Translation
Today & Tomorrow

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Introduction

Human beings, throughout history, have made an effort to take advantage of various methods of communication with the intention of utilizing the knowledge of the nation and endeavoring to preserve this knowledge for the coming generetions. Language has been employed to satisfy the need through the world, communication between different nations with different language, is feasible through translation.

Translaion was largely undertaken by individuals for individuals, then globalization arrived with business services seeking new markets world wide, the demand for translation has increased in a way beyond what any individual can provide.

Therefore, it is still an enormous opportunity for translators and writers to explore and share our globalized world.

Translation is the key for understanding and learning foreign cultures or exchanging information. Globalization is also linked to the field of translation studies which brings cultures closer. At present, the process of translation is moving faster everbefore and the translator will play a key factor in this great change for the benefet of human beings.

Translation theory attempts to give some insight into the relation between thought, meaning and language, the universal, cultural and individual aspects of language and behaviour, the understanding of cultures, the interpretation of text that may be clarified and even supplemented by way of translation. (Newmark, 1988;19).

So this paper sheds light on translation, It consists of introduction, five chapters. Chapter one deals with history of translation. Chapter two deals with the theory of translation, definitions of translation and types of translation. Chapter three deals with methods of translation, levels of language analysis and

Techniques of translation. Chapter four deals with the future of translation and machine translation. Chapter five deals with the technological advances of translation. At last, the conclusion and bibliography, each covers an aspect of the above stated points.

Chapter One
History of Translation

Translation is a very old human activity because of the need of different people to communicate their experience and knowledge, as a solution that overcomes the barrier of language and a mean of conveying ideas, knowledge and experience from one culture to another.

It is very important to know some of those stations of the history of translation:

- The earliest Sumerian versions of epic of Gilgamesh dated from the third Dynasty of Ur (2150-2000BC) (Dally 1989: 41-42). The earliest Akkadian versions are dated in the early second millennium (Dally 1989:45). The standard' Akkadian version, consisting of twelve tablets, was edited in (sin-liqe-unninni) a period between 1300 and 1000 BC and was found in the library of (Ashurbanibal) in Nineveh which is the first translation of its kind.

- Arabs knew translation since ancient times when they were moving east and west with their trade affecting their neighbours in various aspects of life and culture by means of interpretion.

- India created ties with the mediterranean in the sixth century (BC) and medical theories found with Greek thinkers like Plato and Galen originated from India.

- At the time of the Umayyad state, the prince Khalid bin Yazid encouraged the movement of translation in about 760 AD.

- Translation in the Abbasid age was after the Arab conquests and the vastness of the Arab country to the east and west. The need for translation was increased to translate sciences of Greece the medical science, astronomy, mathematics, music, philosophy and criticism, besides translating the Persian literary works.

- The advanced stage of translation movement in the era of Caliph Haroon Al-Rasheed and his son Al-Ma'moon who encouraged translator Hanin ibn Yitzhak and founded Beit Al-Hikma in Baghdad that aimed at revitalizing the work of translation.

- He scientific and philosophical works of ancient Greece were translated into Arabic in Baghdad and this learning spread to Europe via Spain which was vitually a muslim country earlier in that century and continued for four hundred years.

Translation reached its peak through the school of Toledo where translations were made from Arabic into Latin and later to Spanish which helped the scientific and technological European Reconaissance.

- About 750, Ibn Al-muqaffa translated a book (Klayla wa Dumna) from Farsi into Arabic.

- At the Abbasid era, translation began from Arabic into foreign languages, and orientalists have referred to the role of Arabs in European civilization, as pointed out by some western writers like the German writer Goethe (1749-1832).

- In the thirteen century, Al-Fatih, bn Ali translated the epic Al-Shahnama of Ferdowsi from Farsi into Arabic. It is a great work.

- Translation in the nineteenth century where Al-Ma'moon played an important role in the history of Arab civilization by generating (Dar Al- Hikma) in Baghdad, Muhammad Ali governor of Egypt played a positive role in the reconnaissance of science and literature in Egypt in the first half of the nineteenth century (1805-1849).

