

The Relationship between Systemic Functional Linguistics and Translation

Mrs. Mathura Sivakumaran
University of Jaffna

1. Introduction

Language is a symbol by which a community communicates among itself. Human being is part and parcel of one's social group or more. All activities in a society are carried out with the use of particular language. Without language human society is unrealistic. Language serves as a link between each other in a group to express one's thoughts and feelings. Every community is identified by its activities through a language. Generally, a language is related to the vocal system adopted in a society.

Primarily a language plays an important role in formulating an efficient legal system to build up a civilized society. In the same way Grammar is also equally important in building up the basic structure of a language.

Language gives an expression for the activities that take place in a society. The application of a language depends on the various activities formed in a society. There by a language is better understood through direct experience.

Since linguistic deals with the study of language and how this works, and since the process of translation vitally entails language, the relevance of linguistics to translation should never be in doubt. But it must immediately be made clear that we are referring in particular to those branches of linguistics which are concerned with the social aspect of language use, and which locate the source text and target text firmly within the cultural context.

Fawcett suggests, the link between linguistics and translation can be two-fold. On one hand, the finding of linguistics can be applied to the practice of translation, on the other hand, it is possible to establish a linguistic theory of translation.

In 1965, Catford opened his A Linguistic Theory of translation, with the following assertion: any theory of translation must draw upon a theory of language – a general linguistic theory.

Literal, free and faithful translations are more systematic approaches to the study of translation emerged and they are linguistically oriented thereby Vinay Darbelnet, Mounin, and Nida also put forward the aspects of translation theories related to the systematic linguistic aspects.

1.1 The Aim of the Research

The aim of the research is to emphasize the role of linguistic in the process of translation. Any comparison of two languages implies an examination of their mutual translatability, the widespread of interlingual communication, particularly translating activities, must be kept under constant scrutiny by linguistic science.

1.2 Methodology

Two types of methods used in the research. Those are descriptive and comparative methods. Under descriptive method it is possible to learn the features of linguistic and translation. At the same time comparative method is used to compare the theoretical and practical aspects of both linguistic and translation.

The qualitative analysis can be classified in to three stages, collate, analysis and present. Collate means reliability, reshaping, reducing and transforming the data. In the respect of analysis, the function of coding deals with simplifying and standardize data for analytical purposes. The second aspect of annotating refers to paying attention to significant matters. Labeling, selection and summarizing can be treated as part of the analysis of qualitative research methodology under the process of present the preparation of the format suitable to the readers. Validity includes the description of potential bias, methods followed and also the subjective conclusion.

1.3 Hypothesis

A translator must have the knowledge of the linguistic in order to produce an excellent translation work.

1.4 Literature Review

Munday, J. (2001) *Introducing Translation Studies* reflects the linguistics elements of the translation and its function. Newmark, P. (1987) “the use of linguistics in translation analysis and criticism elaborates translation needs to be informed by multidisciplinary and linguistic perspectives.

Some research has been done about the linguistic aspect and its translations and some researchers have analyzed the linguistic barriers in the process of translation. Akila Sellami B Aklouti is a professor of English language and linguistics. In her research she pointed out the generative syntax semantics, systematic functional grammar and translation. The book “Systemic functional linguistics on bible translation” composed by Kim Hoi- Ki Wong elaborates on the linguistic aspects and contextual meaning.

Roman Jakobson writes in his article “On Linguistic Aspects of Translation” about the possibility and impossibility of translation and defines poetry as “by definition untranslatable, only creative transposition is possible.”

1.5 Limitation of the Research

This study is undertaken to identify the linguistic aspects phonological, morphological syntactical semantic and pragmatic knowledge in which position it develops the translation process with the contextual meaning. Ensuring the relation between linguistically oriented approaches and the culturally oriented approaches is analyzed.

