TRANSLATION CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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Every translation activity has one or more specific purposes and which ever they may be, the main aim of translation is to serve as a cross-cultural bilingual communication vehicle among peoples. In the past few decades, this activity has developed because of rising international trade, increased migration, globalization, the recognition of linguistic minorities, and the expansion of the mass media and technology. For this reason, the translator plays an important role as a bilingual or multi-lingual cross-cultural transmitter of culture and truths by attempting to interpret concepts and speech in a variety of texts as faithfully and accurately as possible.

Most translation theorists agree that translation is understood as a transfer process from a foreign language—or a second language—to the mother tongue. However, market requirements are increasingly demanding that translators transfer texts to a target language that is not their mother tongue, but a foreign language. This is what Newmark calls "service translation."

"I shall assume that you, the reader, are learning to translate into your language of habitual use, since that is the only way you can translate naturally, accurately and with maximum effectiveness. In fact, however, most translators do translate out of their own language..." Newmark (1995b).

This fact makes the translating process a harder task, sometimes resulting in a mediocre output that should undoubtedly be revised and before post-edited. I would like to discuss some of the problems in translation.

INTRODUCTION

Translation studies in exploring grounds, building, as it does, the gap between the vast area of stylistics, literary history, linguistics, semiotics and aesthetics. Translating is not pouring wine from one bottle into another. Substance and form cannot be separated easily. Translaitng is more than a triple matching of words,grammatical structures, and cultural contexts – a complex process. Translation has always been an adjunct of creative writing itself. Since any translation then depends on the two activities of reading and writing, each a variable, the translations will always vary with each translator. The source text provides the translator with content which includes knowledge of the original text. The writing of the target text requires the translator to

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make up a new form into which he pours the content.

Translation involves far more than replacement of lexical and grammatical items between languages and as can be seen in the translation of idioms and metaphors, the process may involve discarding the basic linguistic elements of the SL text. The problem of finding the exact nature of the level of equivalence emerges when the translator turns as a traitor, a betrayer. The so called proverb "A translator is atraitor" hints at the inefficiency of the translator. Brendan Kennedy calls translation 'The art of failure'. A.K.Ramunujan holds the view: "The chief difficulty of translation is its impossibility"George Stener contends that translation is both possible and impossible. Susan Bassnett argues that equivalence in translation should not be approached as a search for the sameness.

The problems and difficulties in finding equivalence, and thus there are areas of untranslatability. Catford talks of two types of translatability. Catford talks of two types of untranslatability:

1. Linguistic untranslatability
2. Cultural untranslatability

LINGUISTIC UNTRANSLATABILITY

It is due to the absence of lexical or syntactical substitutes in the TL. Lexical untranslatability is due to the absence of a lexical substitutes in the TL. Lexical correspondences highlight three negative aspects of the problem namely.

1. Literal correspondences – dangerously misleading.
2. Manufactured expressions – not correct correspondences.
3. Borrowing – deceptive correspondences.

Literal correspondences result in serious errors as it is a word for word translation. Manufactured expressions result in a condition when the tends to make up receptor language constructions on the model they find in the source language. The borrowing of a foreign language words is often regarded as a safer practice than

manufacturing terms with indigenous lexical components.

Here are some examples of lexical untranslatability, which has no equivalent words.

1. The French fails to provide a word for 'home' in English.
2. There is no English word for the French 'menue'.
3. There is no English word for the Latin word 'anger'
4. The English word 'Premier' has no Latin word.
5. There is no Spanish word for the English 'Jungle'
6. In English, we have divided the limbs into legs and feet's arms and hands. While for the Yugoslovs, 'Noga' stands for legs or feet or both and 'Ruka' stands for arms, hands or both.
7. The English word'pastry' is not the same as 'Italian Pasta'.
8. In English, the word 'Butter' is associated with a number of ideas, while the corresponding word 'burro' in Italian carries other connotations.

Nida talks of the problems encountered at the lexical level when terms and concepts in the SL do not exist in the TL. Some languages distinguish minute difference between one thing and another while some do not.