- Khediwe Ismaeel played an important role in activating the movement of translation in Egypt and Syria. Some media, who have commendable effort in this era,are Boutros Al-Bustani (1819), Ibrahim Al-Yasghi (1847-1906) and Najib Haddad.He translated the tragedy of Shakespear Romeo and Juliet into Arabic.
- Suleiman Al-Bustani (1885-1925) translated the 'Illiad' into English, French, German, Greek, Italian. He was fluent in all of them issued in verse in 1903 by Dar Al-Hilal in Cairo.
- Salim Qub'ain (1870-1951) was one of the most active Arab translators at the beginning of the twentieth century. He translated Tolstoy's writings from Russian into Arabic.
- Senior Arab writers worked in the translation field Ahmed Hassan Alzyat, Khalil Matran, Dr.Taha Hussain and Mustafa Lutfi Al-Manfaloti who played a great role in translation especially from French, English, Russian, German and Spanish into Arabic.
- Ahmed Hassan translated from of the German, novelist and poet Goethe in 1919 and 'Rafael' lake of the French poet Lamartine.
- Dr. Taha Hussian (1889-1973) translated the tragedy (Oedipus) of the Greek poet Sophocles.
- Khalil Mutran translated several Shakespearean plays like: The Merchant of Venice, Othello, Hamlet and Mecbeth.
- Important translations were carried out in the second half of the twentieth century by Dr.Sami Al-Droobi who translated many writings of the Russian novelist Dostevski into Arabic.
- In Europe the first Greek translator was Livius Andronicus who translated the Odyssey into Latin verse in about 240BC.
- The sixteenth century witnessed the translation of the Bible into many European languages in both Protestant and Roman Catholic versions.
- Scholars who were interested in translation were Roger Bacon, Dante and Gianfranco.

- The Elizabethan age was a golden age of translation in English and Europe, the famous translators like: Philemon Holland, Thomas Nicholls and John Floria. Who translated many plays of Shakespeare, Poetry and prose of the English artists.

- Much have been written about translation as a mean of communication among cultures of different languages, it emerged as an independent academic discipline called translation studies and taught at universities as an art, craft and as a science by more methods and techniques and for quick, cheap effective translation, thus new types of translation had emerged to compete with human translation. It is called machine translation or the automatic translation and computer aided translation, etc.

Now translation studies have become well established, making swift advances world wide within the context of modern language departments and practice of translation, (S. Monday 2000 :14).

Chapter Two
Theory of Translation

Translation theory shares a number of concerns with which is commonly called communication theory. Perhaps the most important observation which the communication theorists have produced for translators is the recognition that every act of communication has three dimensions: speaker, message and listener. The more we can know about the original speaker the actual message produced by the speaker, and the original listener, the better acquainted we will be with that particular act of communication.

The interpreter does his best to uncover as much information as possible about the author and audience.

Translation, then, consists of studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its

meaning and then reconstruct this meaning using the lexicon and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and its cultural context (David Gordon, 1985:1).

Therefore, translation in theory is the communication of sence, and its closely connected with general linguistics on one hand, and on the other hand, with lexicology grammar, stylistics and cultural communication between the source language (SL) and the target one (TL). But at the same time, it is the task of the translator to be faithful to the letter, but more faithful to the sense, accuracy and stylistic shifts in order to improve the style and the quality of the translation.

The ideal translation is the one which does not read as a translation but a creative work, therefore, the translator must show himself capable of dealing effectively with those different aspects, and must take into account constraints that include context, the rules of grammar, a wide knowledge, mastery of the two languages and their writing conventions and idioms.

Definitions of Translation

- Translation is the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language. (Catford, 1965: 20).
- Translation consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. (Nida, 1984: 83).
- Translation is an act of communication which attempts to relay, across cultural and linguistic boundaries, another act of communication. (Hatim and Mason, 1997:1).

Types of Translation

Due to the continuing involvement of the translation industry there are certain terms used to define specialist translation as follows:

1. Legal translation which is one of the trickiest translations known. At its simplest level it means the translation of legal documents as contracts and treaties.
2. Most translation agencies use professional legal translation to undertake such work for fear that any disastrous consequences.
3. Litrary translation of literature such as novels, poems, plays, any litrary works.
4. Technical translation for manufacturing, manuals, instructions, etc. which are very expensive and they need specialist translators.
5. Journalistic translation for different kinds of mass media.

Chapter Three
Methods of Translation

Newmark (1988:81) mentions the difference between translation methods and translation procedures while translation methods related to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language. He goes on to refer to the following methods of translation:

- Word- for- word translation in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings out of context.
- Literal translation: in which SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalent, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.
- Faithful translation: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the grammatical structure.

