

AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
International Relations Department
Chair of Diplomatic Translation
Translation business in the field of international and legal relations
“Simultaneous Translation of Monologue and Dialogical Speech”
2022-2023 academic year fall semester

Lecture 9

Module 2: Communicative situation in monologue and dialogical speech

Lecture 9: No equivalence found: problem solving techniques

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Translation techniques for interpreting culturally and socially marked expressions
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Types of equivalence
2. Functional equivalence
3. Problems in finding linguistic equivalence
4. Strategies of solving the problems of linguistic equivalence

Goals of the lecture

1. Name the main types of equivalence in translation
2. Identify strategies of solving the problems of linguistic equivalence
3. Explain the problems of non-equivalent translation in SI

Basic concepts

Translation, Interpretation, source text (ST), source language (SL), target text (TT), target language (TL) and etc.

There was an observed lack of sufficient terminology to name concepts of the subject field.

In some instances, there were no equivalent terms at word level (target language has no direct equivalence for a word in the ST). The translator was, therefore, left to find other strategies of ensuring that the audience is efficiently and effectively informed of the intentions of the ST in the TT. Several strategies would be used in such instances.

There were also instances where the terms that are used are not standardized. In such scenarios, the communicative purpose of the translation and/or interpretation would be overemphasized.

There are also observed lexical gaps which lead to language expansion i.e. borrowing & loaning. Kiswahili is observed to have inadequate expression of technical terms. In such circumstances, the translator and/or interpreter is tasked to bridge the gap and enhance the intended communication in moving the information from the ST to the TT.

Because of linguistic dependence in the process of transferring a message from a source language to the target audience, some theorists have come up with approaches to handle issues of equivalence. Examples include: stylistique comparée which include; emprunt/borrowing, calque/loaning, and traduction littérale/word for word, Nida's dynamic and formal equivalence, Kade's directional equivalence, Newmark's linguistic shifts and others. The approaches are hereby briefly discussed in the sections that follow.

Borrowing/Emprunt: It entails transferring an SL word to a TL. This is used when the TL does not have a lexicalized correspondence. E.g. coup d'état, rendezvous, menu in English and weekend/wikendi for Kiswahili.

Loan/Calque: This literally means to copy. Here, a copy of an SL word or expression is made into the TL using literal translation of its elements. The translator/interpreter here imitates in his text or speech the structure or manner of expression of the SL. For example, the champions league in English translates into la ligue des champions in French.

Word-for-word translation: It ranges from Word to word to sentence to sentence:

- Word to word/ group of words to group of words
- Collocation to collocation
- Clause to clause
- Sentence to sentence

Transposition: This reflects the grammatical changes from the SL to the TL (singular-plural, Noun-verb, Noun-adjective, etc). This is used as a way to replace a lexical gap.

Modulation: It refers to a change in point of view that allows the interpreter/translator to express the same phenomenon in a different way. This can be seen in cases where, for instance, the positive is used to express the negative.

Equivalence: This is the situation whereby a TL statement is substituted for one expressing the same situation when there is no formal semantic correspondence to render a phrase from a SL with a set of phrase in the TL which expresses the same idea. For example;

Too many cooks spoil the broth translates into deux patrons font chavirer la barque in French. This can also be demonstrated in the following translation in Kiswahili;

Ability is wealth = Akili ni Mali (Kiswahili).

Adaptation: Here, the translator/interpreter creates a new situation because the event in the SL is unknown to the TL culture. For example, 'the rule of law' translated into Un état de droit - constitutional state, state of law.

Follow-up questions

1. Give examples to word to word/ group of words to group of words equivalent translation
2. Five examples of translator's false friends
3. Explain the role of adaptation in SI

References

1. Baker, M. (1992). In Other Words: A Course book on Translation. London: Routledge.
2. Catford, J. (1965). A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay on Applied Linguistics. London: Oxford University Press.
3. Cornu, G. (1990). Linguistique Juridique. Paris: Montchrestien. De Groot, G. (1990). In Translation and Meaning Part 1, In Marcel, T. & Barbara L-T. Maastricht: Euroterm.
4. Doonan, E. (1995). Drafting. London: Cavendish Publishing.