

TRANSLATION UNITS

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Annotation. A translation unit is the smallest portion of a sentence whose words cannot be translated separately without resulting in a mistranslation or nonsense. This article given information about translation units.

Key words: various categories, Message translation units, metalinguistic obstacle, syntactical structures.

Аннотация. Единица перевода — это наименьшая часть предложения, слова которой нельзя перевести отдельно, не приводя к неправильному переводу или бессмысленности. В этой статье дана информация о единицах перевода.

Ключевые слова: различные категории, единицы перевода сообщения, металингвистическое препятствие, синтаксические конструкции.

Annotatsiya. Tarjima birligi jumlaning eng kichik qismi bo'lib, uning so'zlarini noto'g'ri tarjima yoki bema'nilikka olib kelmasdan alohida tarjima qilib bo'lmaydi. Ushbu maqolada tarjima birliklari haqida ma'lumot berilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: turli toifalar, xabarlarini tarjima qilish birliklari, metallingvistik to'siq, sintaktik tuzilmalar.

There are various categories of translation units:

Lexical translation units (words or groups of words forming a semantic unit and their TL equivalents as found in dictionaries)

Grammatical translation units (based on cohesive grammatical structures which are different between S.L. and T.L.)

Message translation units

(i.e. T.U. extended to entire messages when there are metalinguistic obstacles, that is to say socio-cultural divergences, between the 2 languages)

Examples of Lexical Translation Units

	French (one word)	English (several words)	English (one word)	French (several words)
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NOUNS	(une) Standardiste	Female switch board operator	Conductor(music)	Chef d'orchestre
VERBS	Vieillir	To grow old	To speed	Faire de la vitesse
ADVERBS	Péniblement	With difficulty	Anyway	De toutes façons /quand même
ADJECTIVES	Travailleur	Hard working	Uncomfortable	Mal à l'aise
PREPOSITIONS	Malgré	In spite of	Along	Le long de
CONJUNCTIONS	Quoique	Even though	As	Au fur et à mesure que

Examples of Grammatical T.U.s

Grammatical T.U.s involve diverging syntactical structures between the S.L. and the T.L., each structure forming a semantic whole

Examples

· verbs followed by different prepositions in the 2 languages, or one language requiring a preposition and the other none:

rire <i>de</i>	to laugh <i>at</i>
commencer <i>par</i>	to start <i>with</i>
téléphoner <i>à</i>	to phone
chercher	to look <i>for</i>

· French preference for the active voice versus English preference for the passive voice:

On m'a dit de revenir *I was told to come back*

· French preference for articulated expressions versus English preference for compound ones:

<i>Un mur en briques</i>	<i>a brick wall</i>
<i>Une boisson sans caféine</i>	<i>a caffeine free beverage</i>

Une <i>compagnie à croissance rapide</i>	a <i>fast growing company</i>
Un <i>point de vue</i>	a <i>viewpoint</i>
Des <i>jeans qui serrent</i>	<i>tight fitting jeans</i>
Un <i>sac en papier</i>	a <i>paperbag</i>
Une <i>femme au foyer</i>	a <i>housewife</i>

Examples of Message T.U.s

These can encompass entire sentences and even entire messages whenever cultural factors intervene to prevent any sort of literal translation.

Examples

- greetings:

A la prochaine See you soon!

- reflex-formulas:

Non mais alors! Look here! Watch out! Hey!

- idioms:

avoir la moutarde qui vous monte au nez to get miffed

- clichés:

être sage comme une image to be as good as gold

- public signs:

Pelouse interdite Keep off the grass

- proverbs:

Comme on fait son lit on se couche As you sow, so shall you reap

Problem Solving in Translation

- Polysemy can be dealt with by watching out for the context, checking to see whether a word is taken in its concrete or abstract meaning, standard or specific meaning; checking for the gender of nouns. Also by being careful with dictionaries and using a thesaurus to make sure you have the exact nuance of a word.

- Deceptive cognates by resorting to a bilingual dictionary or even dictionaries specializing in deceptive cognates.

- Linguistic deficiencies: by using borrowings or calques.

Concepts which exist only in the S.L. can be borrowed in their original form or else copied in translation for more of a “native” touch (as semantic or structural calques, i.e. translated borrowings).

- Structural problems or impossibility to translate word for word can be dealt either with transpositions or modulations.

- Idiomatic expressions and set phrases can be translated with equivalences. You may resort to dictionaries specializing in idioms.

- Metalinguistic obstacles, resulting from cultural differences, require adaptation.

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