



## TYPES OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES AND METHODS

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**Annotation:** Translation is a highly versatile professional field. Translators are language experts who often specialize in a specific field, such as law or medicine. However, they not only need to possess knowledge, but also need to have a well-developed translation methodology. In this article, we will explore the different translation methods and techniques that occur in this line of work and explain how they work.

**Keywords:** technology, tourism industry, artificial intelligence, augmented, google translate, free translation, creative translation, semantic translation, faithful translation, sight translation, literal translation, borrowing, calque, transposition, modulation, adaptation, compensation, equivalence.

Whenever you are reading something in a foreign language, your go-to response may be to try Google Translate first. And there is not anything wrong with that. Google Translate, and similar tools, have come a long way and can get a plenty of the translation quite right. That is, until they get something very, very wrong, and a work safety article on “Fall protection” in English language becomes a confusing piece on “otoño protección” (Autumn protection) in Spanish. Professional translators would know to use context cues and not attempt a word-for-word translation, but online translation services have yet to get that smart.<sup>1</sup>

In a professional setting, like a courtroom for instance, a translator can act as a smartphone app when asked to translate a text out loud into the target language. This is called sight translation, and it includes both translation and interpretation into one part. While it is very challenging for the translators, they will certainly do a far better job than an app because they know which sight translation techniques and methods can bring out the content and “feel” of the translated text. Now let’s have an in-depth look at the translation methods and processes.<sup>2</sup>

### Translation Methods

One commonly used translation method is called **free translation**. This can be referred to as creative translation, and, in a way, it is translation by any means necessary. This does not mean that it is inaccurate, more so that the translator does not focus on the syntax and style of the source language. Instead of this, the reproduced text will be an accurate translation of the original, but it may not exactly mirror the original’s structure, grammar and register.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Afifah, Wachidatul. 2012. Translation Methods and Procedures Preference of English Department Students Universitas Airlangga on Translating Aesop Fables. *Anglicist*. Vol.1. 38

<sup>2</sup> Ardi, Havid. 2010. Analisis teknik penerjemahan dan kualitas terjemahan buku “asal-usul elite Minangkabau modern: respons terhadap kolonial Belanda abad ke xix/xx. Surakarta: Universitas Sebelas Maret.

<sup>3</sup> Catford, J.C. 1965. *A linguistic theory of translation*, London: Oxford University Press.

A similar method is called **idiomatic translation**, which reproduces the message of the original text by specifically utilizing the target language's idioms and colloquialisms at the same time. This creates segments that look different from each other and could not be translated directly, yet are still very similar in meaning.

On the other hand, a method called **faithful translation** attempts the opposite: creating a precise translation while sticking closely to the original's syntax and grammatical structures.<sup>4</sup>

Similarly, **semantic translation** closely relates to faithful translation, but it pays even closer attention on how the target language text looks, to its aesthetic fidelity when compared to the original one. For example, while free translation may be perfectly suited for creative, marketing texts, faithful translation might be more appropriate for legal texts, where even the smallest nuance matters. Along the same lines, two languages would utilize completely different idioms to convey the same idea, but a legal text should look, sound and feel like a legal text no matter the language.

### **Literal translation**

Literal translation is attempting a word-to-word translation that is as close as possible to the original, especially regarding the text's structure and grammar. While this can lead to very accurate translation, a rather large caveat exists. It can only be used for certain structures between certain languages, as there is not universal magic wand for using literal translation on everything.<sup>5</sup>

Languages that use more rigid syntax rules, especially the ones that share these rules, lend themselves to literal translations. On the other hand, languages with very fluid sentence structures, like Slovak, might not be as suitable for literal translation into languages like English, which has a more rigid syntax. When we cannot use literal translation alone, we supplement it with calque or borrowing techniques at the same time.<sup>6</sup>

### **Borrowing**

Borrowing is simply a language taking words directly from another and using them as its own. One of the biggest "offenders" of borrowing words from other languages is English, which goes on to take in new words. As it turns out, the origin of some very English-sounding words today may be quite surprising: for example, not many people know that the word robot actually comes from Czech, and the literary works of Karakalpak.<sup>7</sup>

Some languages, like French, remain more resistant to borrowing, instead of preferring their own equivalents, but most languages could easily find examples of borrowed words in daily use.

### **Calque**

The other technique, called calque, is slightly different from others. While it starts with a word borrowed from another language, it also translates this word into the target language, creating terms like standpoint in English (from German Standpunkt), or beer garden (also from German, Biergarten). Yet translators must be careful with calques, as many can be

<sup>4</sup> Choliludin. 2009. The Techniue of Making Idiomatic Translation. Jakarta: Kesaint Blanc.

