AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Department of International Relations

Chair of Diplomatic Translation

**Translation business in the field of international and legal relations**

**“Linguistic and cultural aspects of translation”**

2024-2025 academic year, fall semester

Lecture 12

Module 3 Linguistic and cultural aspects of translation transformations

Lecture 12 Grammatical transformations

3. \*\*Equivalence\*\*

Equivalence is used when translating \*\*idiomatic expressions, proverbs, or set phrases\*\*. Since these phrases often don’t have a direct counterpart in other languages, the translator finds an equivalent expression in the target language that conveys the same meaning.

- \*\*Example\*\*:

- Source: "Break a leg!" (an English idiom to wish someone good luck)

- Translated (into French): "Merde!" (An idiomatic French expression used in the same context, literally meaning "shit!")

4. \*\*Adaptation\*\*

Adaptation involves \*\*replacing a cultural element\*\* in the source text with something more familiar to the target audience. This is common when a direct translation would not make sense or be understood by the reader.

Example\*\*:

- Source: "He had porridge for breakfast."

- Translated (into a culture where porridge is uncommon): "He had rice for breakfast."

The food item is adapted to something culturally familiar to the audience.

6. \*\*Literal Translation\*\*

Literal translation, also called \*\*word-for-word translation\*\*, involves translating each word exactly as it appears in the source language. This method is often avoided when translating idiomatic or cultural phrases, but it works well with technical, legal, or scientific texts where precision is key.

- \*\*Example\*\*:

- Source: "The sun rises in the east."

- Translated: (in many languages, including French and Spanish) word-for-word because it carries the same meaning directly.

7. \*\*Explicitation\*\*

Explicitation is the process of making \*\*implicit information explicit\*\* in the translation. This transformation is used when the source text leaves out certain details that are clear to the original audience but may not be understood by the target audience.

- \*\*Example\*\*:

- Source: "The Festival will begin on Monday."

- Translated: "The Music Festival will begin on Monday."

If the type of festival was not obvious in the source text, the translator clarifies the meaning for the target audience.8. \*\*Reduction and Expansion\*\*

These transformations involve \*\*condensing or expanding\*\* the original text. Reduction occurs when redundant information is cut out, while expansion adds necessary explanations or details to clarify the meaning.

- \*\*Reduction Example\*\*:

- Source: "She gave him a very beautiful, shiny, red apple."

- Translated: "Elle lui a donné une belle pomme rouge." (reducing unnecessary adjectives)

- \*\*Expansion Example\*\*:

- Source: "He walked to work."

- Translated (into Japanese): "彼は仕事に歩いて行きました" (adding necessary linguistic markers to make the sentence grammatically correct in Japanese)

9. \*\*Compensation\*\*

Compensation is used when a particular nuance, meaning, or wordplay cannot be translated directly, so the translator compensates by adding it elsewhere in the text to maintain the overall tone or style.

- \*\*Example\*\*:

- Source: A pun that doesn’t translate well might be lost, but a different wordplay or pun is added in another part of the text to make up for it.

Conclusion:

Translation transformations allow translators to navigate the complex differences between languages while preserving meaning, style, and cultural nuance. By using these strategies, translators balance fidelity to the original text with the need for readability and cultural relevance in the target language. Each transformation serves a purpose, ensuring that the translation is accurate, natural, and meaningful to its intended audience.

Reference:

1. Кунанбаева С.С. Компетентностное моделирование профессионального иноязычного образования, Монография. С.С. Кунанбаева. Алматы, 2014. – 208 с.
2. Hymes, D.On Communicative Competence. In J.B.Pride and J.Holmes (eds.), Sociolinguistics. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972 – 293 p.
3. Gile D. Basic Concepts and Models for Interpreter and Translator Training, John Benjamins Publishing, 2009 – 283 p.
4. Ислам А.И. Аударма негіздері, Алматы, 2012 – 170 p.
5. Byram M. Teaching and assessing intercultural communicative competence. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 2021 -137 p .