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Open Learning ♺ Translation

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Translation

II

14.05.2022
21.05.2022

أ. مصطفى كشكية

LECTURE NO. I
14.05.2022

HELLO EVERYONE!

I would like to welcome you at the beginning of the new semester. We will be studying *translation from English into Arabic* together throughout the semester.

What we will be doing is that **we will have some theoretical background on translation and then move to practical examples.**

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Let me first start with some general information about translation.

INTRODUCTION

We will talk about some basic concepts of translation:

- **What is the definition of translation?**

There is no final definition for translation. However, there is a general one that defines translation as **"the process of transforming content from one language to another."**

Let's examine this definition.

The word **'content'** is used rather than **'text'** or even **'words'** because what is being translated nowadays goes far beyond traditional texts or words.

Think about other <u>forms</u> that can be translated today like *electronic website, mobile apps, computer games, films* and *documentaries*. They are all based on **words** in essence but <u>in different forms</u>. That's why we have the word 'content' here.

- **What are the main elements of translation?**
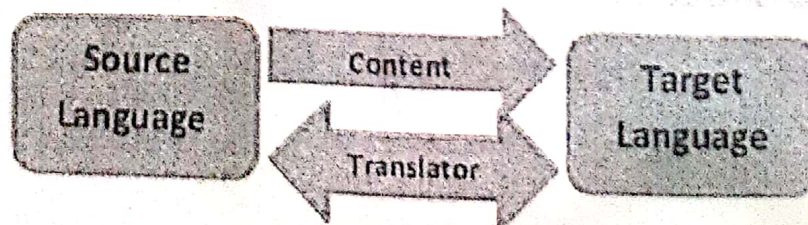
Generally speaking, we have <u>**three basic elements in the process**</u> <u>**of translation or transforming content from one language to**</u> <u>**another:**</u>

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1. **The Source Language** which the content is written (*English in our case*)
2. **The content** (to be transformed or translated)
3. **The Target Language** to which the content is transformed (*Arabic in our case*).

We also have **the translator** who keeps moving between the source and target with the goal of transforming the content.

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- **What types of translation are there?**

There are different types of translation, and they can be set under three categories mainly:

1. **Written translation**:

It is mainly meant with translating **written texts** from source to target languages. **Specialized translation** like **legal** or **economic** or **political** … etc. is under this category.

2. **Verbal or oral translation**:

It refers to the translation done orally by someone. This includes **simultaneous interpreting**, **consecutive translation**, and **whisper translation** in which the translator does the translation by whispering into the ear of someone when simultaneous interpreting is not possible and time is too limited for consecutive translation.

3. **Audiovisual and electronic translation**:

It refers to the process of **subtitling** or **dubbing** films, documentaries, TV series and other stuff, in addition to translating electronic content like website, applications, games … etc.

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- **What are the key skills of a translator?**

The main thing for a translator is to **master both the source and the target languages** and **be fully aware of the differences between them** in order not to get stuck with one language on the account of the other.

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Let's do some brainstorming about the major differences between English and Arabic.

The difference between Arabic and English:

First of all, there is a difference in the **sentence structure and type**. Arabic has **verbal and nominal sentences** whereas English has ONLY the **verbal sentence**. Moreover, <u>the English sentence starts with the subject, but the Arabic sentence starts with the verb.</u>

Other than that, there are many other differences in **syntax, style, punctuation marks, gender, numbers** among others between English and Arabic.

One more thing to pay attention to is to be aware of the **context** since a <u>single word can have different meanings</u> in different contexts.

For example: Check the word '**match**'.

It has different meanings in different contexts. It can mean 'مطابقة' or 'عود ثقاب' or 'مباراة' according to the context.

That's why it is so important for the translator to master both languages and have the ability to move between them freely so to produce sound and coherent source content.

There is one thing to keep in mind, though. **THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE OR OPTIMUM TRANSLATION**. This means that don't expect to get a final translation for a sentence or a text because everyone can produce a different versions of the content, and they can be acceptable in the target language. Such difference is due to different styles. The other thing is that no translation can be considered a perfect one due to different styles, again.

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Practice:

Let's move to practice with some simple examples.

Read the following sentence and translate it into Arabic.

Try to figure out <u>the problems</u> you face while translating it and find a solution for them.

> "We look forward to speaking with you in person, understand your requirements and offer our solutions that <u>suits</u> you."

Come on! Give it a go. Read this simple sentence, identify the challenges you may have while translating it, if any, translate it, and then do some peer editing for your translation.

Peer editing is when you give your translation, in our case it is translation, to read, review, and edit it. You can also exchange some discussions and suggestions with your friends.

Let's go. Any suggestions?

Student:

"نتطلّع للحديث إليكم بشخصكم لنفهم متطلباتكم ونقدّم لكم حلولنا الّتي تلائمكم."

Student:

"نتشوق للحديث إلى الشخص وفهم المتطلبات وتقديم الحلول."

Instructor: thank you.

Ok, 'in person' means "شخصياً".

The mistake in the English sentence: 'suits' should be 'suit.'