- Semantic translation: which differs from 'faithful translation' as for as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the S text.
- Adaptation: which is the freest form of translation, and it is used mainly for plays (Comedies) and poetry, themes, charactors, plots that usually preserved, where the SL culture is converted to the TL culture.
- Free translation: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.
- Idiomatic translation: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialism and idioms where these do not exit in the original.
- Communicative translation: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible for the readership. (New Mark, 1988: 45).

Levels of Language Analysis

The translator must search four meanings to each word, one by one, they are:

1- Lexical meaning through dictionary to revise whether it is linguistic meaning or technical meaning.

2- Textual meaning through more specialized dictionaries, ex: pure نقي أو صافي But if it is with another word, the meaning will be changed to something else.

Ex:

Pure language	لغة فصحى
Pure man	رجل نقي السريرة
Pure mathematics	رياضيات بحتة
Pure science	علوم تجريدية
Pure water	ماء عذب

Pure gold	ذهب خالص
Pure Iraqi	عراقي أب عن جد
Pure angels	ملائكة أطهار

3- Contextual meaning that can be taken of the con- text. Ex: (تستضيف الولايات المتحدة بطولة كأس العالم لكرة القدم في حزيران القادم)

The word (تستضيف) differ in meaning from the word (الضيافة), therefore it must be translated into:

(The football world cup will be held at USA in coming June).

4- Suggestive meaning for general meaning ex: (الفتاة كالقمر في جمالها)

We should search something alike in English beauty like (snow white). Therefore it is suggested to translate the above Arabic example into: (The girl is as fair as snow).

Translation Techniques

The problems in translation always appear in finding translation equivalent not formal correspondet in There are some translation techniques, as follows: (Yousif, 2006: 61-62).

1- Transliteration: we pronounce the word as it is in the SL

intifada	انتفاضة	⎤	from Arabic into English
jihad	الجهاد	⎦	

technology	تكنولوجيا	⎤	from English into Arabic
democracy	ديمقراطية	⎦	

2- Translation equivalent ex:

candid camera	الكاميرا الخفية
contact lenses	العدسات اللاصقة
host makes waste	في التأني السلامة وفي العجلة الندامة

(folk proverbs)

3- Formal correspondent:

float currency	تعويم العملة
money laundry	غسيل الأموال
cold war	الحرب الباردة
black market	السوق السوداء

Chapter Four
The Future Of Translation

As the result of technological advances, translation as both a profession and a discipline has undergone considerable changes over the last decade. Nowadays, machine translation and computer-aided translation software are often used by professional translators in their daily work. Translators are receiving more assignment for software localization and web- translation, some teachers have started to use corpora and internet to assist their translation teaching (e.g., the corpus-based approach to translator training and web-based approach to translation teaching).
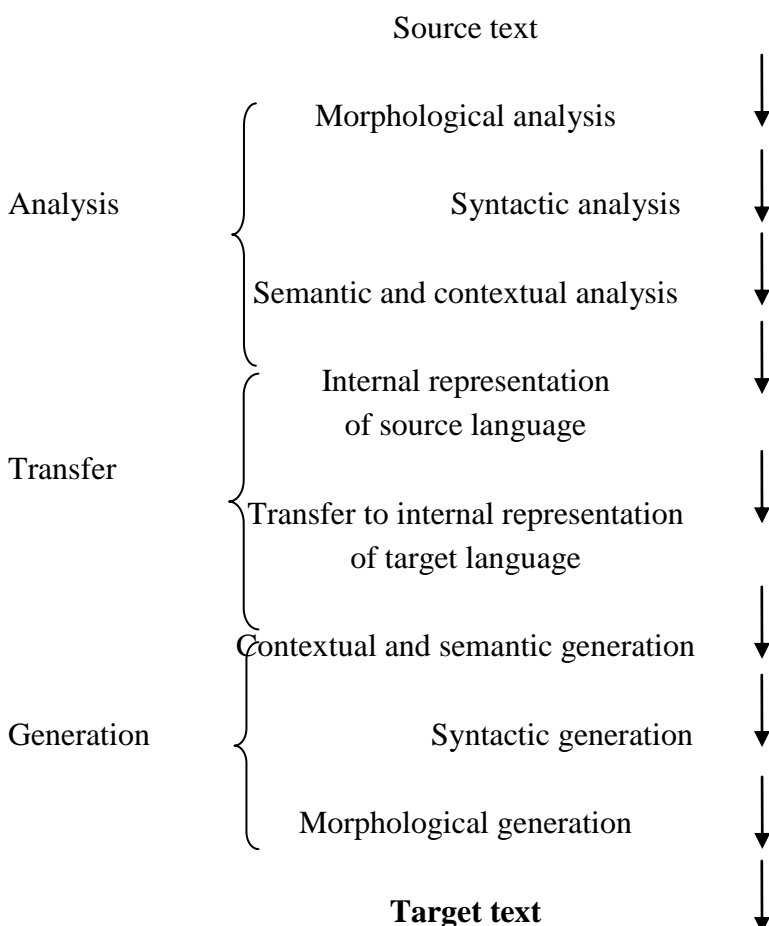
Information technology has also affected translation research as witnessed by the rising interest in the corpus-based approach to translation studies. Such changes have brought about opportunities and challenges for translation and translator training alike. One key question today is how training translators should respond to these changes…

