

TRANSLATION UNITS

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Annotation. Translation studies, particularly the theoretical idea of the "translation unit," have long been a topic of debate. This paper will examine various perspectives on this concept, contrasting it with the divide between product-oriented and process-oriented translation studies. It will be suggested that the "translation unit" can be interpreted in two ways: one that is analytical and focuses on product-based studies, and another that is more dynamic and pertains to cognitive translation studies. Except for literary translation, modern translation services are considered part of the language industry, highlighting the importance of the "translation unit" in machine translation (MT). From a historical standpoint, the concept will be linked to key issues in system design and translation quality.

Keywords: unit of translation, concept of unit of transfer, language level, scientific and technical text.

Аннотация. Исследования перевода, особенно теоретическая идея «единицы перевода», уже давно являются темой дискуссий. В данной статье будут рассмотрены различные точки зрения на эту концепцию, противопоставлены ей различия между исследованиями перевода, ориентированными на продукт и процесс. Предполагается, что «единицу перевода» можно интерпретировать двумя способами: аналитическим и ориентированным на исследования, основанные на продукте, и другим, более динамичным и относящимся к исследованиям когнитивного перевода. За исключением художественного перевода, современные услуги перевода считаются частью языковой индустрии, что подчеркивает важность «подразделения перевода» в машинном переводе (MT). С исторической точки зрения эта концепция будет связана с ключевыми вопросами проектирования систем и качества перевода.

Ключевые слова: единица перевода, понятие единицы перевода, уровень языка, научно-технический текст.

Annotatsiya. Tarjimashunoslik, xususan, "tarjima birligi" haqidagi nazariy g'oya uzoq vaqtdan beri munozara mavzusi bo'lib kelgan. Ushbu maqola ushbu kontseptsiyaning turli nuqtai nazarlarini ko'rib chiqadi va uni mahsulotga yo'naltirilgan

va jarayonga yo'naltirilgan tarjima tadqiqotlari o'rtasidagi bo'linish bilan taqqoslaydi. "Tarjima birligi"ni ikki xil talqin qilish mumkin: biri analitik va mahsulotga asoslangan tadqiqotlarga yo'naltirilgan bo'lsa, ikkinchisi yanada dinamikroq va kognitiv tarjimashunoslikka tegishli. Badiiy tarjimadan tashqari zamonaviy tarjima xizmatlari til industriyasining bir qismi hisoblanib, mashina tarjimasida (MT) "tarjima birligi"ning ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi. Tarixiy nuqtai nazardan, kontseptsiya tizim dizayni va tarjima sifatining asosiy masalalari bilan bog'lanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima birligi, ko'chirish birligi tushunchasi, til darajasi, ilmiy-texnik matn.

The concept of translation units is central to understanding the process of translating texts from one language to another. In "The Dictionary of Translation Studies" by Shuttleworth and Cowie (1997, p. 192), translation units are defined as "the smallest unit of SL [Source Language] text which has an equivalent in TL [Target Language]." This definition is heavily influenced by Barkhudarov's work, who similarly defines translation units as "the smallest unit of SL which has an equivalent in TL" (Barkhudarov 1975, cited by Shuttleworth and Cowie 1997, p. 192).

Barkhudarov's definition broadens the concept of translation units to encompass any linguistic unit that can have an equivalent in the target language. These units can range from morphemes, words, and phrases to clauses, sentences, or even larger units. The essential criterion is that the unit has an equivalent in the TL. This approach underscores the flexibility required in translation, acknowledging that the appropriate size and type of a translation unit can vary depending on the specific text and context.

Shuttleworth and Cowie (1997, p. 192) further elaborate on Barkhudarov's concept by highlighting that the specific translation task and the wording of the source text (ST) at a given point determine the most appropriate unit of translation. This implies that the translation unit can shift within a text or even within a single sentence, based on the translator's judgment and the linguistic characteristics of the ST.

In essence, translation units are not rigid, predefined segments of text but are dynamic and context-dependent. They are tokens of linguistic types that can change depending on the demands of the translation task. This variability ensures that the translation can accurately capture the meaning and nuances of the source text, adapting to the linguistic and cultural context of the target language.

Translation theory encompasses a wide range of disciplines, and there are several possible ways of describing and classifying the various approaches to the study of translation. A standard reference in this respect is the so-called map of translation studies provided by Holmes (1972), and further articulated by Toury (1995).

Holmes's map presents three subfields:

1. **Pure Translation Studies:** This includes theoretical and descriptive translation research.
2. **Applied Translation Studies:** This focuses on practical applications such as translator training, translation aids, and translation criticism.

Theoretical Translation Studies:

- **Purely theoretical:** Concerned with the development of general principles and models.
- **Descriptive:** Focused on describing and classifying translations, often examining historical and cultural contexts.

Descriptive studies deal with existing translations, whereas pure translation research investigates the phenomenon of translation itself. In terms of methodology, a good deal of product-oriented translation research has received much attention within translation studies, looking to detect generalizations explaining the phenomenon of translation.

Applied Translation Studies

Applied studies include translation aids, such as dictionaries and software, translator training, and translation criticism. Over the years, the dichotomy between product-oriented and process-oriented studies has received much attention within translation studies.

Product-Oriented Translation Studies:

- **Examines translated texts:** Focuses on features, patterns, and regularities.
- **Comparative studies:** Looks at translated texts compared to their originals.

Process-Oriented Translation Studies:

- **Investigates the cognitive processes:** Seeks to understand how translation works in the translator's mind.
- **Experimental methods:** Uses think-aloud protocols, eye-tracking, and other methods to study translation as it happens.

Branches and Disciplines

Branches of descriptive research further into two main sub-fields:

1. **Pure translation studies:** Theory and descriptive studies.
2. **Applied translation studies:** Training, aids, and criticism.

Over the years, the dichotomy between product-oriented and process-oriented studies has received much attention within translation studies. In terms of methodology, a good deal of product-oriented translation research has received much attention within translation studies, looking to detect generalizations explaining the phenomenon of translation itself.

Research in Applied Translation

Research in applied translation studies often deals with existing translations, seeking to detect generalizations explaining the phenomenon of translation itself.

In short, product-oriented studies deal with translations themselves, while process-oriented studies investigate the act of translating, using various methods to uncover how translators work. Applied translation studies focus on practical applications and tools that aid in the translation process.

In summary, translation units are defined by their smallest equivalence in the target language, and their size and type can vary significantly. This flexibility is crucial for effective translation, allowing translators to navigate the complexities of language and meaning across different texts and contexts.

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