

## THEORY OF TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCY

*Бул макала котормонун эквиваленттүүлүгү жөнүндө жазылган.*

*Эта статья написана об эквивалентности перевода.*

*This article is written about the translation equivalency.*

Translation is the kind of language mediation the foreign language original oriented. The translation is considered as the foreign language form of utterance existence, which takes place in the original. The interlanguage communication is realized by means of translation mediation and it reproduces the process of the direct speech communication. All the participants of such a communication use one and the same language. One and the same language texts for speakers are considered to be equal and united into the whole one. Like this, the original text is considered to be equal with the translation text. The main aim of the translation is to provide such a kind of the interlanguage communication when the text created in the Recipient language (translating language) can fulfil the role of the full communicative substitution for the original (the initial language). Both the translation and the original texts should be considered by the Recipient as equal concerning the functions, the structure and the content.

Functional equality of the translation and the original lies in the fact that the translation is imputed to the author of the original, published under his name, discussed, quoted etc. as though he is the original in another language.

Content equality of the original and the translation lies in the fact that the Recipients of the translation consider that the translation reproduces all the contents of the original, and that there is the same content reproduced by means of another language.

Structural equality of the translation and the original lies in the fact that the Recipients consider that the translation reproduces the original not only in the whole but also in particular. It is supposed that the translator precisely reproduces the structure and the order of the statement of the original content, he does not allow himself to change anything, or to add or to exclude anything. The quantity and the contents of chapters and other subsections of the original text should coincide with the translation text. If there in the original some idea is expressed in the beginning of the second section, then it should be found in the same place in

the translation, etc. If the translator allows himself some digressions concerning particular details of the text structure, it is made only for better reproduction the original content.<sup>1</sup>

Hence, the translation can be determined as the kind of the language mediation by means of which the initial text in the translating language communicative equal to the original is created. Its communicative equality lies in its coinciding by the translation Recipients with the original concerning the structure, function and content. The communicative approach to the translation is the leading principle in contemporary theory of translation. The translator, being the participant of the complicated kind of the speech communication, fulfils several communicative functions at the same time. First of all, he plays the role of the Recipient of the original, i.e. he takes part in the act of the speech initial language communication. The most important way of translation theory is to find out the language and extra linguistic factors which give the opportunity to make equal the utterance contents in different languages. The commonness of contents (notion closeness) of the original and the translation texts is called equivalence of the translation (with the original). The investigation of the existing relations between the original content and the translation one allows, to define the limit of this commonness, i.e. to define the most possible closeness of sense of different language texts and also to define the minimum closeness to the original, by means of which the given text can be considered to be equivalent translation.

Fully or partly *equivalent units* and potentially equivalent utterances are both in the initial language and in the translating one, but, the right estimation, selection and use of them depends on translator's creative ability, knowledge and skills to compare all the totality of language and linguistic factors. The communicatively equal utterances are created in two languages on the basis of the equivalent units system which is not given directly but it can be found out in the process of theoretical investigation in comparing a lot of originals with their translations.

The possibility of achieving such an *equivalence* depends on correlation of systems and function rules of the translating language and the initial one. Therefore, the translation, more than other kinds of the language mediation, is determined by linguistic factors. The different kinds of adapting transcoding in different ways find out the separate features of equality of the translation and the original. All of them are similar to the translation as playing the second communicative role: it is always the representation of the original in another language.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Newmark, *Approaches to Translation* (Oxford, Eng., 1981).

<sup>2</sup> John C. Catford, *A Linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics* (London, 1965).

Adaptive transcoding, oriented towards a determined volume and the character of information, is realized by working out the annotations, reports, summaries and the other forms of information transfer, connected with selection and regrouping of information which are in the original. For every of these forms there the approximate volume and rules of stating the material, which make easier information transfer.

J.C. Catford marked a new stage in the translation research by setting a problem of linguistic intranslatability and suggested a clear distinction between translation and transfer on the reason that translation presumes substitution of the meaning from the Source Language with the Target Language meaning, and not their transfer, as transfer presumes an implantation of meanings from the Source Language into the Target Language. However, this concept is limited in meaning since it is of interest only in point of linguistics.

The majority of texts require communicative translation: non-fiction works, reports, advertising, propaganda and so on. On the other hand, the original expression, be it of philosophical, religious, political, scientific, legal or technical nature must be translated semantically. A communicative translation may be used as a simplified version or as a useful introduction to the semantic translation of such texts.

According to Aristov N.B. it is possible to convey the meaning of a text written in one language by means of another language with absolute precision. Scholars have two opposite theories: according to the first one, called the “theory of nontranslatability”, flawless translation from one language into another is unrealizable since there exist numerous discrepancies in expression means of different languages; their considered opinion is that translated version is just an incomplete and imperfect reflection of the original, giving vague and indistinct impression of the latter. The second theory – “theory of sufficiency” – states that any language possesses expression means sufficient to adequately convey meaning of any text or literary work in another language, plus to retain all stylistic and other peculiarities specific to the author of a given text.

According to Komissarov V.N. and Koralova A.L. the core of the translation theory is the general theory of translation which is concerned with the fundamental aspects of translation inherent in the nature of bilingual communication and therefore common to all translation events, irrespective of what languages are involved or what kind of text and under what circumstances was translated. Basically, replacement of ST by TT of the same communicative value is possible because both texts are produced in human speech governed by the same rules and implying the same relationships between language, reality and the human mind.

An important part of the general theory of translation is *the theory of equivalence aimed at studying semantic relationships between ST and TT*. It has been noted that there is a presumption of semantic identity between the translation and its source text.

The general theory of translation describes the basic principles which hold good for each and every translation event. In each particular case, however, the translating process is influenced both by the common basic factors and by a number of specific variables which stem from the actual conditions and models of the translator's work: the type of original texts he/she has to cope with, the form in which ST is presented to him/her and the form in which he/she is supposed to submit his/her translation, the specific requirements he/she may be called upon to meet in his/her work.

An integrated approach to the *types of translations* classification and which is of great interest to a translator is offered by R. Jakobson:

1. Intralingual translation – which consists of interpretation of verbal signs with the help of other signs of the same language;
2. Interlingual translation – or translation itself which consists of interpretation of verbal signs with the help of another language;
3. Intersemiotic translation – with the help of which verbal signs are interpreted through signs, which belong to the non-verbal sign systems.

R. Jakobson considers that complete equivalence cannot be reached through translation and even apparent synonymy is not completely equivalent. This is due to the fact that every unit contains a set of untransferable associations and connotations.

The model of the translation sets the aim to present the process of translation as a whole, to point the common direction of the translator ideas and consecutive stages of passing from the original to the translation. The main types of the lexical transformations used in the process of translation with the initial and the translating languages participation consist of the following devices: translation transcription and transliteration; tracing and lexical- semantic substitutes (concrete definition, generalization, modulation). The main types of the grammatical transformations consist of: syntactical assimilation (literal translation); articulation of the sentence; unification of sentences; grammatical substitutes (word- shape, part of speech or part of a sentence).

The main types of the lexical- grammatical transformations include:

- the translation of antonyms;
- explication (descriptive translation) ;
- compensation.

Literature

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