Translator training need to be brought closer to the real world of technology and to cope with the imminent changes and challenges in translation. (Defeng Li, 2004)

Machine Translation (MT):

It is a sub-field of computational linguistics that investigates the use of computer software to translate text or speech from source language to target one using corpus techniques, more complex translations may be attempted, allowing for better handling of differences in linguistic typology, phrase, recognition and translation of idioms, as well as the isolation of anomalies.

See the diagram;

Source text

Analysis
- Morphological analysis
- Syntactic analysis
- Semantic and contextual analysis

Transfer
- Internal representation of source language
- Transfer to internal representation of target language

Generation
- Contextual and semantic generation
- Syntactic generation
- Morphological generation

Target text

The history of machine translation began after World War II.

The Georgetown experiment (1954) involved fully, automatic translation of over sixty Russian sentences into English. The experiment was a great success and ushered in an era of substantial funding for machine-translation research.

In the later part of (1980), more interest was shown in statistical models for machine translation.

Computerization is the first stage of the industrial revolution for several current (M T) systems.

Chapter Five
What will the future look like?

Recently internet has emerged as global information infrastructure, revolutionizing access to any information, as well as fast information transfer and exchange. Using internet and e-mail technology, people need to communicate rapidly over long distances across continent boundaries.

The expansion of global internet and computerization have made methods of translation more effective and faster making full use of the huge amount of data available online.

An online translator is an interactive program implemented on a web page offering translations of a text into different languages.

Integrated translation software will be available and accessible for anyone from their computer (desktop, laptop, network, etc) and from other equipment linked to networks (televisions, mobile, telephones, hand- held devices, etc.).

Most probably software will no longer be bought but accessed from the internet when required. Automatic translation will become an

everyday and essential part of the global information society. (Hutchins, 2002).

In fact, it is probable that in future years there will be fewer pure MT systems (commercial on-line, or otherwise) and many more computer-based tools and applications where automatic translation is just one component. As a first step, it will sure not to be long before all word-processing software includes translation as an inbuilt option (it is already common in Japan) but available and accessible for anyone from his own computer.

As for oral translation, we can envisage MT of speech in highly constrained domains (e.g. telephone enquiries, banking translations, computer input, instructions to machinery). It seem unlikely that spoken language translation will extend personal communication.

The strong shift in learning habits to a more visual culture should lead translation pedagogy to include more visual resources such as video conferencing and learning games and good simulations that could bring professional environments and situations nearer to learners.

Translation tools of the future will need to handle terminology management, translation memory, word processing, desktop publishing, filtering of content in and out of various platform, natural language processing, project management, team translation functions, database management and global content management all in one software package.

This is what human being arrived at high technological advances nowadays, and the future may bring more and more.

Conclusion

Whatever explained in the former chapter about the world movements toward a global communication, machine translation as the growing wave of the future with the growing fears of the translation profession and translators, we must say that they will still need human intervention in order to maintain the quality of translations needed in businesses today.

But translations learning and training need to be brought closer to the real world of new technology and to cope with the imminent changes and challenges, making use of all available and accessible means of learning training, doing his job,teaching and playing a key role in the new growing technological explosion.

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