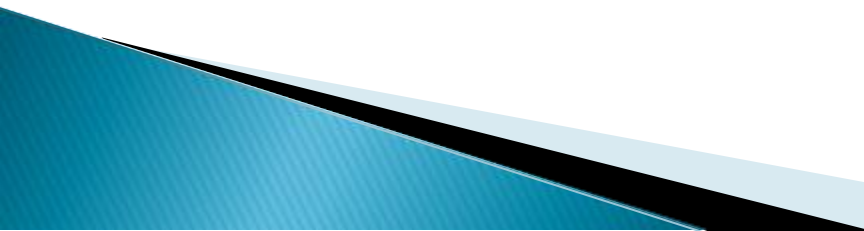


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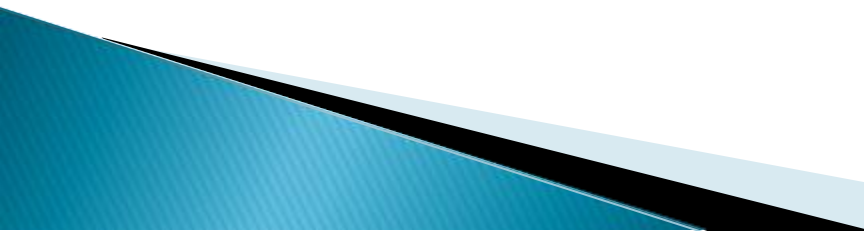


SEMESTER : IV
SUBJECT : TRANSLATION THEORY
SUBJECT CODE : P16EN42
CLASS : II MA ENGLISH
TITLE OF THE PAPER : BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANSLATION
NAME OF THE FACULTY : MRS. S. THILAGAVATHY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRANSLATION

- ▶ Susan Bassnett tackles the crucial problems of translation and offers a history of translation theory, beginning with the ancient Romans and encompassing key twentieth-century structuralist work. Updated for the second time, Susan Bassnett's *Translation Studies* remains essential reading for anyone new to the field.
- 

TRANSLATION STUDIES

- ▶ **SOURCE LANGUAGE:** The language being translated from.
 - ▶ **TARGET LANGUAGE:** The language being translated to.
 - ▶ **EXAMPLE:** Turkish English
 - ▶ Holmes's paper refers to many key aspects of translation. It talks of translation as:
 - ▶ a process – what happens in the act of translating the ST
 - ▶ a product – analysis of the TT
 - ▶ a function – how the TT operates in a particular context
- 

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSLATION

- ▶ In the 1990s, it can best be seen as the establishment of a series of new alliances that brought together research into the history, practice and philosophy of translation with other intellectual trends.
- ▶ The links between Translation Studies and post-colonial theory represent one such alliance, as do the links between Translation Studies and corpus linguistics.
- ▶ Another significant alliance is that between Translation Studies and gender studies.
- ▶ For language: SHERRY SIMON points out, does not simply mirror reality, but intervenes in the shaping of meaning.

▶

TRANSLATORS

- ▶ Directly *involved in that shaping process*, whether the text they are dealing with is an instruction manual, a legal document, a novel or a classical drama.
- ▶ Just as Gender Studies challenged the notion of a single unified concept of culture by asking awkward questions about the ways in which canonical traditions are formed, so Translation Studies, through its many alliances, asks questions about what happens when a text is transferred from source to target culture.

APPROACHES TO TRANSLATION

From Peter Newmark's (1981) 1. A translation must give the words of the original.

- A translation must give the ideas of the original.
- A translation should read like an original work.
- A translation should read like a translation.
- A translation should reflect the style of the original.
- A translation should possess the style of the original.
- A translation should read as a contemporary of the original.
- A translation may add to or omit from the original.



TRANSLATION PROPER

- ▶ Describes the process of transfer from SL to TL, Jakobson goes on immediately to point to the central problem in all types: that while messages may serve as adequate interpretations of code units or messages, there is ordinarily no full equivalence through translation.
- ▶ Even apparent synonymy does not yield equivalence, and Jakobson shows how intralingual translation often has to resort to a combination of code units in order to fully interpret the meaning of a single unit.
- ▶ Hence a dictionary of so-called synonyms may give perfect as a synonym for ideal or vehicle as a synonym for conveyance but in neither case can there be said to be complete equivalence, since each unit contains within itself a set of non-transferable associations and connotations.

