THANSLATION THEORY
Translating Process

Lecture 1.

Translation

- **<u>Translation-</u>** is a transfer of meaning across cultures.

- More specifically, translation is the process and the result of creating in a target, or translating, language (TL) a text which has approximately the same communicative value as the corresponding text in the source language (SL).

The aim of translation

- **<u>The aim of translation</u>**: to produce the text or message in the TL which is equivalent to the original text or message in the SL both semantically and pragmatically.

- In translation we deal with two languages (two codes) and to verify the info they give us about the extralinguistic objects we should consider extralinguistic situation, and background information.

Basic assumptions

- This target text (TT, that is the translation) is not fully identical with ST as to its form or content due to the limitations imposed by the formal and semantic differences between the source language (SL) and TL.

Basic assumptions

The ideal translation should be accurate as to meaning and natural as to the receptor language forms used.

An intended audience who is unfamiliar with the source text will readily understand it.

The success of a translation is measured by how closely it measures up to these ideals.

Object of the science

- As any observable phenomenon, translation can be the **object** of scientific study aimed at understanding its nature, its components and their interaction as well as various factors influencing it or linked with it in a meaningful way.

- The **science of translation** or **translatology** is concerned both with theoretical and applied aspects of translation study.

Basic assumptions

- The ideal translation should be…

- **Accurate**: reproducing as exactly as possible the meaning of the source text.

- **Natural**: using natural forms of the receptor language in a way that is appropriate to the kind of the text being translated.

- **Communicative**: expressing all aspects of the meaning in a way that is readily understandable to the intended audience.

Translation components

- Translation is an entity consisting of the interrelated components:
- 1) elements and structures of the ST;
- 2) elements and structures of the TT;
- 3) transformation rules to transform the elements and structures of the ST into the TT;

Translation components

- 4) systems of the languages involved in translation;
- 5) conceptual content and organization of the ST;
- 6) conceptual content and organization of the TT;
- 7) interrelation of the conceptual contents of the ST and TT.

Participants

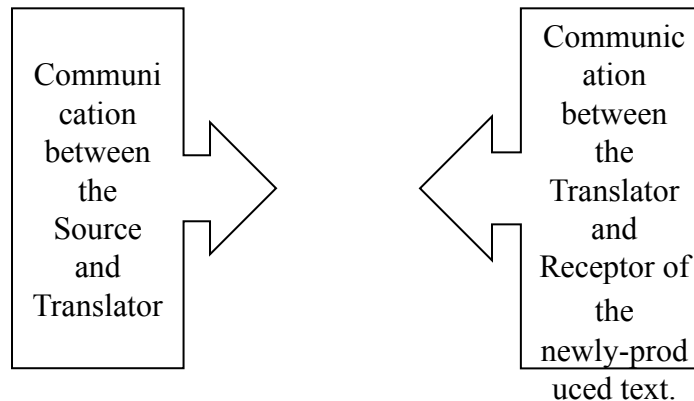**There are at least 3 participants involved in translation process:**

☐ the sender (source),

☐ the translator who acts in dual capacity as the recipient of the SL message and as the sender of the equivalent TL message,

☐ the recipient of the TL message of the translated version.

Participants

The participants of translation

The sender

The translator who acts in dual capacity as the receptor of the SL message and as the sender of the equivalent TL message

The receptor of the TL message of the translated version
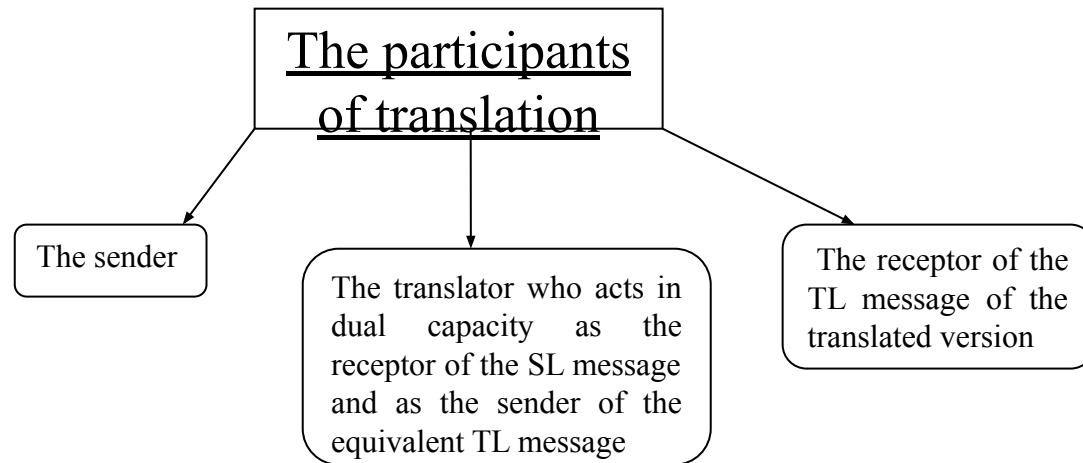
Phases of Translation

- <u>Translation as an interlingual communicative act includes two phases:</u>

| Communication between the Source and Translator | Communication between the Translator and Receptor of the newly-produced text. |

Operations in the process of translation

- 1) the translator deduces the TL elements and rules of equivalent selection and substitution on the basis of observed ST elements;

- 2) he/she builds a model consisting of the TL elements selected for substitution;

- 3) verifies the model of the TT against context, situation and background info;

- 4) generates the TT on the basis of the verified model.

