

USING DIFFERENT METHODS TO TRANSLATE ENGLISH TEXTS

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Abstract: At present, one of the most essential problems among students who are learning English as their second language is to translate English texts into their mother language. The objectives of this article are to point out main errors and challenges that students are facing during translation and give an explanation of effective methods in translating English texts. In this article descriptive quantitative method is used. There are five types of translating methods that can be understandable for students are explained. It can be seen that most students are unable to translate English text because of their vocabulary range and lack of strategies in translating. Article was concluded with the opinion that it requires an ability to understand which method to use in translating in order to achieve faultless translating, therefore students need to be aware of methods of translating that will be mentioned below.

Keywords: Translation, method, English text, sentence, strategy

Introduction

Translation is the transmission of a thought in a language to another language. It is a process which guides from written source language text into target language.[4] Translating is the only way to understand the scientific, psychological, economical, political and social information of international level. However, more often than not, students find it difficult to transfer these kinds of information from English into their mother language like Uzbek, Russian and others. Some learners say that the texts are complicated since they do not have enough comprehension of language and material that they choose are not suitable for them. Moreover, they do not improve their skills in translating and find English texts boring because they lack of background knowledge about linguistics. In addition, nationality and culture also influences in translating English texts due to the fact that some linguistic units such as word, word combinations or phrases cannot be familiar or even do not exist in their native language. Including all these problematic circumstances it is significant to be aware of methods to translate English texts. While translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language.[3]

Material and methods

First of all, before we discuss types of translation, the importance of this process should be mentioned. In about 3000 BC the earliest piece of translation appeared as an epic 'The Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh' and this was the first translation in history that

was translated into five Asiatic languages at that time.[8] After that all works by famous writers began to be translated one by one from one language into another. In view of the fact that translation enables effective communication between people around the world, people started to translate many crucial English texts. Nevertheless, the question is how to achieve perfect translation in order to get appropriate meaning. Some methods and strategies are explained by Peter Newmark in his 'A textbook of Translation', also Isadore Pinchuk mentioned effective ways of translating in her 'Scientific and technical translation'. Taking into consideration all methods the most useful ones will be explained.

Word-for-word translation

In this method students translate each word separately and not considering at their meanings within the text or when they are used with other words in sentence or phrase. Sometimes this method cannot be acceptable because although it might be grammatically correct, but as a whole sentence it will sound wrong. The main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or to construe a difficult text as a pre-translation process.[3] So this method can be risky because it neglects the context which is very important and it ignores the metaphorical use of words which represents the culture of language. For example, some English words have two forms, verb and noun, but in Uzbek language it can be difficult to find out which one is used in text without reading the whole sentence. Or some English words that have secondary meaning, cannot be found in dictionaries and can be understood only in context may cause trouble to achieve suitable translation. For example:

So many men, so many opinions

In this proverb the word 'men' is translated as 'erkaklar' into Uzbek language if it is translated with word-for-word method. But within the context this word means 'people' – 'odamlar' in Uzbek language.

Literal translation

This method also requires translating text dividing it into individual words but with their nearest meaning in target language.[6] Yet, if students do not know exact usage of particular word it can cause the translated English text to sound unnatural in their native language. Knowing how to avoid these troublesome situations students can achieve proper message conveyed by original text. So the translator should keep in mind one thing, the sense and content can be translated while the form or style cannot. And the point where form begins to contribute to sense is where we approach untranslatability. This is most likely to happen in poetry, songs, advertising, punning and so on.[1] Unlike word-for-word translation method literal translation does not neglect context and it finds metaphorical equivalents in the target language for metaphorical words in the source language.

Communicative translation

In this method translator should focus on himself and try to translate the English text more freely just by understanding the meaning of English text. In this method you do not have to translate each word but concentrate on the message and the main force of the text. Your translation can be simple, clear and brief, also translated in a natural and resourceful way. As Newmark said, communicative translation is often better than its original texts, because when you translate with communicative method you just try to explain the English text to yourself.[3]

Semantic translation

Semantic translation can be understood as the method of sense-for-sense translation. Unlike communicative translation it emphasizes content rather than effect.[5] With the help of this method English texts are translated in accurate way without adding any redundant words that do not exist in original text. Moreover, when it comes to cultural words you should translate them with culturally neutral third or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents.