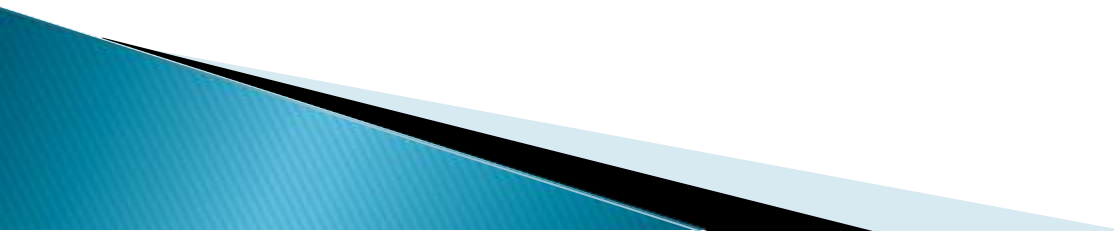
HISTORY OF TRANSLATION

It is a component part of literary history.

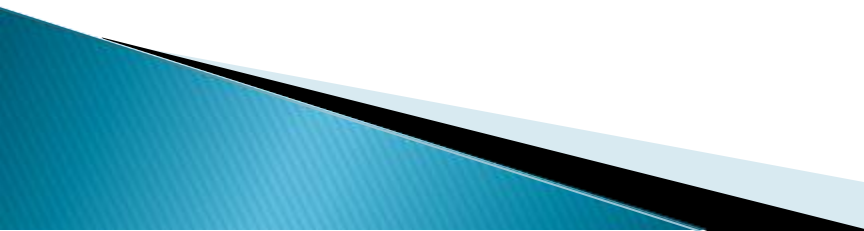
The type of work involved in this area includes:

- investigation of the theories of translation at different times
- the critical response to translations
- the practical processes of commissioning and publishing translations,
- the role and function of translations in a given period,
- the methodological development of translation and,
- by far the most common type of study, analysis of the work of individual translators.

TRANSLATION IN TL CULTURE

- ▶ extends the work on single texts or authors and includes:
 - ▶ work on the influence of a text,
 - ▶ author or genre, on the absorption of the norms of the translated text into the TL system
 - ▶ the principles of selection operating within that system
- 

TRANSLATION AND LINGUISTICS

- ▶ It includes studies which place their emphasis on the comparative arrangement of linguistic elements between the SL and the TL text with regard to phonemic, morphemic, lexical, syntagmatic and syntactic levels.
 - ▶ Into this category come studies of the problems of linguistic equivalence, of language-bound meaning, of linguistic untranslatability, of machine translation, etc. and also studies of the translation problems of non-literary texts.
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TYPES OF TRANSLATION

In his article 'On Linguistic Aspects of Translation', ROMAN JAKOBSON distinguishes three types of translation:

- Intralingual translation, or rewording (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs in the same language).
- Interlingual translation or translation proper (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language)
- Intersemiotic translation (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of nonverbal sign systems). or transmutation example : music or image.

INTERLINGUAL, INTRALINGUAL AND INTERSEMIOTIC TRANSLATION

There is a potential confusion of translation with interpreting.

- ▶ INTERPRETING: oral translation of a spoken message or text.
- ▶ The potential field and issues covered by translation are vast and complex.
- ▶ **Benvenuti!** is the translation of **Welcome!**, but how do we explain Hi?
- ▶ Translation also exists between different varieties of the same language and into what might be considered less conventional languages, such as sign languages and morse code.

INTERLINGUAL, INTRALINGUAL AND INTERSEMIOTIC TRANSLATION

What about the flag symbol being understood as a country, nationality or language – Is that ‘translation’ too? Such visual phenomena are seen on a daily basis: no-smoking or exit signs in public places or icons and symbols on the computer screen.