The process of translation

- **Three stages:**
- a) analysis of the ST, situation and background info;
- b) synthesis of the translation model;
- c) and verification of the model against the ST and target context (semantic, grammatical, stylistic), situation, and background info resulting in the generation of the final TT.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- Psychologically viewed, the TP includes 2 mental processes – understanding and verbalization.

- 1-st, the translator understands the contents of ST, i.e. reduces the info it contains to his own mental program, and then he develops this program into TT.

- The problem – mental processes are not directly observable.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- *Translation models.*

- **A model** is a conventional representation of the translating process describing mental operations by which the ST or some part of it may be translated, irrespective of whether these operations are actually performed by the translator.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- There are such models of translating process: 1) the situational model and 2) the semantic-transformational model.
- The existing models of the translating process are based on:
- 1) on the identity of the situations described in the original text and in the translation;

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- 2) is based on the similarity of basic notions and nuclear structures in different languages.

- In other words, the translator actually makes a mental travel from the original to some interlingual level of equivalence and then further on to the text of translation.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- **Situational model**
- The process goes from the text in one language through the extralinguistic situation to the text in another language.
- The translator first understands what the original is about and then   says "the same things" in TL.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- "Manson walked quickly down the platform, <u>searching eagerly for some signs of welcome.</u>"

- The main character came by train to a new place of work. The man was alone in a strange place and couldn't expect any welcome committee. Obviously, he just wanted to see whether anyone was there to meet him.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- «Мэнсон быстро прошел по перрону, оглядываясь, не встречает ли его кто-нибудь».

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- <u>Semantic-transformational model</u>
- This model postulates the existence of the "deep" semantic categories common to SL and TL.
- The translator first reduces the semantic units of the original to these basic semantic categories and then expresses the appropriate notions by the semantic units of TL.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- <u>"John is the proud owner of the new car".</u>
- 1-st the translator is first to realize that it actually means that "John has a new car".
- And that "he is proud because of that".

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- «У Джона (есть) новая машина, которой он очень гордится».

- The translator should use these models as practical tools.

- Coming across a specific problem in SL the translator should classify it as situational, structural or semantic and try to solve it by resorting to the appropriate procedure.

Aspects of translating process (TP)

- <u>"He is a poor sleeper".</u>
- An attributive group can't be directly transferred into Russian. The translator can find that the transformational model will do the trick for him here.
- So he should transform the attributive group into a *verb-adverb phrase*:
- «Он плохо спит».

Different types of operations performed by the translator:

- 1) the first group of operations (transformations) is characterized by imitation of the form of a word (translational transcription) or of a collocation (creates a blueprint collocation in TL by using a loan translation).

- «Эскалация, консенсус»

- «Мозговой трест»(brain trust), «работа по правилам» (work-to-rule), «люди доброй воли»(people of good will).

Types of operations performed by the translator

- 2). The second group of operations includes all types of lexical transformations invoking certain semantic changes.

- As a result, the meaning of a word or word combination in ST may be more specific, more general or somewhat modified as a way to discovering an appropriate equivalent in TL.

Types of operations performed by the translator

- The equivalent with a more general meaning: I packed my two Gladstones.
- «Я упаковал свои два чемодана».

Types of operations performed by the translator

- 3). The third group of translating procedures comprises all types of transformations involving units of SL grammar.

- The translator may solve his problems by preserving the syntactic structure of the ST and using the analogous TL grammatical forms or a "word-for-word translation".

Types of operations performed by the translator

- <u>John took Mary by the hand.-</u>
- *Джон взял Мери за руку.*
- <u>I want you to speak English</u>.-
- *Я хочу, чтобы вы говорили по-английски.*
- <u>This was a man to be seen to be understood.-</u>
- *Чтобы понять этого человека, надо было его увидеть.*

Norm of translation

There are 5 normative requirements which compose the **norm** of translation:

- norms of translation equivalence,
- genre and stylistic norms of translation,
- norms of translation speech,
- pragmatic norms of translation,
- conventional norms of translation.

Translation difficulties

There are 3 types of translation difficulties:

- peculiarities of language units semantics,

- discrepancies of world perception,

- discrepancies of realias.

Methods of research in translation

There are 4 types of *comparative analysis* used in the modern theory of translation:

- comparing the translation text with its original,

- comparing several translations of one and the same text prepared by different translators,

- comparing translations with original texts in the language of translation,

- comparative analysis of parallel texts in the source and target languages.

Questions for the seminar:

- Topics for discussion:
  1). What is the tr-ing process? What mental processes make up the tr-ing process?

- 2). What is the model of tr-n? How can tr-n models be classified?

- 3). How does the situational model describe the tr-ing process?

Questions for the seminar:

- 4). How does the semantic-transformational model describe the tr-ing process?
- 5). What types of transformations can be used in the tr-ing process?
- The text-book: Lecture 4 pp. 30-34,
- Ex-s pp. 35-39.
- Essay " Basic translation Theories".