

Translation Theory

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Interpreting is not everybody's art

□ *Interpreting*

□ *Translation*



Interpreting *is oral translation*

Translation 1. **as a process**

*is a transformation of
text 1 into text 2*

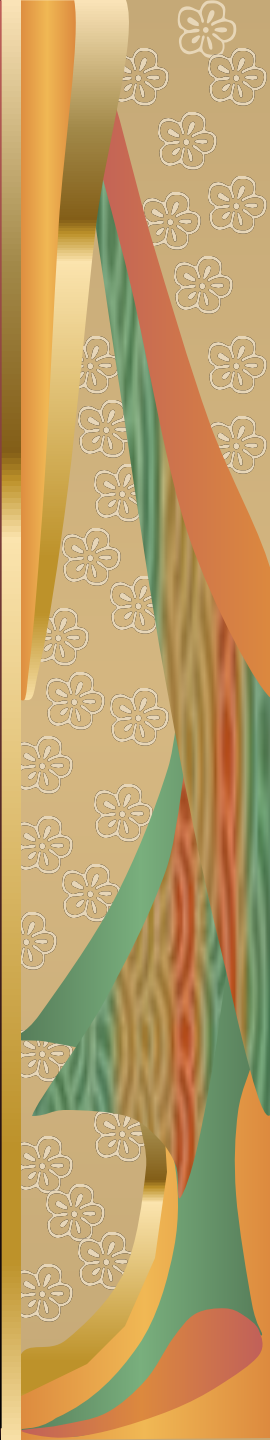
2. **as a result**

is text 2



Common language

- 1. Source language
- 2. Source text
- 3. Target language
- 4. Target text



Common language

Translation is done

Source language → Target language

Source text → Target text



Common language

- 1. **Source language** *is the language from which the translation is done*
- 2. **Source text** *is the text translated*
- 3. **Target language** *is the language into which the translation is done*
- 4. **Target text** *is the text as a result of the translation*



PROFESSIONALISM

- Translators aim to produce a text that is as faithful to the original as circumstances require or permit.
- Translators aim to to be “invisible people”- transferring content without drawing attention to the considerable artistic and technical skills involved in the process.



PROFESSIONALISM

Some countries view translations as a **clerk task** and pay their translators accordingly.

Others (such as Japanese) regard it as a **major intellectual discipline**



Translators not only need to know their **source language** well.

They must also have a thorough understanding of the

- **field of knowledge** covered by the source language,
- **social**,
- **cultural** or
- **emotional** connotations that need to be specified in the target language.



The translation aims at
semantic equivalence
btw source & target language.

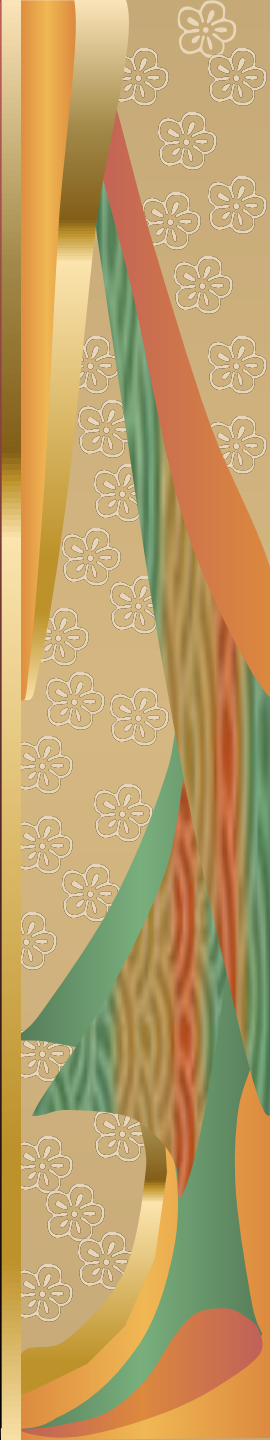
Exact equivalence is impossible.



No perfect parallel

No translator could provide a translation that was a perfect parallel to the source text, in such aspects as

- rhythm,
- sound symbolism,
- puns, and
- cultural allusions .



LEVELS OF TRANSLATIONS

▣ ***WORD-FOR-WORD***

▣ ***LITERAL TRANSLATION***

▣ ***FREE TRANSLATION***



WORD-FOR-WORD

Each word in the source language is translated by a word (or morpheme) in the Target language.