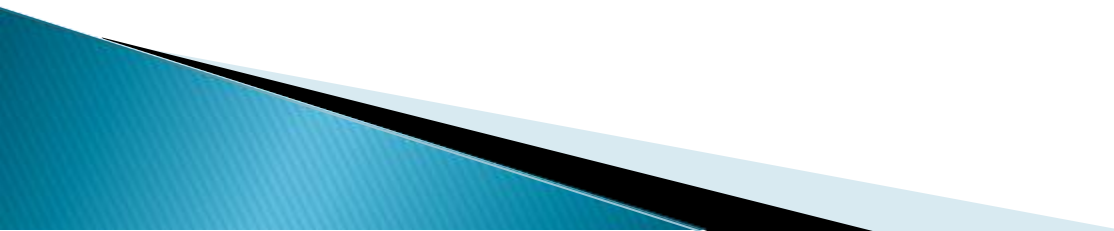
EXAMPLE

- ▶ J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter children's books have been translated into over 40 languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide.
- ▶ It is interesting that a separate edition is published in the USA with some alterations.
- ▶ The first book in the series, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Bloomsbury 1997), appeared as Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in the USA (Scholastic 1998).
- ▶ As well as the title, there were other lexical changes: British biscuits, football, Mummy, rounders and the sweets sherbet lemons became American cookies, soccer, Mommy, baseball and lemon drops.
- ▶ The American edition makes a few alterations of grammar and syntax, such as replacing got by gotten, dived by dove and at weekends by on weekends, and occasionally simplifying the sentence structure.

INTERLINGUAL, INTRALINGUAL AND INTERSEMIOTIC TRANSLATION

- ▶ In this particular case, it is not translation between two languages, but between two versions or dialects of the same language.
- ▶ This is termed ‘intralingual translation’ in Roman Jakobson’s typology.
- ▶ In the Hebrew translation of the same book, the translator chose to substitute the British word with a traditional Jewish sweet, a kind of marshmallow.
- ▶ This is termed «interlingual translation».

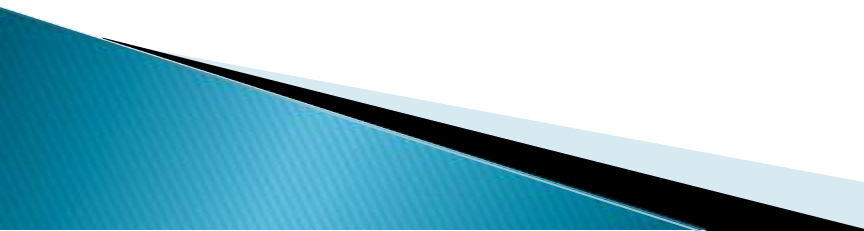
EXAMPLES OF INTRALINGUAL TRANSLATION

- ▶ lift – elevator
 - ▶ lorry – truck
 - ▶ tin – can
 - ▶ telly – television
 - ▶ tube – subway
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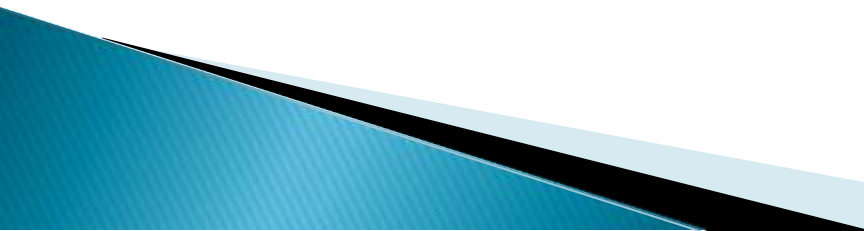
EXAMPLES OF INTERLINGUAL TRANSLATION

- ▶ In the case of «hello», it is pointed out that English does not distinguish between face to face greeting or that on the phone, whereas some other languages like French, Italian, Japanese and German make this distinction.
- ▶ In Japanese, Konichiwa is hello there, but when answering a phone, they say mushi mushi.

THREEFOLD DEFINITION OF TRANSLATION

- ▶ The process of transferring a written text from SL to TL, conducted by a translator, or translators, in a specific socio-cultural context.
 - ▶ The written product, or TT, which results from that process and which functions in the socio-cultural context of the TL.
 - ▶ The cognitive, linguistic, visual, cultural and ideological phenomena which are an integral part of 1 and 2.
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DECODING AND RECODING

- ▶ The translator, therefore, operates criteria that transcend the purely linguistic, and a process of decoding and recoding takes place.
 - ▶ Eugene Nida's model of the translation process illustrates the stages involved
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DECODING AND RECODING

- ▶ As examples of some of the complexities involved in the interlingual translation of what might seem to be uncontroversial items, consider the question of translating yes and hello into French, German and Italian.
- ▶ This task would seem, at first glance, to be straightforward, since all are Indo-European languages, closely related lexically and syntactically, and terms of greeting and assent are common to all three.
- ▶ For *YES* standard dictionaries give:
 - French: oui, si
 - German: ja
 - Italian: sì