Let us have have a glance of some examples:

1. English has a large number of words for 'snow' making minute difference ice, snow, fog, mist, dew etc., But Tamil has only one word 'Pam' to denote all these. In Telugu there is a synonym for 'Manchu' – 'Himamu'. More astonishing is in Eskimo's language. There are more than 60 words for 'snow'.
2. Even the words in Telugu like 'Attaiah, Pinni, Peddamma has only one word in English 'Aunty'.
3. The English word 'Uncle' has many Telugu words like Babai,Mamaiah and Pedananna.
4. Tamil has 7 terms for various stages in the growth of a flower, 7 terms for the different

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stages in the growth of a female and 9 terms in the growth of an infant. But English has no such classification. Even in Telugu, there are no words to show the difference in the growth of a female child or a male infant.

5. The English word 'Sister' has two Telugu words Akka and chelli.
6. The same way "Brother" in English has two Telugu words Anna and Thammudu.

In English we can differentiate between 'see' and 'watch'.

> Ex: I am seeing the toy.
> Iam watching the television.

> But in Telugu, we can't differentiate
> Ex: Nenu bommanu chustunnanu.
> Nenu T.V. chustunnanu.

The same word Chustunnanu is used in both the situations for a toy and television.

Homonyms in Indian languages create problems for the translator.

1. 'Shiksha' in Hindi is teaching or education. But in Marathi and Telugu it is 'Punishment.
2. 'Razinama' is used in Marathi and Telugu in the same sense of resignation but in Hindi it means 'agreement'.
3. The word 'asuddh' means 'impure' or 'in correct' in Hindi and Telugu, but in Kashmiri it means very previous[thing] and also 'medicine' or 'cura'.

SYNTACTICAL UNTRANSLATABILITY

Errors in syntactic correspondence account for the largest number of mistakes in translation. However there major groupings are identified in correspondence in syntactical structures. They are:

> 1.Phrase
> 2. Clause and sentence
> 3. Discourse

1.Phrase: The most translator phrase structures are:

> a. Co-ordinate expressions
> b. Words related to each other by some

syntactic marker.

> c. Prepositional relationship and
> d.Comparative expressions.

2. Clause and Sentence: The difficulties involved are:

> a. Significance of the order of component

parts

> b. Type of clause
> c. The way in which the clauses are

combined.

3.Discourse: As languages have different types of discourse like narratives, conversation, imposition, declamation and poetry, it is impossible to classify speech into two major types namely formal and informal as one may prefer to classify them non-casual and casual.

Syntactical untranslatability is at the grammatical level.

They are:

1. Person
2. Tense
3. Voice of Verbs
4. Gender
5. Grammatical Shift

1. Person : The second person 'you' in English has three corresponding words in most of the Indian languages.

Eg:	Singular	Plural
English	You	You
Telugu	Nuvvu	Meeru

a. A female infant to an young girl are called 'Papa', 'Pilla' and 'Ammayi' but ' girl' is the only English word
b. In the same way as in the case of male child, it is 'Babu", 'Abbayi', and 'Pillavadu'. The English word is 'boy'
c. Tamil makes use of exclusive 'we' and inclusive we 'na:nka' means exclusive and 'na:m' means inclusive.

2. Tense: English has a family complicated form of the verb and even in languages which are close to it, it is not easy to say , It has been and so the translation simply says It was ….. The following sentences prove to bring out the subtle distinction between them when rendered from English into Tamil.

1. I will go tomorrow
2. I may go tomorrow
3. I might go tomorrow

In English, Subject – Verb agreement is very important. But in Malayalam it is not there in any form.

3. Voice of Verbs: English has both Active Voice and Passive Voice verbs are rendered into active voice in Tamil

4. Gender: The gender system is also varying from culture to culture, thus from language to language.

Ex: a. In Japanese culture, the sun is treated as feminine gender. In India, it is treated as masculine gender.

b."River" is considered as masculine gender in some cultures but in Indian culture it is considered as feminine gender.

5.Grammatical Shifts: Catford speaks of how one or the other of grammatical shifts occurs in translation from one language into another

a. Structure-Shifts
b. Class Shifts
c. Rank Shifts
d. Intra System shifts

CULTURAL UNTRANSLATABILITY

Cultural untranslatability is due to the absence of a relevant situational feature in the TL culture for the SL Text. Culture oriented word or words with cultural roots cannot be translated from one language into another with a different culture. There are to be retained and transliterated.They are like Marital Culture, Social Culture,Material Culture, and Stylistic Level.

PHONOLOGY AND GRAPHOLOGY

At the graphological level, there are no capitals or italics in Tamil.

