WHY TRANSLATORS NEED TO STUDY THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE LANGUAGE

YELYZAVETA NECHPAI, student ZHANNA P. BEZTSINNA, Senior Teacher, Language Adviser O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv MARTIN HORN, Language Instructor South-Moravian Educational Center (Brno, Czech Republic)

The general theory of translation reveals the concept of the translation norm, based on which the quality of translation is evaluated. Translation linguistics includes both theoretical and normative sections. The theoretical sections of translation linguistics investigate translation as a means of interlingual communication, as an objectively observable phenomenon. The normative sections of translation linguistics formulate practical recommendations. They are based on the theoretical study of translation and aimed at optimizing the translation process, facilitating and improving the quality of translation work, developing methods for evaluating translation and training future translators.

To perform their functions consciously and correctly, the translator must have a clear understanding of the goal of their activity and the ways to achieve this goal. This understanding is based on a thorough knowledge of the basics of translation theory, both general and specific / private ones, concerning the field and combination of languages with which the translator deals. It involves knowledge of techniques and methods of translation, ability to select the necessary equivalents and apply the most effective translation techniques in a particular context, with consideration for pragmatic factors affecting the course and outcome of the translation process.

To ensure high quality of translation, the translator must be able to compare the target text with the source one, assess and classify possible errors, make necessary corrections. Both translators themselves and other people evaluating the quality of translation assume, directly or indirectly, that a proper translation must meet certain requirements. The totality of requirements for translation quality is called a translation norm. The quality of translation is determined by the degree of its compliance with the translation norm and the nature of unintentional or intentional deviations from this norm.

Nowadays, the conventional norm of translation can be defined as a requirement of maximum proximity of translation to the original, its ability to fully replace the original both as a whole and in detail, performing the tasks for which the translation was made. Practically, this requirement is realized by fulfilling all or some of the above aspects of the translation norm.

In practical terms, there is a certain hierarchy between various aspects of the translation norm. The translator and the users of the translation, above all, pay attention to the pragmatic value of the translation, the success of solving the pragmatic "super-task" if such a task has been set before this translation act. The existence of a pragmatic super-task is not a very common phenomenon, and in many cases, the requirements of the pragmatic norm are satisfied by ensuring a sufficiently high level of translation equivalence.

For many professional translators who specialize in translating a certain type of material, the genre / style norm also happens to be a fixed one for most of the translations they do, which does not require reassessing the stylistic features of the source text each time.

The conventional norm of translation remains unchanged for a long period and determines the general approach of the translator to their work, the extent of their desire to achieve maximum equivalence.

Finally, the equivalence norm represents the ultimate normative requirement that must be met, provided all other aspects of the translation norm are met. Undoubtedly, the completeness of the content of the source text in translation is the most important characteristic of interlingual communication, the equivalence norm is the most "translation-specific" normative requirement for translation. It is fully determined by linguistic factors, and the degree of its compliance must be established with maximum objectivity. The degree of similarity between the target text and source text is also the most objective criterion to characterize the results of the translator's work. As a consequence, this criterion is widely used both in editing professional translations and in the process of training future translators.

Thus, compliance with all normative rules, except for the equivalence norm, has a general nature and is something self-evident while the degree of similarity between the source and target text is the variable that mostly determines the level of professional qualification of the translator and quality of translation.

References:

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