

## THE TRANSLATION PROCESS APPROACHED FROM A LINGUISTIC, TEXTUAL, PRAGMATIC AND CULTURAL POINT OF VIEW

### PROCESUL DE TRADUCERE, ABORDAT DIN PUNCT DE VEDERE LINGVISTIC, TEXTUAL, PRAGMATIC, ȘI CULTURAL

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#### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this article is to diagnose and describe the translation problems that the translators and interpreters face today. The strategies of translation used in Romania are nowadays very accurate and the ones who apply them manage to perform their activity successfully, but the ones who are still not aware of the problems which may arise from it, need to study the matter more, thing which inspired the theme of this article.*

*We wish to find out which are the problems in the translation process, elaborate a classification of these difficulties and bring about viable solutions fated to bring a positive change in the translations domain.*

#### **Rezumat**

*Scopul acestui articol este de a diagnostica și descrie problemele de traducere pe care traducătorii și interpreții le întâmpină astăzi. Strategiile de traducere folosite în România în zilele noastre sunt meticuloase iar cei care le aplică, reușesc să întreprindă o activitate de succes, dar cei care încă nu sunt conștienți de problemele care pot evolua, trebuie să studieze mai mult această chestiune, lucru care a și inspirat tema acestui articol. Dorim să aflăm care sunt problemele procesului de traducere, să elaborăm o clasificare a acestor dificultăți și să aducem soluții viabile menite să aducă o schimbare pozitivă în domeniul traducerilor.*

**Key words:** *translation process, difficulties in translating, linguistic, textual, pragmatic, cultural*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *proces de traducere, dificultăți în traducere, lingvistic, textual, pragmatic, cultural*

#### **Introduction**

The problematic risen from the barriers and problems of translation is quite complex. The domain of translations is not an easy one; it takes a lot of years of not only study but also practice in order to be good at it. (LADMIRAL, 1997, p. 141)

Usually, in the process of translation, we find some processes that imply the borrowing, the layer, transposition and modulation, equivalence and adaptation.

We can classify the translation process that is used to transfer the meaning of statement from a source language into the target language as direct and indirect. (CRISTEA, T., 2000, p. 107)

The direct methods imply the approach used for the translation that does not involve a semantic and grammatical recognition; here we find the integrated processes, based on direct borrowing, layer, and the paraphrase.

When we are talking about indirect method of translating, we are actually discussing about “a translation of a translation”, which most certainly is based on a translated version, or multiple

translated versions, of the original work or the last form of a translation from a certain language into another. For example, we may have a text in French which is translated into Romanian via English so the process of getting it is called an indirect translation.

The work of a translator is not easy at all, because either we talk about a direct or indirect translation, we still have some traps and other hidden errors which can make our work even more difficult. Sometimes we may find ourselves at a crossroads, not knowing which would be the best choice and yet we are able to find the solution after thinking or researching more about it. While approaching a text, a translator must be very careful with choosing the equivalent words of the languages because it is not a trivial replacement of words, but the words must correspond, the original idea of the text must be present in the translation and discrepancies of meaning are not allowed.

The professionalism and attention of the translator when using the resources that the target language offers, assures an enhancement of the experience and a good collaboration with his clients. A translator works with forms of linguistics and he interprets these forms in order to make the best of the translation. (BALLARD M., 1993, p. 243)

Between languages, there are a lot of differences which will always involve issues in translating and also problems which will always arise and cause confusions. The problems that are most common in the translation process are related to the use of prepositions and articles, verbal tenses, specific terminology which corresponds to the field of theory and practice of translation, prepositions, use of adjectives, semantics and stylistics etc.

#### **Linguistic difficulties**

We must admit that being a good translator means also having a broad vocabulary and a wide spectre of knowledge when it comes about terminology and linguistics. The most common problems that may appear in the translation process are connected to the semantics and terminology.

For instance in medicine, there are millions of terms that are based on Latin and other ancient languages, which sometimes do have connection perhaps with the language that we translate into but most of the time they do not have. There are so many terms which refer to the bones, muscles and anatomical parts of the human body that sometimes it may be overwhelming, fortunately there are a lot of dictionaries and studies which allow us to find exactly what we are looking for.

The challenges that we may face in this field, are various but the good thing is that they can be first diagnosed and then solved by trying to consult with dictionaries and other information that may help us at a professional level and this is how we stimulate our thinking to make connection to other languages and terms that we already met in our experience as translators.

#### **Textual problems**

The way that we understand the main text has an influence over the final result of our work. From here, different problems of comprehension of the text arise. When we analyse the intra-textual factors of a text we must be very attentive to the coherence and cohesion of the text which are important elements. Coherence is the element that binds with the meaning of the text. The text unity is also directly influenced by coherence, in addition, this means that when we have cohesion, the sentences and phrases from our text will be guided by a logical harmony and that the message will be clear and comprehensible. Coherence assures the continuity of the text, as the text flows, the meaning is not altered by the growth of information and the non-contradiction of the ideas that we state.

