

## Ess of Translation: Problems of Equivalence & its Solutions

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### Abstract

Translation, is mechanism involving creativity in which a work written in one language is re-created in another. It is a communicative process. It possesses linguistic and socio-linguistic factors. When we need to reproduce what someone else has said, we do not use same words in toto. Translators come across the several problems during the translation. Present paper addresses these various issues and provide the solutions to some of these problems.

**Keywords:** transcribe, colloquialism, dialects, transcreation, powada

We paraphrase according to our knowledge of language or our communication skill. While translating Indian languages or for that matter from any language to the other, the translator comes with many difficulties. Words like besan laddoo, gotra, dhoti etc. do not have direct equivalents in other languages. This paper intended towards such challenges that the translator come across while translating Indian languages into English or vice versa; whether it may be prose or a poem.

To have accuracy in translation, translators need to be very proficient in technical terms, financial terms depending upon the domain of the context. In case of creative writing, translation has to be conglomeration of localization with transcreation. Translation is a Latin word which has the original form as trans and latum which actually means "carrying across" or "bringing across". Some of the issues in translations are described below;

### Idioms

Idioms are inherent part of any language. Without knowing the cultural differences between the source and target languages, it's impractical to translate. Even dictionaries are not much helpful here if we are going for the translation with the dictionary meaning of each word. However, in every language there are similar concepts which matches the meaning of idioms.

### Humor

Same is the case with expressing humor. It is also the

challenging task for translators. The sense of humor depends on the cultural background of a person. It's really hard to overcome language barriers and still be funny. There's a direct correlation between humor and languages. That's because language and history are fundamental to the way we think and relate to the environment and other people. Sarcasm and exaggeration expressed in Indian literature not necessary can make laugh foreigners.

### Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs are not necessary the important feature of every language and hence is very difficult for translation purposes. Phrasal verbs consists of a verb and a preposition, or an adverb, or both. Here challenge arises out of the fact that the phrasal verb gets an entirely different meaning after you add the preposition or adverb. Think of the phrases like "pocket" and "out of packet" or "to run" and "running down" etc. For the novice readers translating such small problems can also be difficult.

### Words with No replacement in the Target Language

There are many words which are not possible to translate in another language. Consider the words "besan", "dhoti", "shagun", "amrut" finding an alternative expression in target language becomes very difficult.

### Challenges in Translation

Translation is an art. Selecting the context dependent correct words in target language require proficiency in both the languages. Satire, idioms, phrasal verbs, unique words, and humor are the challenges to translate. But so are medical terms, industry-specific terminology, and jargon. English is a foreign language and writers face many difficulties in the process of translation. English being the foreign language to India, Indian writers come across difficulties while translating the English stories into Indian language as they may not get words with same sense, suitable to express the ideas thoughts, cultural traits because of the differences that do exist between the two cultures. Similarly, a translator has to address the challenges involving the differences in culture, climate and description of nature.

It's extremely difficult to translate folk song, folk tales, mythological dramas etc. Several cultural challenges are faced by translators when they take up the daunting task of translating folk songs, folk tales etc. To cite an example the Powada is a genre of Marathi poetry. It got much popularity in late 17th century in India. The powadas are written in an exciting style. It narrate historical events in an inspiring way. The composer-cum-singers of the powadas are known as Shahirs. Likewise, there are folk songs like Kendra Geeta, Jaiphula Geeta, Ghumura Geeta, Ghoda Nacha and Danda Nacha Geeta, Gopal Ugala and Osa-Parva-Geeta are famous in Odisha. Heliamleu is a popular tribal song of Nagaland.

Folks songs in every corner of India has great heritage and culture and its translation is very difficult. It is also found that in some culture people speak very explicit and directly while in other culture reader has to read between the lines. Human race would have been deprived from great masterpieces of literary work if the people have not translated the literature from one language into other. Translated literature have not only increase our knowledge of the world but has transformed a society at large. Most of the Indians are by default bi-lingual as India is the country with 22 recognized languages and hundreds of mother tongues and dialects. For business and occupation purposes, translation is part and parcel of Indian's life.

Translation of the holy epics like 'The Ramayana', 'The Mahabharata', 'The Bhagavad Geeta', have helped to transfer universal values amongst the mankind and many literary works across different languages are relevant for every generation and every period of time. India has been enriched with the history of saints which were great translators. India has a great heritage of great Saints. Their literary work and translation have been the boon to every Indian. Most of our ancient writers were multi-lingual. Kalidasa's "Shakuntala" has Sanskrit and Prakrit songs and poems composed by Saint-poets like Kabir, Basavanna, Mirabai, Gurunanak, Namdev and others have been translated into more than one language.

As responsible translator, authors should carry the following responsibilities for translation:

#### **Honesty to the original text and its author**

Good translator has to make sure that essence of the original text will not change while translating. There has to be a minimal variation from the original in case exact reproduction of the article is not possible. This is only possible when translator can fully understand the essence and meaning of the original text and its author.

