

## TRANSLATION OF LITERARY TEXTS

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### Abstract

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. The English language draws a terminological distinction (which does not exist in every language) between translating a written text and interpreting oral or signed communication between users of different languages; under this distinction, translation can begin only after the appearance of writing within a language community. A translator always risks inadvertently introducing source-language words, grammar, or syntax into the target-language rendering. On the other hand, such "spill-overs" have sometimes imported useful source-language calques and loanwords that have enriched target languages. Translators, including early translators of sacred texts, have helped shape the very languages into which they have translated.

Because of the laboriousness of the translation process, since the 1940s efforts have been made, with varying degrees of success, to automate translation or to mechanically aid the human translator. More recently, the rise of the Internet has fostered a world-wide market for translation services and has facilitated "language localisation".

The aim of this paper is to explore the 'literary' in literary translation. It begins with a discussion of what makes a text literary, focussing on some very famous literary works which did not necessarily fit what is generally considered the literary canon. The features that translators should identify when first reading a text, on the look-out for potential literary value, are then outlined. These features are both textual covering non-casual language, rhetorical features and equivalences and contextual connotations, implicatures, intratextual and culture-bound associations. Importance is also given to the profession itself, to literary translator beliefs about their role, the changing importance of the model reader and to changing beliefs about accepted style, making reference also to results of a global survey recently carried out on the subject.

Key words: translation techniques, literary translation, translation strategy.

Dealing with the particular problem as cultural divergence, translators apply such techniques as borrowing, adaptation, and compensation, most frequently used in literary translation.

Using the literary adaptation technique, the translator has to take into consideration the cultural divergence while translating a piece of literature from one language system into a foreign one. According to Lucia Molina and Amparo Hurtado Albir, due to adaptation we can replace the elements of one culture by other ones, more typical for the receiving culture. In their opinion, the focus on the maintenance of meaning of the translated text is a key advantage of this technique. Nevertheless, there are lots of other opportunities that this method can give us. According to Jean-Claude Margot, adaptation could be used not only for items unknown by the other culture, but for describing the situation uncommon to the target audience. Applying adaptation, the translator substitutes some cultural realities, for which there are no references in the language chosen for translation, and creates recognized equivalent between two situations. It could be described as an extreme limit of translation that creates a new equivalent. As Lauro Maia Amorim admits, adaptation recreates «new wordplay and situations» that restore «parallel, reciprocal meaning effects».

The technique could be particularly useful in case of translating the pieces of children literature, when translators try to adapt the text avoiding inappropriate language, or to prepare a censored adaptation. For instance, adaptation will help to eliminate those words that are too difficult for a child.

Another prominent technique is borrowing. Generally borrowing is a significant method appropriate for dealing with the cultural concept of words, since this technique helps solving the cultural gap between original language and target language. However, there is always a possibility of misunderstanding, so translators frequently provide footnotes in order to deliver the correct message to the foreign reader. The key problem of translation based on borrowing comes up due to a variety of meanings that occur during the translation process. As Basil Hatim and Jeremy Munday admit, the problem lays in difficulty to determine was the original text meaning transferred into the new version of the text accurately.

As it mentioned above, some words and expressions do not always have exact equivalents in the particular language, therefore not all of the source language terms can be translated literary or be adapted. As a method, borrowing involves using a word or an expression from the original text without modifying it. For instance, it could be an untranslatable expression, or an expression taken from a third language, mainly used by translators to preserve the tone of the source language color. For example, according to Shana Poplack, the term «borrowing» refers to the lexical level of languages. She

emphasizes that the words and the phrases could be adapted (morphologically, syntactically, and phonologically) to the recipient language.

There are two kinds of borrowing: pure borrowing and naturalized one. The first way means that something is taken from the original text and used without any adjustment. The second way implies that it is used in naturalized form that is adjusted with the rules of the target language. Sometimes such methods as borrowing or adaptation could be ineffective in dealing with some cultural differences. When it happens. Compensation is a technique that is intended to compensate for the loss of meaning of the text when it is translated. With a use of compensation the elements lost from the original text will be recreated in the new version of the piece in a similar way, making up the semantic losses. As some theorists inferred, this technique «involves making up for the loss of a source text effect by creating a similar effect in the target text» through the specific means of the chosen language or the text. This method is usually used when a word or a phrase can actually be translated, but its dictionary equivalent sounds unnatural in the particular situation depicted in the text. In that case translator must withdraw from using dictionary correspondences. In situations like these, the stylistic device (or some other elements) moves to another place in the text, because it will not have the same effect if it stays where it was placed in the original text.

Generally this method allows the translator not only to find the appropriate ways to make up for the inevitable losses - it also helps to make the language of the translated text as colorful as the original source. Like adaptation, this technique is incredibly useful for wordplay. For instance, when the translator cannot directly adapt a pun, then he or she can create another play on words in another place of the text. However, this technique implies that the translator doesn't use conventional phrases - he or she looks for the new, non-standard ways of expression. Using compensation, the translator continually subtracts some elements from one part of the text and adds the other ones in the other place of a translated piece. Thus, compensation could be described. A variety of grammatical, syntactic, and lexical means of any language. Today we know different kinds of translation techniques. The application of such techniques as borrowing, adaptation, or compensation is warranted while dealing with such elements as dialectal expressions, colloquial speech, jargon and slang, parlance, puns, and other elements of language that do not have regular equivalents in chosen language. Every method fulfils the particular task: adaptation can help with some cultural references that should be adapted for foreign audiences while borrowing might diversify the vocabulary of a foreign speaker, and compensation is focused on extracting the meaning of words in a particular situation according to the cultural context. Despite severe difficulties that translators face recreating the originality of the particular text,

the goals of translation could be contributed by using the combination of different techniques.

**Used literature:**

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