2. Inter-language Relationship by Means of Translation

Any two languages are not identical. Thus, there are many distinctive features between two languages in this respect the translation process is a paramount importance. Translation has built up long-standing tradition throughout the history. The necessity of translation has been realized in a modern world because of the expanding knowledge and international communication. It has become very fundamental in the society. In the present world usages of translation has become necessity in various fields like science, medicine, technology, commercial activities, in legal matters, cultural affairs or literary purposes etc. Translation is viewed as a process of representation or reproduction of the original text in another language. Translation draws on a wide range of other disciplines and hence could be effectively described as “a House of many rooms” (Hatim 2001:8)

2.1 Translation as an Interdisciplinary Aspect

At the beginning translation was not given due recognition and it was practiced as a sub discipline but later it has found its rightful place in the activities of various disciplines. Those days it was used as a simple method of transcoding and used as applied linguistic. Further translation mainly focused on the study of comparative literature and excellent works of art. M. Snell-Hornby is the first person who introduced the method of integrated approach in translation to bridge the gap between the linguistic and literary – oriented methods. This model was designed to embrace whole spectrum of the language.

2.2 Necessity of linguistic in the process of translation

Multi discipline is significant because of its independent nature and its plurality of perspectives. The knowledge of linguistic is very important in the field of translation as a multidiscipline. A British linguist and translation theorist P. Fawcett said that without a grounding in linguistic the translator will have to work without perfection lacking proper tools. Although linguistic deals with the stud of a language its relevance in the process of translation cannot be ignored. According to the view of Fawcett (1997) “the relationship between linguistic and translation is twofold. As first step finding of the linguistic is used in the process of translation. Other aspect is that it helps to form a linguistic theory in the method of translation.

2.3 Why Systemic Functional Linguistics in the Process of Translation?

Translation is understood as a textual practice and meaningful records of communicative events.in the process of translation not only the problems of words and expression but also grammar plays a large and important role.in the earlier period grammar translation method was use in the language teaching programme. Grammar should be a part of the education of a translator. Functional grammar is essentially a natural grammar in the sense. Language is not a simple matter of vocabulary and grammar, but that it can never be separated from the culture it operates in and is always part of a context. If the reader know the words, but do not recognize

and understanding the meanings, it is because translator does not share the back ground knowledge of a different language or culture.

2.4 Utility

This research has been conceived as a resource for graduate students of translation Studies, focused both on the main theoretical issues of the discipline and the practical task of translating, in particular from English into mother tongue. However its aim is not that of providing students or anyone interested in this field with an over view of the main theories of translation, the purpose of translating text and context is to offer a particular perspective on the theory and practice of translation, that of the frame work systemic Functional linguistics, which we believe, can prove valuable for the study of a phenomenon that we consider the complex linguistic, socio cultural and ideological practice.

British linguist and translation theorist P. Fawcett's view that without grounding in linguistics, the translator is like somebody who is working with an incomplete toolkit.

Among multiple of approaches, there are not many scholars who would completely dismiss the ties between linguistics and translation (Taylor 1997)

The linguistic oriented approach to translation is in the basics of the linguistic concept of translation, which is the fact that the process of translation is a language act in which a text from one language is substituted with an equivalent text from another, by making that substitution in accordance with the of the regulations of both language system.

3. Conclusion

Language reflects the behavioral aspect of the society. Translation is the most popular discipline in the world.it is related to the functional linguistic theory. Translation Studies have new perspectives from which other disciplines basically the linguistic discipline is the most important one.

Shift in Translation is basically small linguistic changes that occur between ST and TT. We do not transfer meaning between languages, but we rather replace a source language meaning by a target language – one that can function in the same or a comparable way in that translation.

Grammar should be a part of the education a translator, and in particular functional grammar since it is concerned with language in texts and with the role grammar plays, in combination with lexicon, in carrying out specific functions and realizing specific types of meaning.

=====

References

Georgy, M. 2001. "What can linguistics learn from translation?" in Steiner, E & C. Yallop (eds)

=====

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 18:9 September 2018

Mrs. Mathura Sivakumaran

The Relationship between Systemic Functional Linguistics and Translation

147

House, J. (2006) "Text and Context in translation" "Journal of Pragmatics"

Halliday, M.A.K. (2001) "Towards a theory of good translation", in Steiner, E & C. Yallop (eds) (2001), 13-18.

Hatmin, B. (2001) Teaching and Researching Translation. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.

Lipson, M. (2006) Exploring Functional Grammar. Functional Grammar Studies for Non-Native Speakers of English, Series Editor, D.R. Miller, Bologna: CLUEB

=====
Mrs. Mathura Sivakumaran
Lecturer Probationary
Translation Studies Unit,
University of Jaffna
Sri Lanka
mmathura4@gmail.com