The result often makes no sense, especially when idiomatic constructions are used:

It's raining cats and dogs -

She is a sweet tooth



LITERAL TRANSLATION

The linguistic structure of the source text is followed, but is normalized according to the rules of the target language:

It's raining cats and dogs

Идет дождь кошками и собаками.



FREE TRANSLATION

The linguistic structure of the source language is ignored, and an equivalent is found based on the meaning it conveys

It's raining cats and dogs.



WAYS TO TEST THE QUALITY OF A TRANSLATION

□ *BACK TRANSLATION*

□ *KNOWLEADGE TESTING*

□ *PERFORMANCE TESTING*



BACK TRANSLATION

- one translates a text from language A into language B;
- a different translator then turns the B text back into A and
- the resulting A text is compared with the original A text.

If the texts are virtually identical, it is a strong evidence that the original translation was of high quality

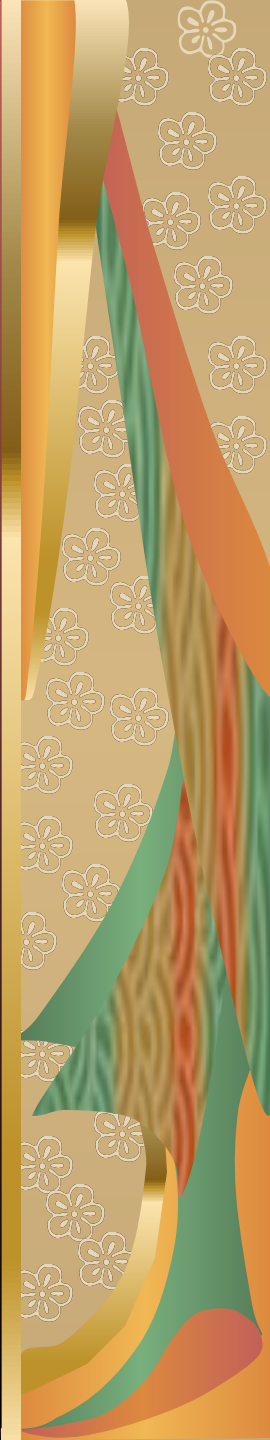
(through not incontrovertible evidence, because the second translator might have improved upon the work of the first in the reverse process)



KNOWLEADGE TESTING

- speakers of language B are tested about the content of the translation (e.g. a questionnaire)
- the source questions are put to speakers of A.

If the results correspond, the translation is efficient.



PERFORMANCE TESTING

- speakers of language B are asked to carry out actions based on the text (e.g. in a repair manual)
- speakers of language A are asked to carry out actions based on the text
- the results are compared to determine translation efficiency.

This is a very time consuming process, however requires expert supervision if clear results are to be obtained.



There is always some
loss of information.

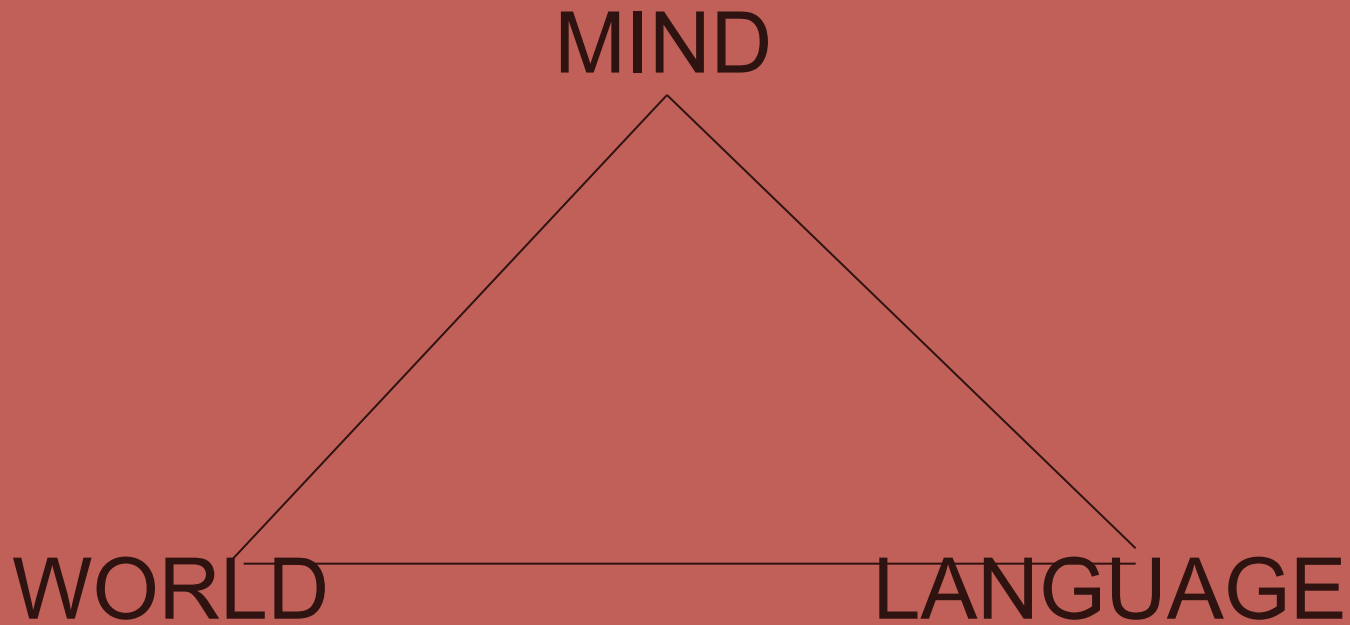
WHY?

