
 - one looks at it as an ‘art’ especially when the scholars of last century were preoccupied with the translation of literary text as a pastime ;
 - and another looks at it as a ‘profession’ where the majority of translators are professionals engaged in making a living rather than a pastime. This is mainly clear in the translation of technical, medical, legal and administrative texts.
4. In the present sense of the word, translation is a ‘generic term used to refer to the process of rendering a text in one language into an equivalent text in another.’

5. Advanced Definitions of Translation

6. “Translation is the replacement of a representation of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in a second language.”

Another advanced definition of translation is the one introduced by Etchnia Arjona

(Gerver 1977) as follows:

2. “Translation is a generic term for the interlingual, sociolinguistic and cultural transfer for any message from one community to another through various modes of written, oral, or mechanical means or combinations thereof.”

Translation as process and product

“It is the abstract

concept which encompasses both the process of translation and the product of that process”.

- ❑ **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)

(the primary characteristics of a good translator for newmark) ❑

- ❑ **Strategic competence:** the mastery of communication strategies which may be used to improve communication or to compensate for breakdowns in actual communication.
- ❑ **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.**

The Definition of a Theory.

- ❑ A theory is an explanation of a phenomenon, the perception of system and order in something observed.
- ❑ It exists in the mind.
- ❑ It has no tangible manifestation.
- ❑ It is an idea which constitutes the internal representation of a phenomena.

The Definition of a Model

- ❑ A model is, in contrast, an external rather than an internal representation of the explanation; a realization of the theory.
- ❑ It exists as a tangible object (diagram, a formula, a text) which stands for the idea embodied in the theory.

- ❑ "A Theory is a statement of a general principle, based upon reasoned argument and supported by evidence, that is intended to explain a particular fact, event, or phenomenon.
- ❑ A Theory of translation should conform as far as possible to the following criteria: **Empiricism**, **Determinism**, **Parsimony** and **Generality**.
- ❑ Based on the above mentioned concept of theory, Bell (1991, p26) suggests three possible theories of translation depending on the focus of investigation:
 1. A theory of translation as process (i.e. a theory of translating.)
 2. A theory of translation as Product (i.e. theory of translated text)
 3. A theory of translation as both process and product (i.e. a theory of translating and translation

The Source Language (SL)

- ❑ It is the language to which the text to be translated belongs.

The Source Text (ST)

- ❑ The source text is the text which has been chosen for translation.

The Translator

- ❑ The translator is the most important element in translation, without him translation does not happen.

The Translated Text (TT)

- ❑ The translated text is the text which result from the translation Process.

The Language of Translation

- ❑ It is an abstraction obtained via the study of translated texts.

The Target Language (TL)

- ❑ The target language (TL) is the language into which a text from another language is translated.

the Process of Translation

It is a complex cognitive operation which takes place in the mind of the translator.

Editing the ST

is the study of the ST for **establishing its authorship and authenticity** and for reaching a linguistic form which is accepted for translation.

Interpretation in a new language

- ❑ It is defined as **'reformulating'** a linguistic/verbal text, or part of it, after interpreting it, to a language other than its own.

Formulating the translated text

- ❑ It is the stage of the translation process in which the translator **chooses the lexis and structures** that would make meaningful sentences functioning in a narrow co-text as elements of a well structured text.

Word-for-word translation

- ❑ It is an **interlinear** translation, with the TL immediately below the SL words
- ❑ **Literal translation**
- ❑ - The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.

Faithful Translation

- It attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structure.
- It attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realization of the SL writer.

Semantic Translation

- It differs from „faithful translation“ only in taking more account of the aesthetic value (that is , the beautiful and natural sound) of the SL text.

Free Translation

- It reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original.

Idiomatic Translation

- By „idiom“ we mean affixed figurative expression whose meaning cannot be deduced from the denotative meanings of the words that make it up

Communicative Translation

- It attempts to render **the exact contextual meaning of the original** in such a way that both content and language are readily accepted and comprehensible to the readership.

Definitions

- Culture is „**the way of life** and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression“.

Interpretation

was used **before translation** as a means of communication between people of different languages.

In other words, interpreting is the oral translation of a message in one language into an equivalent oral message in another language. Etilnia Arjona (Gerver 1977) **defines interpretation as “the oral translation of a message across a cultural and linguistic barrier”**

The Definition of a conference interpreter

The seminar on Interpreters and Interpreting held by the European Forum at Alp Bach, Austria, in 1969 agreed on the following definition:

“a conference interpreter is one whose office it is to translate orally the speech of participants in meetings conducted in two or more languages. His office may be performed simultaneously or consecutively, in the participants presence”. Walter Keiser (Gerver 1977).

This CAT term refers to „ translation in which human translation (HT) **is aided by computer applications**.

What is Translation Memory Technology

- TM allows the translator **to store translations in a database and „recycle“** them in a new translation by automatically retrieving matched segments (usually sentences) for re-use.

What is Machine Translation?

Machine Translation involves the use of computer programmes to translate texts from one natural language into another automatically.

A morpheme is **“the minimal formal element of meaning in language, as distinct from „word“”**

The word is “the smallest unit of language that can be used by itself.”

- **The written word is** “a sequence of letters with an orthographic space on either side”.

A collocation is **a sequence of words or terms that co-occur more often than would be expected by chance**. It is **the tendency of certain words to co-occur regularly in a given language**

Idioms and fixed expressions:

are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and in case of idioms, often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components

Grammar is the **set of rules which determines the way in which units such as words and phrases can be combined in a language**.

Morphology covers the structure of words, the way in which the form of a word changes to indicate specific contrast in grammatical system

- **Syntax covers the grammatical structure of groups, clauses and sentences:**

Gender is a grammatical distinction according to which a noun or pronoun is classified as either masculine or feminine in some language.

Person

- The category of person relates to the notion of participants roles.

- **Tense and aspect** are grammatical categories in a large number of languages.

Voice is

a grammatical category which defines the relationship between a verb and its subject

The Concept of Culture

- **Taylor's (1871)** defines culture as " complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of a society."

- **Newmark (1988)** defines Culture as „the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression“.

- **AlJundi (1982) makes a distinction between culture and civilisation:** "the former involves beliefs, customs, traditions, laws, value-systems, etc. Whereas the latter generally involves progress and development at the level of scientific inventions, technology, industries, education, etc."