

## Hello everyone!

We are going today to deal with sight translation. Sight means something to read and as you are reading, you do not read in this language, but you are going to read in the opposite language. So, this is not an easy job to do. When we say, for example,

من الصعب تحديد البداية الحقيقية للترجمة كممارسة أدبية وثقافية، حيث إنها وجدت منذ أن وجدت اللغات المكتوبة وتمايزت، حتى إن نسخاً من ملحمة جلجامش السومرية وجدت مترجمة إلى اللغات الآسيوية الشرقية في الألفية الثانية قبل الميلاد.

كان اليونانيون القدماء أول من بحث في الترجمة بصفتها علماً قائماً بذاته، حيث ميز الباحثون اليونانيون مبكراً بين النقل الحرفي (metaphrase) وإعادة الصياغة (paraphrase) وذلك منذ القرن السابع قبل الميلاد.

إلا أن الترجمة في تلك العصور كانت نشاطاً يقوم به العلماء والأدباء، بهدف نقل المعارف والأدبيات إلى لغة البلد الذي يعيشون فيه. أما الترجمة كمهنة قائمة بذاتها، فيعود الفضل في نشوونها إلى الدولة العباسية، فبالإضافة إلى الأثر التاريخي الكبير الذي تركه قيام عبد الله بن المقفع بترجمة كتاب كليلة ودمنة (حوالي 750 للميلاد) وإهدائه إلى الخليفة أبو جعفر المنصور، شهد القرن التاسع الميلادي ظهور حركة غنية للترجمة إلى اللغة العربية، مدعومة بشغف الخلفاء، وعلى رأسهم هارون الرشيد وابنه المأمون، بالعلوم والآداب. حتى إن المأمون كان يقدم للمترجمين، أمثال حنين بن إسحق، ما يساوي وزن الكتب التي يقومون بترجمتها ذهباً.

وهكذا تم تأسيس دار الحكمة في بغداد كأول مؤسسة تعنى بشؤون الترجمة في التاريخ، ولمع نجم المترجمين المحترفين أمثال ثابت بن قرة وحنين بن إسحق وابنه إسحق بن حنين. قام المترجمون في ذلك العصر بنقل علوم اليونان إلى اللغة العربية، بما في ذلك كافة كتب أرسطو، وقد أعيدت ترجمة بعض هذه الكتب إلى اليونانية من العربية بعد ضياع نصها الأصلي، أي أن ترجمتها إلى العربية قد حفظتها من الاندثار، وكذلك كان الأمر مع كتاب كليلة ودمنة، الذي حفظته نسخته العربية من الضياع.

يوضح ارتباط الترجمة بأسماء عملاقة كالتي ذكرناها وغيرها أهمية هذا المجال كعلم وممارسة من جهة، ومهنة وصناعة من جهة أخرى. لم تعد الترجمة اليوم مجرد نشاط أدبي أو ثقافي، بل أصبحت ضرورة حياتية ومهنية وعلمية، تتطلب في كثير من الأحيان العمل المباشر على

النصوص ضمن إطار زمني ضيق جداً، كما تطلب العمل في عدة مجالات أدبية وعلمية وتقنية معاً.

We do not have to read in Arabic, but we have just to say: *"it is difficult to identify the real beginning of translation as a cultural and literary practice as it was found as long as the written languages were there out; it goes differentiated that to the extent that some copies of that in garbage epic also Maria, were found translated into the Eastern Asian languages in the second millennium BC..."*

You have to do like this because it is a hard mission; yet, it is not impossible. Nothing is impossible; with practice we can do everything. Now, to start on sight translation, what do you focus on? How do you translate?

Student: we focus on the main ideas.

Student: read twice or three times first.

Student: we can deliver the right message.

Instructor: Okay, do you have enough time? When I say I just focus on the main ideas, this means that I have to take my time reading, understanding, scanning and then delivering the mean idea, right? When I say read twice or three times, you do not have enough time. Sometimes, in the conference, they just speak and then they say about a contract that is going just to be delivered by Mr. Translator, and they give you the papers and all the experts are waiting for you. Would you say "give me 10 minutes just to read"?

Students: no

Instructor: So, you have to start on the spur of the moment. How do we approach a text for this sight delivery?

Student: We just read and translate.

Instructor: Why do you read it and translate it? What do you focus on? How do you translate? What do you see first?

**Student:** It is a very fast process. So, we do not really get the right idea, but we can translate as much as we can to deliver the message.

**Instructor:** how can you start? What do you focus on if you want to start?

**Student:** tenses.

**Instructor:** Listen to me! If you just want to focus on translation, tenses or the grammar, this should be something from the past; something that you do not pay any attention to.