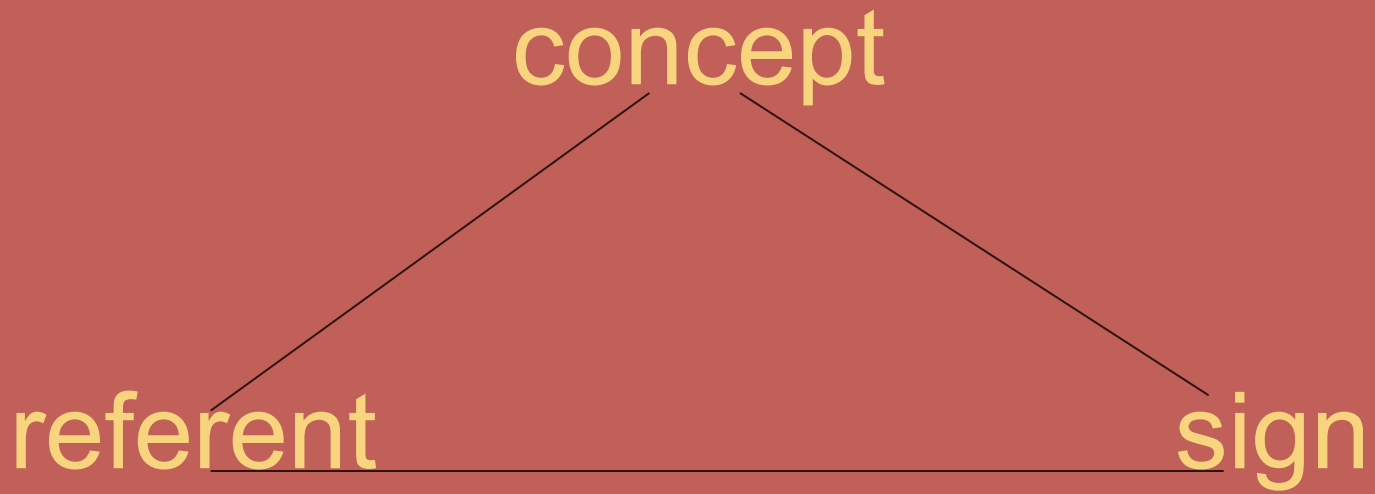
What do we translate?

What is language?



C.K. Ogden, Ivor A. Richards





C.K. Ogden, Ivor A. Richards' Triangle

a **sign** is a language unit (**Tower, -tion**)