<sup>5</sup> Humanika, Eko Setyo. 2011. Ideologi penerjemahan wordplay dalam alice's adventures in wonderland ke dalam bahasa indonesia. Widyaparwa. Vol. 39.

<sup>6</sup> Kuncara Daru, Singgih, dkk. Analisis Terjemahan Tindak Tutar Direktif pada Novel the Godfather dan Terjemahannya dalam Bahasa Indonesia. TransLing Journal: Translation and Linguistic. Vol. 1. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Maurer, Jay. 2000. Focus on Grammar: An Advance Course for Reference Practice. New York: Longman.

straightforward and easy to get, while others become confusing with unintended and often humorous consequences. Calques are often context specific, with calque terms common in legal documents being very unfamiliar to common people.<sup>8</sup>

### **Transposition**

A simpler oblique technique is transposition, which changes the word order in a phrase or a sentence. Different languages have different rules about adjective, noun and verb positions in a sentence and also relative to each other. For instance, English places adjectives before a noun, whereas French often places them after. Therefore, transposition focuses on this and ensures that the words in the target language are in a new one, correct order and the meaning of the phrase mostly remains the same.<sup>9</sup>

### **Modulation**

Modulation, on the other hand, goes even further and uses a phrase in the target language that is not the same as the source language, but nevertheless expresses the same meaning. Both phrases, the identical one and the modulated alternative, would exist in the target language, but one sounds more natural to the reader in the target language than others. Modulation aims to find the more appropriate phrases and use them accordingly to prevent possible confusion and make the translation feel more natural.<sup>10</sup>

### **Reformulation or equivalence**

Getting more liberal as we move through these translation techniques, reformulation or equivalence in translation comes back to idiomatic translation type. This technique finds more creative ways for expressing the same meaning in completely different ways between the source and target language, and it may often be found in creative fields, such as marketing and advertising. Idioms might only be translated via reformulation, and one interesting example occurs in movie titles. They often appear completely unrelated between two languages, yet they are still intended to create the same idea or sentiment. However, some tend to do a better job than others.<sup>11</sup>

### **Adaptation**

Adaptation takes this even further and adds in a wider cultural context to the reformulation, so that the idea being translated feels natural and easily understood by the speakers of the target language. For instance, while jokes featuring Wales and farm animals might make sense in England, this nuance would be lost on Eastern Europeans. However, eastern European countries would have their own cultural stereotypes and whimsical, or very real, historical rivalries. Adaptation must find and choose the most appropriate cultural reference in this case.<sup>12</sup>

### **Compensation**

<sup>8</sup> Pelawi, bena Yusuf. 2014. Penerjemahan teks the gospel according to matthew ke dalam teks Bahasa Indonesia. Litera. Vol. 13. 391.

<sup>9</sup> Rachmawati, Raja. 2016. Teknik dan Ideologi Penerjemahan di Wordpress. Madah. Vol.7. 211-224

<sup>10</sup> Silalahi, Roswita. 2009. Dampak Teknik, Metode, dan Ideologi Penerjemahan pada Kualitas Terjemahan Teks Medical-Surgical Nursing dalam Bahasa Indonesia. Medan: Sumatera Utara.

<sup>11</sup> Siregar, Roswani. 2009. Analisis penerjemahan dan Pemaknaan Istilah Teknis: Studi Kasus pada Terjemahan Dokumen Kontrak. Medan: Universitas Sumatera Utara.

<sup>12</sup> Subrata, Fachrul Dita. 2012. Subjek semu there dalam novel percy jackson and the Olympians <https://repository.widyatama.ac.id/xmlui/handle/123456789/3968> (3 Januari 2019)

Finally, compensation is a technique utilized when something cannot be translated into another language, whether it is a grammatical concept in the source language, or a cultural construct that has not got equivalent in the target language. For example, some languages distinguish formality when addressing another person (e.g., tu and vous in French, as well as similar examples in German, Slovak and other languages), in contrast to English, which only recognizes one “you,” and instead of expresses formality degrees in other ways.<sup>13</sup> Similarly, Japanese<sup>14</sup> has many ways for expressing hierarchical relationships between people, with the use of -san, -kun, -chan and these kind of additions after another person’s name. These simply do not exist in most other languages and a translator would have to find a way to approximate their meaning in the target language during the translation. Needless to say, this might be very difficult.

<sup>13</sup> Suprato, Djuria. 2013. Analisis Penerjemahan Kalimat Pasif Bahasa Inggris ke dalam Bahasa Indonesia pada Novel Morning, Noon, and Night Karya SHidney Sheldon. *Lingua Cultura*. Vol. 7. 54

<sup>14</sup> Yusuf, Hammam R. 1992. An Analysis of Indonesian Language for Interlingual Machine-Translation System. *Proceeding COLING '92 of the 14th conference on Computational linguistics*. Vol. 4. 1230

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