**Student:** you have to consider the idea of the text and try to convey it to the audience.

**Instructor:** there should be a message definitely, but I do not mean this; I mean something really physical.

**Student:** how to start

**Instructor:** where to start

**Student:** subject/ verb/complements.

**Instructor:** If we start translating from English to Arabic, we have to spot the verb first because the Arabic sentence starts with a verb, and that is why we have to know where to start from. So, I have to move very quickly over the lines; maybe that the verb is not in the first line. Okay, we have a group of words functioning as a subject or modifying the subject before we reach the verb, and that is why we have to slow down; we read the title, we translate the title very slowly, and we give our eyes some time to move over the words till they reach the verb and start from it. It is not an easy job because you have to keep a slow, steady pace.

Let me give you an example. If in front of you when you are reading and as you are translating, you found difficult words, what do you do?

**Student:** we have to find the meaning from the sentence.

**Instructor:** Yes, from the context and this means when I read, I do not read separate words but I read with

comprehension. It is not a matter of replacing words. Even if I translate something for the first time, this does not mean that I understand it. We keep reading, watching videos on YouTube, keep shadowing (it means repeating the words of the speaker.) I said all the time, please Shadow, whatever topic you have, shadow it for 10 or 15 minutes. In this case, you are going to have the accent, you are going to have the speed, the information about the topic, the meaning from context, a new vocabulary from the field and a lot of things; you can accomplish other things. Even if you are not good at grammar, you will hear good English, and this means you will be good at listening to language. So please, listen all the time and read articles. So, let's start with this:

#### Translation in The Old Ages

Historical circumstances that led to such a movement in translation in the Arab and Islamic world during the medieval ages changed a lot over centuries. The most dramatic changes were the collapse of Baghdad at the hands of Mughal, for example, to 1258 which left a deep wound and affected the learning of the Arabic language translation in the medieval ages that wrote the history or that marked the end of the golden age of translation in the Arab world.

So, I have to go slowly, but my eye has to jump a little bit further to know or to read what I have to translate more because all the words are connected; the ideas are connected.

So, if I say "historical circumstances changed" Oh, I have (التي) so what do I need to this (التي)? I have to slow down and read more. I started with الظروف التاريخية but I jumped to a little bit further to know if I have to continue in this way or I have to get back to the verb and then continue.

So, we have to keep jumping ahead and back, and this is the craft. We have to train all the time because it needs a lot of work. Now, you have about five minutes to do the first and the second parts silently. Your eyes have to go over the lines, know about the ideas, and then choose someone for this.

Student: it is so hard to determine the real beginning translation as an internal and cultural practice. Since the written languages has found.

Instructor: you are not supposed to stop. You are not going to be prepared. At any conference, you do not have any time. You are not lucky at all if you choose to work as a translator or interpreter. So, you have to be prepared for everything, but thank you very much. What about her performance first? What do you think?

Student: It is less than modest.

Instructor: Okay, so she started well, but she surrendered at the end. This means that she lacks a lot of skills, not only information, but also she does not have the skill of how to deliver the meaning.

In the United Nations, if you want to be appointed as a translator or interpreter, you are not going to translate towards the other languages; it stores your mother tongue because you know all the skills and all the tricks about Arabic. So, you can find a way out, but translating towards the other language that is not native to you will be so difficult unless you are born to father from this native language and a mother from the other native language; then, you will be a double native.

We can say: *"translation existed as early as the return languages were found or appeared bought emerged or whatever came to existence"*.

So, this is what I want; I do not have to stick to the original text or to the same order, but I can just manipulate

the sentences or the ideas in the opposite language. This is the skill that we have to learn.

انا لا استطيع ان اعلمك هذه المهارة لان كل شخص يقرأ بطريقته وكل شخص يفهم الجمل بطريقته الخاصة وكل شخص يقطع الجمل بطريقته

So, how do I start my sentences? How do I continue? This is personal; this is not collective. We do not all think the same way. Let me choose someone else, start with the last paragraph.

Student: Can I try?

Instructor: Yes, go ahead

Student: *The huge names showed a link translation that there very important in teaching and practicing from one side and it is not a hobby but it is a word. So, translation is not a culture active or literature active but it is a human necessity and it needs much in many times to bracts directly to the text in a frame....* I am sorry I cannot continue

Instructor: okay, actually I did not get anything; any kind of message. What did she want to say? I did not know so that was the main problem there. What problems could possibly she was suffering from?

Student: word for word translation.

Instructor: She was translating word for word because she does not have enough time. What else?

Student: she did not follow the right order.

Instructor: this is a technique of shuffling. If you like to shuffle, it means to change, to jump from one place to another, to change something with something else. This is like going ahead and going back. Now, it depends on the translators themselves, on the conditions, that they did not shuffle the meaning or they do not shuffle the concentration. If she has chosen to speak about the huge names, she starts with this on commission that she covers everything before and after.

So, I do not care where does she start from. I care for how consistent and convincing her message is. At the end, I have to convey a message in a very consistent way forgetting about the grammar because under pressure, you do not know what to do, but you have to convey the meaning. What are you really suffering from?

Student: Vocabulary

Instructor: OK, what else?

Student: I understand the idea but I cannot translate it.

Instructor: this is your first step actually and everything cannot be right from the first try or attempt. You can try more, maybe 100 times to do it to become a professional person or to put your foot on the first mile towards professionalism because it is not an easy job.