> **"We look forward to speaking with you in person, understand your requirements and offer our solutions that <u>suit</u> you."**

My suggestion would be as follows:

> "نتطلَّـــع للحـــديث إلـــيكم شخصـــياً لفهـــم متطلبـــاتكم وتقـــديم الحلـــول الملائمة لكم."

You can compare it to your translation.

You have to be careful about the **tone** while translating. You should distinguish whether it is **formal or informal** type of text and keep the **same tone** in your translated text.

The above example is **formal**.

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Our next example will be an **informal** one and I want you to notice the difference. It is a **colloquial conversation between two college students.**

We <u>can't</u> translate it into colloquial Arabic of course, but we will try to make it informal.

> **Speaker A: Hey! How did your physics exam go?**
>
> **Speaker B: Not bad, thanks. I'm just glad it's over!**

Let me hear from you before I give you my suggested translation.

Student:

المتحدث الأول: مرحباً، كيف جرى امتحانك الفيزياء؟

المتحدث الثاني: ليس سيئاً، أنا مسرور أنه انتهى.

Student:

المتحدث الأول: مرحباً، كيف قدّمت امتحانك الفيزياء؟

المتحدث الثاني: ليس سيئاً، أنا مسرور أنه قد انتهى.

Instructor: Thank you.

Here's my suggestion:

المتحدث الأول: مرحباً، كيف سار امتحان الفيزياء؟

المتحدث الثاني: لا بأس، يسرّني أنه انتهى.

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I will see you next week with more theoretical as well as practical stuff. I will leave any papers for you to translate at **Aydi Bookshop**. So, you can pick your copy from there whenever there is something you need to prepare and do ahead of our lectures.

Thank You

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LECTURE NO.2
21.05.2022

HELLO EVERYONE!

Last time, we had a brief introduction into translation along with a couple of practical examples.

I'd like to start today with some theoretical information then move to practice.

So, I have a question for you:

What are the main elements of the process of translation?

Think about it and try to set your own translation process.

Whenever you have a content to translate you start with **reading** it as <u>many times</u> as you can with the aim of <u>identifying its type</u>, defining the new vocab and looking them up, understanding the text thoroughly and starting to make it into the target language in you mind.

After that you would be <u>ready to translate it</u>.

An important factor here is the **time** factor, especially when you are at the market and you have limited time to deliver the translation to

your client. Anyway, keep in mind that 'practice makes perfect.'

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Now let's move to practice.

Practice:

You have a number of sentences to read, identify the challenges and then translate:

1- I met Saeed while he was working in the factory.

2- She would have worked in that company even if it offered her a low salary.

3- Had you told me about the accident, I would have visited her in the hospital.

4- Being the nephew of the chief engineer should make no difference.

That he is the nephew of the chief engineer should make no difference.

It should make no difference that he is the nephew of the chief engineer.

(Three different styles with one meaning)

5- Samer's winning the race pleased his mother.

6- He wrote his first book while working for a law firm.

7- The letters posted, Sami got into the car and drove off.

After he had posted the letters, Sami got into the car and drove off.

(Two sentence styles with one meaning).

8- His legs caught in the trap, the thief could not escape.

9- Cooking the dinner was all I did.

10-   A strong international economy is what that country needs to cope with.

11-   A strong economy is what that country needs to cope with international developments.

<center>***</center>

Be careful about the different tenses, the different sentence styles with the same meaning and a single translation, and the reference,

especially in the last two.

<u>Here are my suggestions for the above sentences:</u>

١- قابلتُ سعيداً عندما كان يعمل في المصنع.

٢- كانت ستعملُ في تلك الشَركةِ حتى لو عَرضَت عليها راتباً قليلاً.

٣- كنت سأزورها في المشفى لو أخبرتني عن الحادث.

٤- كونهُ ابنَ أخٍ كبير المهندسين لا يُغيرَ من الأمرِ شيئاً.

٥- فوزُ سامرٍ في السباق أبهـج والدته.

٦- كتب أوّل كتابٍ له عندما كان يعمل في مكتبٍ للمُحاماة.

٧- أودع سامي الرسائل في مركزِ البريدِ وانطلق مُسرعاً بسيّارته.

٨- علِقت رجلا اللَصّ في المِصيدةِ فلم يتمكن من الهرب.

٩- كان طهيُ العشاءِ كلَّ ما فعلت.

١٠- الاقتصادُ الدَوليُّ القويُّ هو ما على تلك البلدِ التأقلمَ معه.

١١- الاقتصادُ القويُّ هو ما تحتاجه البلادُ للتأقلُمِ مـع التطورات الدوليّة.

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That's all for today.

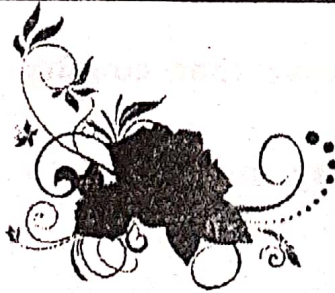We will meet again next week with a new to-translate task.

Thank you

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