#### **Technical Proficiency**

Translator has to be proficient in the subject that s/he deals with. Biography translators must be enough knowledgeable about the life and achievements of the person concerned. The translator should use forms of speech and expressions in common use so that the audience is able to comprehend them properly. Finally s/he should choose and order words appropriately to produce the correct tone and convey the desired meaning.

#### **Proficiency in the use of the Right Tools**

Plenty of tools like good monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, encyclopaedias, e- dictionaries, glossaries of technical and standard works, etc. are available. Lexicons available on the desktop also helps to save a lot of time and labour. .

#### **Focus on Creativity**

Proficient translators needs to be creative. Translators can be very creative by using a new vocabulary, new expressions and structures. Creativity make the job of translator very rewarding and intellectually stimulating.

#### **Linguistic Competence**

Translator has to vary his style of writing depending upon the target audience. Targeted audience should feel the translation original and spontaneous. This is possible if the translator has worked upon the socio-cultural contexts of both the source language and the target language.

#### **Translating specific content**

With regard to the translation of cinema, correct words has to be selected depending upon the mood in the every scene. Similarly there has to be consistency in the translation from one scene to another. Hence, while translating films translator must be adept with knowledge of the local culture, language, genre, situation, geographical location etc. Another big issue in any language is that many words carry multiple meanings. For example good in English has multiple meanings depending upon the context. Translator has to prove his acumen to imply the proper meaning from the source language; failure to do so will lose the complete sense of the conversation.

#### **Cultural challenges**

Each population has a way of communicating and expressing its own messages, as well as its own code when it comes to language, symbols, understanding, shorthand, etc. These factors generate a big potential for

misunderstanding; cultural factors are therefore another important challenge translators are faced with daily. The cultural context of the country whose language the translators are interpreting has to be taken into account. To quote an example, "rest room" in big stores of America or international airports is translated into "the room for rest", but not "the toilet". Elsewhere in the globe, "rest room" may have different meaning. Similarly, consider the case of bats. Chinese consider bat as good omen for health-wealth and happiness while European countries and India considers it as bad omen. Even, there is a different outlook towards the heroes in the epics. Hindus do not worship Ravana while he is getting worshipped by Adivasis in the same country and other parts of the world. Hence it is very important for the translators to find the culture equivalence.

Following are some more challenges and their possible solutions has been provided.

### **Structural Problems of the Language**

The basic grammar structure of the different language is different. For example English has Subject Verb Object (SVO) structure. But many Indian language has Subject object Verb (SOV) Structure. There are some language in which certain terms are completely absent.

Consider the example that in English Nouns are preceded by adjectives like nice dress, good batsman and verbs are followed by adverbs like go slowly etc. But in French adjectives are preceded by nouns. There are such many differences in the languages spoken across the globe. Hence for the translation, translator should be adept to know the correct structure in each language, and use the proper structure so as to avoid change in the meaning as well. Solution to this problem is translators should limit their expertise in the limited languages in which they are already comfortable with.

If the translators are techno-savvy they can make use of grammar checkers available in the internet. Moreover, they can use translation memory tools and other techniques as well to maintain the structure in the target language so that sense of the source document will not change.

### **Colloquialism Issues**

Colloquialism is a word or phrase which is not formal or literary. It is used in ordinary or familiar conversation. Some of the typical examples of Colloquialism are "gonna", "wanna", Wad (a lot of money), Coke (cocaine), he earns a packet. (He earns a lot of money.) Knock yourself out. (Do whatever you like or help yourself.) Even though

colloquialism examples cited here are in English, but their use is region specific. For example, bloody is a regular word in American English but it is a curse in UK English. Thus here issue is how to translate statements containing colloquialisms correctly so that it won't hurt sentiments or anger of the target audience. Simple solution to this is to scan the internet. Need to know the famous colloquialisms in that language, and translators should get introduced themselves with the most commonly used dialects. Moreover, in getting depth understanding of the language translator has to go deeper in watching the culture through movies, TV shows, magazines and books in that language. Movies and TV shows are baneful in knowing local culture and dialects.

### **Lack of Technical Knowledge**

Every one cannot be expert in every domain. Translators are by default linguists. They may have some knowledge of some domains but may not be the experts of all the domains. For example we cannot expect a good doctor to be a good linguists. But some documents like medical, financial, legal etc. will contain complete technical terms which leads to the problems to the translators. Solution to this problem is that they should take the assistance of the experts.

### **Limited Time**

Now a days twenty- four hours are falling short to every professional. All the clients of translator remains in hurry. If the documents are simple, translators can finish it rapidly and submit the work in committed deadlines. However, if the documents are technical or having the problems mentioned above then it takes contributory time to finish the task. Such situation is stressful to the translator. Solution to this is to convince with the reality that make technology as your friend. There are so many online tools available to finish your task with ease.

Thus, Process of Translation is not an easy process and translator has to be equipped with many online tools and master source as well as target language. This paper address the major issues translators come across translation especially in Indian Languages to English and vice versa. Wherever possible, solutions are also provided to the challenges faced by the translators.

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