Even Telugu has no capitals. Phonological translation of English phonemes into Telugu remain an acute problem. A .K. Ramanujan claims,' It is impossible to translate the phonology of one language into another even related culturally neighbouring language'.

PROBLEMS IN TRANSLATING CLASICS

A study of problems of translation will not be complete unless the problems of translations of different types of texts are considered. The central problem of translation involves problems of establishing equivalences between the source text and the target text. All types of translation involves problems like.

1. Loss of meaning
2. Addition of meaning

3. Skewing of meaning

The different problems inliterary texts are:-

1. Problems in translating Classics.
2. Problems in Poetry Translations
3. Problems in Prose Translations
4. Problems in translating Drama.

Contrary to all these perceptions, translation is not a mere linguistic activity in which both translators and linguistics engage. Nevertheless, as earlier explained, it is a literary work which should take its place among various literary genres. It is more similar to the works of both writers and poets. It has its share of originality and creativity. Therefore, it has its share of originality and creativity. Therfore, it should be regarded as work of art.N doubt, there is something that has to be lost in translation process. This is due to the difference between the source and target languages and their cultures or due to other reasons. Irrespective of the above challenges faced while translating the researchers ignore the positive aspects of translated works. Instead they should consider the other aspects that translators add to the original works like emprunt, modulation, adaptation, debrowllardise etc.We can observe the works of Raulf Humpherys translation of Illiad. He added speed of both movement and music which lost in the original work.He also uncovered the hidden meaning of Virgil's work. In order to overcome such difficulties, Humphrey's had to translate freely several parts of the work, add something and omit something. Alexander Pope's translation of the Illiad by Homer is an excellent translation. His poetic genius in adapting the Greek epic is observed by many readers.

Thus, in recent researches, many negative ideas regarding literary translation are discussed including ellipsis, overtly erroneous errors, limits of translatability, and other linguistic terms which refer to the short-comings of both translation and translators. In addition to all the above topics the researchers adopt linguistic theories developed by Sapir, Firth, Chomsky, Holliday and others.To them, translation is an interpretation or a transfer of linguistic symbols from one language to another as Jacobson sees it, a communication among various peoples with different linguistic backgrounds as Eugene Nida suggests, a branch of contrastive

analysis to describe the nature of equivalences or a kind of comparative linguistic study as it seen by Catford.

Initially, the translation of literary works - novels, short stories, plays, poems, etc. - is considered a literary recreation in its own right. However, as far as the solutions are concerned, the prose-translators should start with the careful adherence to the following principles:

1. A great understanding of the language, written and verbal, from which he is translating i.e. the source language;

2. An excellent control of the language into which he is translating i.e. the target language;

3. Awareness of the subject matter of the book being translated;

4. A deep knowledge of the etymological and idiomatic correlates between the two languages; and

5. A delicate common sense of when to metaphrase or 'translate literally' and when to paraphrase, in order to guarantee exact rather than fake equivalents between the source- and target-language texts.

Moreover, the prose-translators can unite some of the following methods to deal with the translation problems efficiently.

1. Back Translation:

"Comparison of a back-translation with the original text is sometimes used as a check on the accuracy of the original translation…" (Crystal, 2004: 5). It is one of the most familiar practices used to search for equivalents through:

a. The translation of items from the source language to the target language.

b. Free translation of these back into the source language.

2. Conference with Other People:

Discussions about the use and meaning of words with bilingual people around a table to make decisions about the best terms to use.

3. Interviews or Questionnaires or Any Kind of Tests:

These are used to remove translation-related difficulties. Besides, the translators should

keep the translation shifts in mind. J.C. Catford (1965) describes them as "departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the S.L to the T.L" (p. 73). He believes that there are two major kinds of translation shifts, i.e. level shifts, where the S.L item at one linguistic level, e.g.grammar, has a T.L equivalent at a different level, e.g. lexis, and category shifts as categorized earlier.in aboves pages.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude a literary text when translated the translator should keep in his mind that translated text is a creation based on the previous one, that is the creation of the original text. In contrast of the original text is both free and unprecedented. Therefore, a good literary translation can be a masterpiece.Thus, I request the researcher to explore the new areas and new sciences very much close to literary translation,namely stylistics, rhetoric literature, comparative literature, literary criticism and creative writing to make the translated text more natural and meaningful.

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