If you want to build a name, a reputation for yourself with good experience, you have to try all the time, and the starting point is with translating or turning everything; you read into a subject of translation.

If you find any difficulty in translating while the text is already available, how about translating and you are only listening to a speaker and you have nothing visual<sup>1</sup>? What do you do in this case? It is really difficult and if you find that there is a word that do not know, why are you translating or interpreting? What do you do? It is really difficult if you do not know how to equivocate<sup>2</sup>. The last paragraph:

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<sup>1</sup> nothing written at all

We have two verbs that are closely connected. Everything that is really meaningful and closely connected together is called a chunk<sup>1</sup>. A chunk can be few words or few sentences. What do we mean by **اسماء عملاقة**?

Student: great figures

Instructor: okay, what else?

Student: famous names

Student: famous figures

Instructor: if we know who is mentioned, we say "great names", but if we do not know who is mentioned, we say "great figures". What do we mean by **كعلم وممارسة**?

Student: as knowledge and practice

Instructor: okay, what else?

Student: theory and practice

Instructor: Yes, so we say "as theory and practice". What do we mean by **كمهنة وصناعة**?

Student: a craft and industry

Instructor: what else?

Student: career and industry

Instructor: Yes, good. What do we mean by **نشاط**?

Student: activity

Instructor: good, **العمل المباشر على النصوص**?

Student: works directly on the texts

Instructor: we do not pluralize (work) unless it indicates **أعمال ادبية**. You have to say *work directly on texts*. It is not only this person's translation that is perfect. A lot of translations can be perfect, depending on how they start their sentences, the flow of their sentences, covering the whole idea, covering the shadows, or maybe using the right terminology and shuffling or doing a lot of things.

So, every sentence can be perfect and every translator's work can be perfect. Yet, it might be a lot different from the other translators' works.

<sup>1</sup> مقطع



Student: how do you have the ability to decide that someone is perfect?

Instructor: there are a lot of criteria. If you use the right terminology in the right context and deliver the message intended by the author, using all this within the right style and good grammar, then you are perfect. So, there are a lot of criteria and each domain, field or genre is different from the other. If you translate scientific for topics, they will require different kind of effort from translating a literal work. Now, what is the meaning of التقنية?

Student: technical

Student: technique

Instructor: do we say "technological"?

Student: no, because technical terms are related to specific subjects.

Instructor: OK, when we say "*technical terms*," then it is related to a specific specialization, but it is not about technology. When we say "*technical expertise*", it means خبرة فنية. When I use "*technological*", I mean the science of technology and that is why the safe side is to use "*technical*."

Student: do you think it is a big problem if we apply technological?

Instructor: if you just use the word "technological," and it happens that there is nothing about technology that is yet to come, then you will be in a swamp'. That is why you have to be on the safe side, and then if there is something about technology, you can use the word "*technology*".

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Now, Consecutive Translation is the translation that takes place in conferences, especially when we have meetings. If I am meeting between two parties speaking two different languages, there should be a kind of

translation unless they understand each other. In this case, there will be no need for a translator, but actually a translator is needed.

In the Arab world, fortunately, if they understand the opposite language, they do not need a translator. If one of the parties speaking Arabic begins speaking to the opposite party, the party of experts, this means that they are getting to speak until their idea is over. They want to make their point understood by the other party, but who will make this? This is the translator job, and, in this case, they are the interpreter. If we have an Arabic speaking and you do not have any device to help you remember all the words and all the ideas, will you have a very long-term memory that will keep all the information and all the examples stated by the Arab party and then move or convey it to the other party?

**Students:** Impossible

**Instructor:** That is why we have to resort to something called "Note Taking". By note taking, we will be armed with a very good Jewel to help us convey the meaning while we are confident enough of what we are saying. Now, what notes do we take?

**Student:** we get the keywords.

**Instructor:** Yes, we get the keywords; that is why we do not have to write on a very wide notebooks, but we have to have a notebook with us all the time.

Now, I prefer if you are consecutive interpret and have a notebook that opens up, not opens to the right or the left, but opens up. It is easier for you to open the page up and then continue writing. Notice that this notebook is small in size, and it is not that big. Choose it to be small in size so that it is easier not to write a lot of words, and then notice that we are going to divide the page into two parts. Can you read the last paragraph?

**Student:**

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Instructor: So, we say: *"translation is connected to the names of great figures, and the importance appears in different fields, and they link between the translation as a practice and a theory and as it is also as an industry and career on the other point. Now, there is a necessity for translation in our life and for our vocation, and it should be implemented within our limited time frame. It requires working on different types of texts in a direct way or direct approaching of texts and be then literary scientific or technical"*.

When we take notes in the notebook, we can use words, symbols, abbreviations or whatever you like because only you will see these notes and only you will understand these notes. So, everyone has his/her own way and own style of taking notes.

Please practice and take notes all the time if you want to be a good interpreter.

That is all for today.

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*Thank you very much,  
See you next time!*

