

What is the Process of Translation

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

This operation helps the translator to interpret and extract the meaning of the original text and re-encode this meaning in the target language.

It is simply the abstract translating activities that take place in the mind of the translator before the production of the translated text.

The Process of Translation

What are the stages recognised in the process of translation?

1. Editing the source text

- is the study of the ST for establishing its authorship and authenticity

- is important in case of inscriptions on metal

- The translator may not be involved in this stage whether the ST is old or new.

- The Editing of a ST precedes its translation.

When editing or transcribing a text recorded on a cassette or a videotape, a number of factors should be considered as clarity of the recording, or the image on a video tape and knowledge of the dialects or slangs used in the ST

- When the ST has been edited and adopted for translation, the translator then moves to another stage which is the stage of interpretation of the Source Text.

2. Interpretation of the source text

Giving the ST a reading which goes with lexis, grammar and meaning of the text in its linguistic and social context.

The process of assigning meaning to the text or utterances in it depends on the linguistic systems and contexts of the source Language.

The interpretation of a ST for giving it a specific meaning is a constructive process which involves: a linguistic analysis of the written/spoken symbols, script, sounds, lexico-grammatical relations within the sentences and .

This newly built message will find its way to another language in terms of interpretation in a new language and formulation.

The translator's reading, judgement and decision concerning the meaning of a source text tend to be subjective and individualistic.

The translator however should take into account all other interpretations given to the ST to be translated especially in religious texts, old literary texts.

3. Interpretation in a new language

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

This transformulation is carried out by the translator and carries his/her fingerprints and uniqueness since it shows his/her interpretation of the source text, and the results from his /her interpretation in a new language.

The end product, interpretation in a new language, is a new text, the translated text.

The most important aspect of interpretation in a new language is the movement -the crossing- from one language to another.

4. 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.

Formulation as a composing operation subjugates the interpretation of the translator of the system of the target language.

It is the stage during which the translated text gradually takes form.

This formulation-composition- of the translated text is constrained by the quality and the results of the translator's interpretive leap from the source text to the target language.

5. Editing the formulation

This is the final stage in the translation process.

When the formulation of the translated text is completed, the translator can commence to edit the formulation.

The editing of the formulation takes the form of a careful checking of possible slips of the tongue or other inaccuracies

It also involves a comparison between the translation product on the one hand and the prevailing linguistic features and cultural norms in the text type in the target language on the other.