

Lexical Transformations

Xolmo'minova Mahliyo Botirovna,

Karimova O`g`iloy Rahmatullayevna,

Students of the Faculty of Translation at UzSWLU.

Borasulova Dilnoza Dilmurodovna

Scientific Advicer

Abstract:

As somebody who has been translating professionally for over 15 years now, I must confess the topic of Translation Techniques poses somewhat of a challenge; trying to pin down strategies that you use almost intuitively every day of your life becomes a rather difficult task. That is why I decided to outline a widely-accepted list of translation techniques in the hope that the reader may become interested in knowing a little bit more about translation and its nuances.

Keywords: Translation, lexical translation, substitution, modulation, generalization, differentiation.

Introduction

Translation is an informational process, which means that the translator should render information transmitted as fully as possible. This can be achieved only if certain structural and semantic changes are introduced. These changes, which are caused by lexical and grammatical differences between languages (and broadly speaking – by the differences between the respective cultures), are called transformations in translation. In theory of translation a lot of different classifications exist.

Lexical transformation refers to the process of changing the vocabulary and word choices used in the source text to better fit the target language. This can involve substituting words with similar meanings, adapting cultural references, and adjusting the level of formality to ensure the translation is natural and appropriate for the target audience.

Lexical substitutions. Traditional lexical translation methods rely solely on text-based tools such as: dictionaries or translation software to translate words and phrases. These methods,



however, are often limited in their ability to fully capture the context of a word or phrase, leading to inaccurate or incomplete translations. Lexical substitution or putting one word in place of another. It often results from the different semantic structures of the source language (SL) and target language (TL) words. This translation equivalent is predetermined by the word combination it is used in. This type of translation can hardly be called substitution, since it is a regular equivalent for this phrase.

Lexical transformation involves replacing words or phrases in the source text with equivalent expressions in the target language. Grammatical transformations involve adjusting the grammatical structure of sentences in the source text to better fit the target language's rules. Lexical transformations describe formal and semantic relations. This group contains transliteration, transcription, loan translation and lexico-semantic transformations such as concretization, generalization and modulation. Transliteration is representation of the spelling of the foreign word with the TL letters. Lexical errors are identified when a translator is not capable of transferring meaning of words, word collocation, phrases intended in source language to the ones that are equivalent in source language.

Problems. Among the lexical problems offered are the absence of direct TL (Target Language) counterparts, the different function of the TL counterpart, words with opposite meanings, eponyms, acronyms, abbreviations and proper names. The syntactic problems include: tense, word order and syntactic ambiguity.

Types of lexical substitution:

Specification. Substituting words with a wider meaning with words of a narrower meaning. In a procurement context, a specification can be defined as a statement of needs or requirements. It provides a detailed description of the goods or services a supplier is expected to supply during the lifetime of the contract. It is also a record against which suppliers can be measured and is legally binding. A good specification is clear, concise, and unambiguous. It should be easy to read and understand. The specification should include information about the requirements and desired features of the product or service. A rule specification is an asset that represents the data requirements of a business rule in logical form. A rule specification breaks down the logic in a business rule into the following tasks: Define the types of data that a business data set contains. Define a set of conditions that the business data must satisfy.

Example:

❖ Will you **do** the room?

Ты **уберешься** в комнате?

Sen xonani **tozalaysanmi?**

❖ I will **get the papers** on the way home.

Я **куплю газеты** по дороге домой.



Men gazetalarni uyga ketayotganda olaman.

In these sentences, we can see some specification. The underlined English words have larger scopes of meaning than their Russian counterparts and their particular semantics is recognized from the context.

Generalization. Substituting words of a narrower meaning with those of a wider meaning. Generalization is to translate a term for a more general one, whereas, particularization is the opposite. Generalization allows the learner to utilize what they've learned during sessions and put it into practice in their natural environment. Put simplistically, generalization can be thought of as the transfer of learning from narrow parameters to much broader ones. Generalization allows humans and animals to recognize the similarities in knowledge acquired in one circumstance, allowing for transfer of knowledge onto new situations. This idea rivals the theory of situated cognition, instead stating that one can apply past knowledge to learning in new situations and environments. Generalization can be helpful because it allows people to decide how to act in new situations. But over-generalizing after a bad experience could lead an individual to fear benign scenarios.

Example:

❖ People do not like to be stared at.

Людям не нравится, когда на них смотрят.

Odamlar tikilib qarashni yoqtirishmaydi.

❖ In the Arctic of today the frozen face of the deep is changing and man seeks a scientific explanation for it growth and shrinkage.