PROBLEMS OF EQUIVALENCE

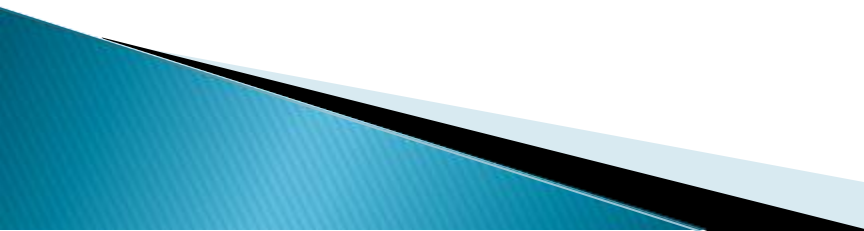
- ▶ The translation of idioms takes us a stage further in considering the question of meaning and translation, for idioms, like puns, are culture bound.
- ▶ The Italian idiom *menare il can per l'aia* provides a good example of the kind of shift that takes place in the translation process. Translated literally, the sentence
 - *Giovanni sta menando il can per l'aia.* becomes

John is leading his dog around the threshing floor.

FOUR TYPES OF TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCE

- ▶ Linguistic equivalence, where there is homogeneity on the linguistic level of both SL and TL texts, i.e. word for word translation.
- ▶ Paradigmatic equivalence, where there is equivalence of ‘the elements of a paradigmatic expressive axis’, i.e. elements of grammar, which Popovič sees as being a higher category than lexical equivalence.

FOUR TYPES OF TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCE

- ▶ Stylistic (translational) equivalence, where there is ‘functional equivalence of elements in both original and translation aiming at an expressive identity with an invariant of identical meaning’.
 - ▶ Textual (syntagmatic) equivalence, where there is equivalence of the syntagmatic structuring of a text, i.e. equivalence of form and shape.
- 

TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCE

- ▶ **ALBRECHT NEUBERT**, whose work on translation is unfortunately not available to English readers, distinguishes between the study of translation as a process and as a product.
- ▶ He states bluntly that: ‘the “missing link” between both components of a complete theory of translations appears to be the theory of equivalence relations that can be conceived for both the dynamic and the static model.

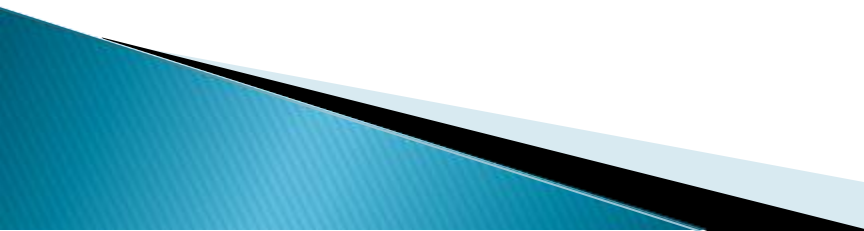
LOSS AND GAIN

- ▶ Once the principle is accepted that *sameness cannot exist between two languages*, it becomes possible to approach the question of loss and gain in the translation process.
- ▶ It is again an indication of the low status of translation that so much time should have been spent on discussing what is lost in the transfer of a text from SL to TL whilst ignoring what can also be gained, for the translator can at times enrich or clarify the SL text as a direct result of the translation process.
- ▶ Moreover, what is often seen as ‘lost’ from the SL context may be replaced in the TL context.

UNTRANSLATABILITY

- ▶ When such difficulties are encountered by the translator, the whole issue of the translatability of the text is raised. Catford distinguishes two types of untranslatability, which he terms linguistic and cultural.
- ▶ On the linguistic level, untranslatability occurs when there is no lexical or syntactical substitute in the TL for an SL item.
- ▶ **EXAMPLE:** the German *Um wieviel Uhr darf man Sie morgen wecken?* or the Danish *Jeg fondt brevet* are linguistically untranslatable, because both sentences involve structures that do not exist in English.

TRANSLATION

- ▶ Every text is unique and, at the same time, it is the translation of another text.
 - ▶ No text is entirely original because language itself, in its essence, is already a translation: **FIRSTLY**, of the nonverbal world and **SECONDLY**, since every sign and every phrase is the translation of another sign and another phrase.
 - ▶ However, this argument can be turned around without losing any of its validity: all texts are original because every translation is distinctive.
 - ▶ Every translation, up to a certain point, is an invention and as such it constitutes a unique text.
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THANK YOU

