

# The General Principles of Media Translation

## ( Lecture No.4)

(26) We rarely find a word with one meaning because meanings are much more than words in all languages. Words are polysemous, Translator's duty is to understand the intended meanings in the source language to choose an equivalent in the target language. And this is the hard challenge in translation: to understanding the text of the source language and make an equivalent in the target language.

(27) Sometimes it is impossible to produce a perfect translation, but satisfactory translation is always possible. It requires precision, knowledge and experience.

(28) Prose is translated into prose. Poetry is either translated into poetry if it was possible or to prose, if it was not possible.

(29) Translator should have a good command on both languages: source and target language. Mastering the source language to understand the text and mastering the target language to write using it. Obviously, not mastering the first one would make the second unclear, and not mastering the second one would make the writing full of mistakes. Things would be terribly bad if the translator was bad in the two languages: here many mistakes would emerge in understanding the source language, and a lot of mistakes in expressing it in the target language.

(30) In specialized translation, like medical and geometric translation, it is better for the translator, beside mastering the two languages, he has to have a knowledge in the field he is translating from and into. We can call the knowledge in the field as the specialized knowledge and the knowledge of the two languages as the linguistic knowledge, for example, medical knowledge does not make the doctor a translator. However linguistic knowledge may take the place of specialized knowledge. Therefore, the translator can translate a medical text without being specialized in medicine. Best translators are these who

have the specialized and linguistic knowledge, certainly, but such translators are rare.