

Course Title: Theories of Translation

A Course for Undergraduate Students at the department of Translation,
University of Basrah, College of Arts

This course aims to familiarise fourth year students with theoretical concepts that are relevant to practical translation in a way to encourage them to assess and apply theoretical concepts to improve their own practical translation performance and raise their awareness of different types of texts and approaches and strategies for translating these texts. The course also aims to improve students' knowledge of the skills required to become professional translators in the future.

Text Books

1. Almann, Ali (2014). *Translation Theories Exemplified from Cicero to Pierre Bourdieu*. London: Sayyab Books.
2. Alyas, Asim (1985). *Translation Theories for Students of Translation*. Mousl: Mousl University Press.

Course Content:

Term2:

5. Translation Brief: Macro Factors

Overview

Translators, when deciding on the most appropriate global strategy, are required to ask several questions that determine the genre aims and properties, the TT audience, the intended function(s) of the TT and all the information needed to form the strategic decision before embarking on translation. It is of crucial importance for translators to know why a text is translated and what the function of the translated text is. This is in line with Vermeer's Skopos rule, which requires translators to translate the original text in a way that makes it function in the situation where it is

used and with the people who intend to use it in the way they want it to function. Parallel to these, the publisher's attitude, or the agency's policy, the presence of the ST in a bilingual edition, and the relationship between the source and target cultures (self and other) are often of equal influence in deciding the appropriateness of a particular global strategy.

In sum, translators do not work randomly, but are rather influenced by particular constraints and parameters that are of a macro nature. The translator sometimes receives some information (the translation brief) from the translation commissioner (client, agent, translation project manager or publisher), which implicitly or explicitly gives indications as to what global strategy to adopt (Almanna, 2014: 95).

1. Cultural clashes
2. Purpose of translation
3. Readership
4. Text Type

6. System Theories

Overview

System theories, such as polysystem theory, Manipulation theory and norm theory, have focused almost exclusively on literary translation.

They have moved the study of translation out of a static linguistic analysis of shifts (Almanna, 2014: 115).

1. Polysystem theory
2. Manipulation theory
3. Norm theory

7. Register and Translation

Overview

Register is defined by Halliday (1978: 23) as “the set of meanings, the configuration of semantic patterns, that are typically drawn upon under the specific conditions, along with the words and structures that are used in the realization of these meanings”. So, from a communicative point of view, register-based studies are concerned with “the meaning in the writer’s linguistic choices and systematically [relate] these choices to a wider sociocultural framework” (Munday, 2001: 90).

1. Field of discourse
2. Tenor of discourse
3. Mode of discourse

8. Discourse analysis and Translation

Overview

In the 1990s the focus of translation studies was shifted from text analysis, which “normally concentrates on describing the way in which texts are organized” to discourse analysis, which looks at “the way language communicates meaning and social and power relations” (Munday 2008: 90).

1. Role of language
2. Aspects of pragmatics
3. Aspects of textuality
4. Cultural aspects
5. Stylistics aspects