Adaptation

This method is freer than other methods that were mentioned before. Adaptation is used mostly when you are going to translate English literary works such as plays, poetry, the themes, characters, plots and others. In these cases, if the target language does not have any lexical equivalents or if the context in which the original text was written does not exist in the target language you can use adaptation as a translation methodology.[] For example, translating the title of Hemingway's masterpiece 'The Old Man and the Sea' into Uzbek like 'Chol va dengiz', not like 'Qari odam va dengiz'.

Free translation

In this method you can translate the English text freely not paying attention to grammatical structures or metaphorical phrases in order to make your translation naturally understandable. Due to the fact that while using this method you are not limited to the text or context or the denotative meaning of a word or a phrase you can translate the text depending on your comprehension. For example, the sentence

'He does not have anything at the moment' you can translate in any way you prefer, like

'hozir unda hech narsa yo`q' or 'ayni paytda unda biror narsa yo`q.

So, it is up to you how to translate the text, because grammatically the word 'anything' is translated as 'biror narsa, nimadir' into Uzbek, but when it comes with word 'not' you can translate it like 'hech narsa'.

Result and Discussion

The purpose of this study was to identify effective methods to translate different kinds of English texts and identify which ones can be useful for particular type and definite groups of students. First of all, problems in which students face during

translation process were picked out. Most of the students suffer from their vocabulary range. On the other hand, lack of knowledge about cultural or religious words makes translation difficult.

Besides that, research was carried out in order to find which method students prefer while translating English texts. School pupils and university students were involved in this survey.

	Methods	Age	
		13-17 years old	18-22 years old
1.	Word-for-word translation	15 29,4%	4 10%
2.	Literal translation	6 11,7%	5 12,5%
3.	Communicative translation	6 11,7%	11 27,5%
4.	Semantic translation	5 9,8%	3 7,5%
5.	Adaptation	7 13,7%	8 20%
6.	Free translation	11 21,5%	9 22,5%

In this table, 15 pupils (29,4 %) prefer word-for-word translation as they find it difficult to translate the whole sentence at once. Oppositely, 11 pupils (21,5 %) would rather to use free translation method just to grab the meaning of the text. But when it comes to university students, quarter of them told that they use communicative translation method and free translation as well. Other methods are also used by some pupils and students. It can be seen from the sentence ‘When I arrived, everybody was sleeping’. Pupils translated this sentence into Uzbek like ‘Qachonki men yetib kelganimda hamma uxlayotgan edi’ using word-for-word method. Differences in the grammatical structures of the source and target languages often result in some change in the information content of the message during the process of translation.[2] But with free translation others’ option was ‘Kelgan paytim hamma uxlagan edi’, whereas the acceptable translation is ‘Men yetib kelgan paytimda, hamma uxlayotgan edi’. The data shows from the example of the sentence ‘My friends did not come to the party at Christmas, even if I invited them’. Most of the students translated the sentence into ‘Mening do`stlarim Rojdestvodagi bayramga kelishmadi, hattoki men ularni taklif qilsam ham’. With the help of communicative method sentence was translated correctly and understandable for translator himself. But, as in Uzbekistan there is no holiday like Christmas some students can get confused to translate it into Uzbek and search for more information or left it like ‘Krismas’ not changing it.

Research shows that in early stages of learning translation students practice via word-for-word translation method. But, not always students can get the acceptable

translation for the English texts with this method. However, among university students communicative translation method is preferable as this method gives you the closest meaning of the text. Hence, 22,5 % of students use free translation just to understand the text not translating each word.

Conclusion and suggestions

Translation is one of the difficult processes faced by students of English study program among Uzbek learners. Students have information about main and most used methods of translating, also they have a comprehension about which one to use for different kinds of English texts. Besides that, although they are aware of translating methods, yet they find translation difficult because they lack of vocabularies, and it is challenging for them to translate literary and religious texts, in addition grammar is one of the obstacles too. Taking into consideration these factors, students need to know which method is acceptable for them. For example, for beginner levels word-for-word and literal translation can be effective to get used to English sentence structure. To translate more difficult texts students should have strong background knowledge about culture and to understand and translate the literary texts it is effective way to use communicative and semantic methods of translating. On the other hand, if students are translating English texts for themselves or just for fun it is sufficient to use adaptation method or free translation.

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