

Lecture:(5)

Literal and Non-literal Translation

4.1 Types of Translation

4.1.1 Types of Translation according to rank:

a. Word-for-word translation

This type of translation, as is clear from its name, is word-oriented, (i.e. established **at the word rank**). *The translator in this type of translation handles the text word by word.*

Q/ What does word-for-word translation focus on?

A/ It focuses on the S.L. grammatical structures.

Q/ What are the advantages of word-for-word translation?

A/ This method of translation can be useful in throwing light on the nature of *the S.L. lexis and grammar* e.g.

He went home (S.L.) (T.L.) هو ذهب بيت

*Note: **lexis** (n.) A term used in linguistics to refer to the vocabulary of a language. A unit of vocabulary is generally referred to as a **lexical item**, or **lexeme**.*

b. Literal Translation

This type of translation is also word-oriented, but it does not follow the S.L. grammar as is the case with word to word translation. The translator In this case adopts T.L. grammar. e.g.,

He went home. (S.L.) (T.L.) ذهب الى البيت

He went to school. (S.L.) (T.L.) ذهب الى المدرسة

Note: This type of translation preserves the grammatical structures of the SL where they are translated into their nearest TL equivalents.

Q/ When does literal translation take place?

A/ It takes place when the SL and TL share parallel structures. Words are translated out of context paying no attention to their connotative meanings. The following example illustrates this point.

To throw dust in the eyes.

يلقي التراب في العيون

The word 'dust' is translated literally as التراب while the equivalent expression in Arabic is يذر الرماد في العيون where 'dust' is translated into الرماد , ashes.

C. Literary Translation

The literary translation is rank-free (i.e. not restricted to a certain grammatical rank). ***The translator aims at reproducing a similar effect on the T.L. receiver as that of the S.L. one.***

Q/ In literary translation. what is the concern of the translator?

A/ The translator *is not concerned with the S.L. text as a form but with the message and how to express it in the T.L.* This is what Nida calls "dynamic equivalence, and what Catford calls "free translation" or "literary translation .e.g.:

Once in a blue moon (S.L.) if translated according to the word-to-word method or the literal approach would not be acceptable مرة في قمر أزرق ؛ but it can be successfully rendered by finding an equivalent message in the T.L.: *نادرا جدا*.

4.1.2 Newmark's Communicative VS. Semantic Approach:

Newmark (1988 :39) proposes communicative and semantic approaches:

Q/ Define *communicative translation*.

A/ *Communicative translation attempts to produce on its reader an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original.*

Q/ Define *semantic translation*.