The sentence is analysed as a syntactic-semantic structure and also as support structure information within a specific textual dynamics. Cohesion relates to the organization of the text, the sequence of ideas in the text, and must observe the morphological and syntactic standards. It manifests itself locally, sentence by sentence by. (MAINGUENEAU G., 1991, p. 219)

In order to substantiate the cohesion of a text in time, meaning the sequence and the timeline we may use the space and time ways of organisation which are also called deictic. The problems that we may face here are the structure and organisation of the phrases from our text due to their

length and use of words. The solution for such a problem would be a reorganisation in a compensatory way.

### **Pragmatic problems**

The authors in the domain state that the problems at the pragmatic level are caused by the transmitter and receiver of the message concerning the original message. The way that the message is transmitted and received depends on the ones who participate to the translation; the differences between the original text and the production of the translation are the factors which develop problems at a pragmatic level. (NORD C., 1996, p. 158)

Other factors which alter the process of translation are: the target text, the source, the way of transmission (source-reader), the motivation which concerns the source text, the text function target-source.

A way to identify ourselves with our reader is the use of the pronouns at the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural. This marks a relation between the sender and receiver. Although we may be able to transfer the cultural discrepancies, there are some concepts which cannot be transferred, due to the fact that they contain allusions and cultural references that are not necessarily known in the target language by interlocutor (the difference vs. speaker interlocutor).

Another problem which can appear is the one developed between the function of the source text and the target text. The function may remain the same for both of the texts, due to the fact that there are not so many differences in the cultural context.

The specific problems that may be encountered in the translational process are complex. The solutions that are envisaged need to be closely analysed and studied in order to obtain a well-adapted translation for our purpose. Having accomplished this, we will better understand the source and the text that we have in order to obtain a deeper and a more adequate final translation.

### **Cultural problems**

Many times when we are translating, the cultural differences give us a lot to think about. For instance when we have different holidays and religious celebrations and names of celebrations, we face a specific terminology that probably has been translated very few times. Tradition is also a factor which gives problems when translating because the terminology is prone to be very little known. Referring to culture, is also difficult to translate names of museums and touristic objectives, specific for a certain country and culture, the names of the rivers and spoken languages are also quite difficult to translate when we are speaking about dialects or names of ancient objects, that are not used anymore. Here we may also deal with some issues of cultural references and allusions due to the differences between cultures.

Two natural languages are confronted in the language that they contain. This thing firstly reveals a common general structure which allows the translation and the existence of weakly idiomatic areas. There are also some differences that attract disturbances in the transmission of the data experience.

The translator must first decode the message and understand the type of information he is facing, before everything else, he must be the first one to understand the true meaning of the text that he is translating. He must understand the allusions and the cultural shades that a text might have these are referred to as cultural references. The different social communities around the world are facing the problems connected to diversification thing which is more and more highlighted in the translation process.

### **Conclusion**

The present study revealed the fact that the practice of translation is not a simple thing to do, as many would think of it. This is both difficult and complex raising many problems and difficulties specific for the domain.

Working as a translator gives a lot of satisfactions. People working in this domain have the chance of improving their language every day, to build their own linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge. A translator most certainly will work extra in order to finish, this is why they always have to work according to a schedule in order to manage their time.

Experience is a factor which has a lot to say in the professionalism and work of a translator. When talking about comprehension of a specific language, it does not mean that the person is a translator. Comprehending a language and being able to communicate in that language does not mean that the person is a translator or that he or she is able to practice this job.

When someone is close to being a so called “native speaker” is the first step in becoming a translator because for that there are still enough stages to follow and many tests to pass. In order to also write well in another language it takes also a lot of study. Being able to translate quotations, speeches, names of monuments, names of traditions, words from the widest vocabulary specters such as: Medicine, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physics and many other, is something to be admired for. The job of a translator first of all needs vocation and ability to make connections in your head. Years of training and assiduous study represent the base of this wonderful and so generous domain. When I say generous I most certainly refer to the cultural richness that this job offers.

The natural work of a translator could never be replaced by computers, in my opinion. That sparkle and the vivid touch that a translator is able to put in a text, is something that a machine could never imitate. The brain is not replaceable and even though science probably will evolve more and more in the next years, it will never be able to replace a human thinking.

Working as a translator or interpreter involves passion for what you are doing. The pleasure of working with words, sentences and phrases is also the pleasure of enhancing your own cultural knowledge. A translator is the person who reads and understands everything that is filtered through his head. While transferring a text into another language with or without your own free will, the information will remain there. Whether you want it or not, you will know things from the medical, technical, poetic, economic domain, etc.

Of course the translation process includes some deadlines, times when the translation is urged to be received, but for a professional translator, this is not a problem because he is successful in managing his time and the due date does not scare him at all.

In conclusion, I consider this research very helpful for those who feel that they match with this domain, for those who currently deal with problems due to so many causes. New perspectives and angles or viewing the issues of this domain were brought and I strongly believe that this will come as a helping hand for those reading it, like that being able to make a change.

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