Bugungi Artikda chuqurlikning muzlagan yuzi o'zgarib bormoqda va inson uning o'sishi va kichrayishiga ilmiy izoh bermoqda.

❖ She loves roses.

U atirgullarni yaxshi ko'radi. (atirgullarning hamma turini)

Modulation in translation refers to the process of adjusting the tone, style, or register of the source text in order to convey the same meaning and effect in the target language. This may involve making changes to the language, structure, or cultural references in the translation in order to ensure that the intended message is accurately conveyed to the target audience. Modulation is an important aspect of translation as it allows for the adaptation of the source text to the linguistic and cultural conventions of the target language.

1. Modulating a formal tone in the source text to a more casual tone in the target language in order to appeal to a different audience.

2. Adjusting cultural references in the source text to be more relevant and understandable to the target audience.



3. Adapting the structure of sentences and paragraphs in the translation to better suit the conventions of the target language.
4. Changing the style of language used in the source text to match the conventions of the target language, such as using more idiomatic expressions or colloquialisms.
5. Modulating the level of formality in the translation to match the social context and expectations of the target audience.

Men buni senga qoldirim means literally I leave it to you but translates better as you can have it. It changes the semantics and shifts the point of view of the source language. Through modulation, the translator generates a change in the point of view of the message without altering meaning and without generating a sense of awkwardness in the reader of the target text. It is often used within the same language.

The expressions Buni tushunish oson (it is easy to understand) and buni tushunish qiyin emas (it is not complicated to understand) are examples of modulation. Although both convey the same meaning, it is easy to understand simply conveys "easiness" whereas it is not complicated to understand implies a previous assumption of difficulty that we are denying by asserting it is not complicated to understand. This type of change of point of view in a message is what makes a reader say: "Yes, this is exactly how we say it in our language".

But outside it was raining. – Lekin tashqarida yomg`ir yog`yapti. The primary equivalent of the word *outside* is *charyjhu*. But it is impossible to say in Uzbek **Lekin tashqarida yomg`ir yog`yapti*. By means of unsophisticated logical operation the translator finds another equivalent: *ko`chada*. Thus he takes into consideration a tradition of the word combination and acceptability of collocation. He is aided in this by the metonymical closeness of word meanings based on contiguity of the two notions.

Differentiation refers to the process of accurately conveying the meaning and tone of a text from one language to another. This involves understanding the cultural nuances and context of the original language, and effectively communicating that in the target language. It also involves maintaining the style and voice of the original text while ensuring clarity and accuracy in the translation. Translation differentiation is important in capturing the essence of the original text and conveying it effectively in a different language.

1. A word with multiple meanings: In English, the word "run" can mean to physically move quickly, to manage or operate something, or to be in a liquid state. When translating into another language, the translator must differentiate between these meanings and choose the appropriate translation based on the context.
2. Cultural references: A text may contain references to specific cultural events, traditions, or historical figures that are unique to the original language. A translator must differentiate between these cultural references and find equivalents or explanations that make sense in the target language.



3. Tone and style: A humorous or formal tone in the original text must be differentiated and maintained in the translation. This requires the translator to understand the nuances of both languages and accurately convey the intended tone and style in the target language.

4. Idioms and expressions: Many languages have idiomatic expressions that cannot be translated directly into another language. A translator must differentiate between these expressions and find equivalent ones that convey the same meaning in the target language.

5. Technical terminology: In fields such as law, medicine, or engineering, there are often specific terms and terminology that may not have direct equivalents in another language. A translator must differentiate between these technical terms and find accurate translations or explanations that convey the same meaning in the target language.

In fact, differentiation is a linear transformation over more general vector spaces of functions. Vector spaces of differentiable functions appear quite often in signal processing and advanced calculus. Differentiation by transformation of the product means the product will represent what was learned (the content) in a format different from its original form. An authentic transformation should represent a “conversion of known information into new entities – changes in meaning, significance, use, interpretation, mood, sensory qualities, or shape.” Summarizing the thoughts of others is not sufficient, nor is simply fitting the original content into an alternate form. As scholars and inquirers, students must interpret information, develop their own ideas, and present them in appropriate ways. It takes place when we substitute a word by another one with parallel meaning, denoting a similar species: *bamboo curtain* – *bambukli parda*. Both *bamboo* and *parda (iron)* are materials known for their hard nature. They are used figuratively to denote the barriers between the Western and Communist countries (*bamboo curtain* in reference to China). There are no hyponymic relations between the notions of *bamboo* and *iron* (though the referential area of *bambukli parda* is of course much wider than that of *bamboo curtain*.)

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