a **concept** is a mental unit

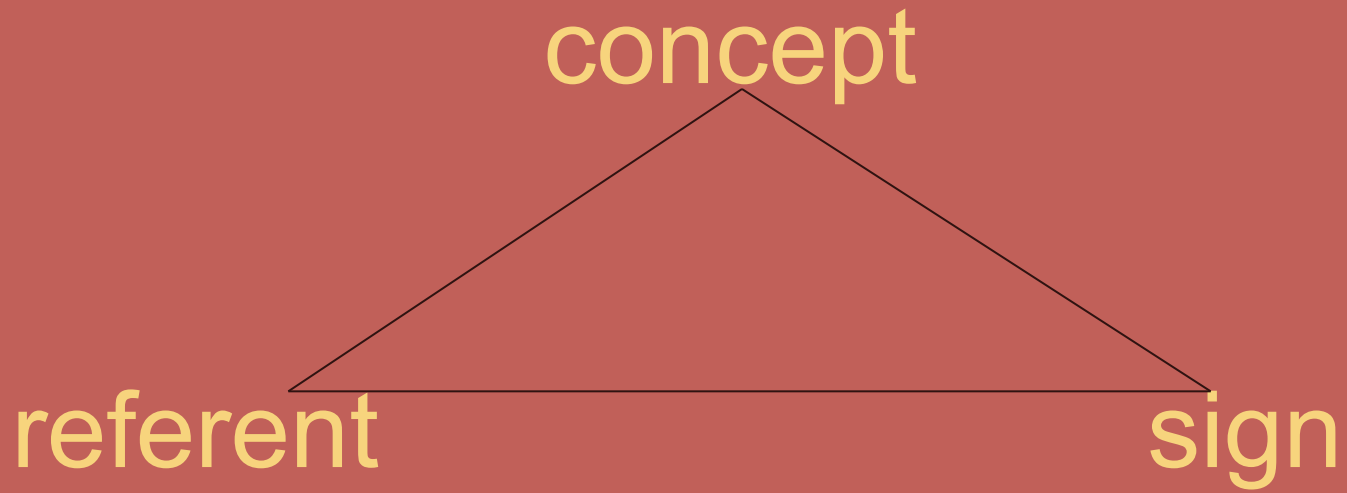
a **referent** is an object of real and unreal world



NO direct link

According to common scientific opinion there may never be a direct link between the sign, the object and the referent.



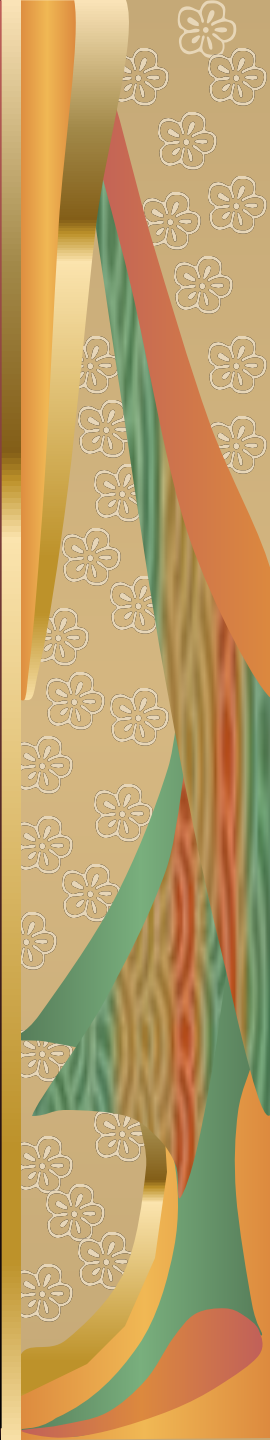


Ambiguity

the property of
language units to
bear several
different meanings.

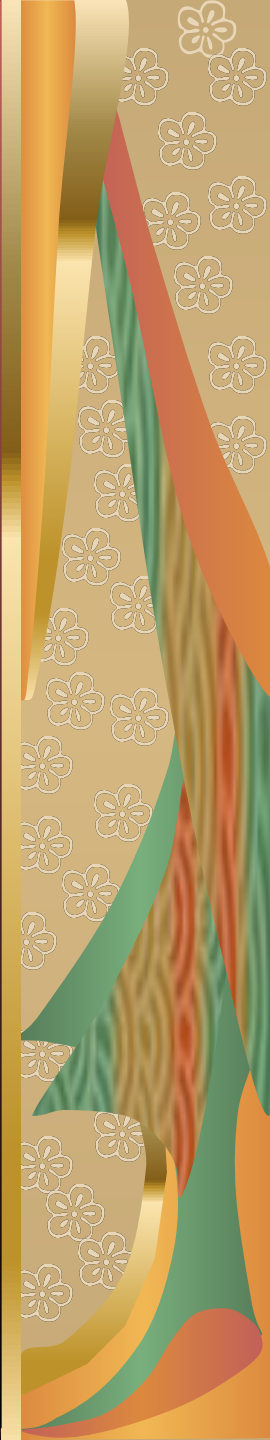


*Какие женщины на нас
бросают взоры.*



*A bare conductor
ran in the car.*

- bare голый
- conductor
кондуктор
- ran бегал
- car машина



*A bare
conductor
ran in the car.*

- bare оголенный
- conductor провод
- ran был проложен
- car вагон

