

# INTERPRETERS' SAGA

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*Ключевые слова:* переводчик, подготовка специалистов, тактика и стратегия перевода, аспектный и текстовый перевод, кодирование и декодирование

*Key words:* interpreter, training process, tactics and strategies, aspect and text translation, coding and decoding

*The article in question deals with the status of an interpreter, his tactics and strategies in the process of translation. The attention is being focused upon the preparatory work considering types of exercises in academic procedure.*

*В статье рассматривается вопрос статуса переводчика на современном этапе, его тактика и стратегия в переводческой деятельности, фокусируется внимание на парадигме упражнений, соотносимых к аспектным и текстовым переводами.*

Translation is a human activity known since ancient times and an interpreter or a translator is among the oldest professions dating back to the biblical era and earlier. We know about translation as much or as little as our ancestors. By tradition it has been outside the mainstream of linguistic science and philosophy. But it would be wrong to say that research of translation was scarce or the results were futile. There are still vast black areas in translation theory and practice to be addressed by linguists, interpreters and translators. They say: *Translation is an art, interpreting is a craft. Craftsmanship is of an old make.*

In the armies of Alexander the Great and King Darius of Persia interpreters were distinguished by badges with the logo of a parrot. In the

4-th century B.C., almost 2400 years ago, translation was a profession rather than just an occupation or a hobby. But it happened so that until the late nineteen fifties translation had not been much in the focus of scholar's attention. There work some reasons:

The abundance of an easily available and relatively cheap workforce to do the job at an acceptable low quality level.

Relatively low quality of translation was generally satisfactory for the existing market. Until the introduction of computers and market globalisation the flows of multilingual information in the world had been rather fragmented. Finally, translation is one of the most complex problems that the human intellect may face.

Everybody is aware that he hesitates a great number of times when facing the necessity of choice (choosing profession, fiancé, working place, residence, friends etc.). The opulence of existing opportunities for young resolute people makes the choice of future profession, on the one hand, easier because everyone can find something to his taste, but, on the other hand , far more difficult due to excess of possible answer for the question "What am I going to be?" Nowadays there exists a number of professions considered as popular and fashionable (lawyer, economist, advertising agent etc.); the profession of an interpreter is among them.

It's well known that translation or interpretation is a specific kind of human activity, which consists in providing the interlocutors, speaking different languages, with mutual understanding. The work of an interpreter is very interesting and unpredictable. You can never know what the forthcoming moment will bring and what surprises it may contain. Such surprises are everywhere, where interpretation reigns. Communication is always new, fresh, mostly made on the go.

One should point out that the work of an interpreter is linked with hard and strenuous work, concentration, great efforts, a continuous

mastering or foreign languages, constant creativity, and permanent training of memory. Though the job is rather strenuous, it is profitable as well. To the advantages one may refer meeting interesting people from different countries, gaining experience and the like.

What should an interpreter be like? An interpreter is a person who must always be on the alert. He must have good manners and a ready tongue. Besides, clothes make a man. It is necessary to look smart, otherwise there may be less mutual understanding (especially at some official meetings or conferences). In short, an interpreter should be up to the mark. There exist opinions that an interpreter is a gobetweener or even some kind of a machine that has to provide proper communication between two or more people of different language communities. Without an interpreter the speech act would not take place and the desirable effect wouldn't be achieved. He is the main link of the chain, although many people underestimate it. It is typical of an interpreter to be involved in a conversation adding some information only in cases when the meeting is regarded as personal and unofficial. It is unthinkable to get oneself involved in a conversation between the leaders of the states.

To become a really good interpreter requires much practice, willingness to achieve some goal and last, but not the least, love of foreign languages and cultures.

Translation is closely interwoven with sociolinguistics, contrastive linguistics, with concepts of thinking and cognitive aspects. It is an interlinguistic communication which presupposes both language and culture encoding and decoding. Communicative intention is realized due to the actualization of major linguistic functions - denotative or referential, expressive, emotional, fatic and poetic. Semantic equivalence makes translation work, for contents are prior to the forms, meaning comes to the forefront. One cannot be an interpreter without a certain

baggage or luggage of things in terms of philology and translation. It is easier said than done. What matters here is the preparatory work in process of would be specialists training. It is common knowledge that translators are to develop a wide spectrum of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, recalling, fluency, grasping intentions, comprehending situations. Preparatory translation work resembles the hidden in the ocean part of an iceberg which implies the upper part - original and target texts. New forms in the training process are greatly expected nowadays to reach the quality in the matter.

The major strategies of an interpreter are bifunctional: to comprehend what has been said and to render it in another language. The realization of the illocutionary goal demands much effort on the part of an interpreter. Diverse vectors of his speech activities, vital problems of oral translation, etiquette, social niceties confront an interpreter in his polifunctionality.

Needs, intentions of a medium are interwoven to serve promotion and maintenance of harmony between people speaking different languages. The crucial task on the part of an interpreter is to meet the requirements of the listeners, to identify the message delivered first in a foreign language (original) and then in a target language. To identify means to grasp the unity of the biological and the social, the individual and the common, the world-wide and the ethnospecific. To bring the information to listeners an interpreter is to keep close his intentions and strategies.

It goes without saying that an interpreter's attention is to be focused upon the original text, the situation involved, and social grounds into that. Readjustment of an interpreter swings from stages of text decoding to encoding translation. As to the components of speech model they are various: speaker, interpreter, listener, intention, situation and metacommunication - channel, code, tactics, strategies To the forefront of the interpreter's career come qualifications and qualities which go together to

promote a great purpose. The obvious things with an interpreter are knowledge of languages and social thesaurus.

It's common knowledge that an interpreter is supposed to have a good university education or its equivalent, and extensive knowledge of technical terms to deal with fantastic spectre of subjects ranging from atomic energy, legal issues, demographic problems, the rights of man to the tonnage measurement or lighting of coats. An interpreter is to obtain in a quick mental grasp what is being said to render it quickly into another language. Bashfulness or stage fright won't do either. He should do his work with discretion, great presence of mind and psychological understanding. His work is crowned with success in case when he lets discussion go, unobscure on his part. This is his point of honour. To communicate well for an interpreter means to transmit the message in a way that will be received and understood properly by audience. This skill is widely sought after. One should always think of the ways what and how to say it. There are some profitips which surely make an interpreter's job go easier. An interpreter is advised to use examples, figures, stories of humour in a good taste. The "flavour" of an interpreting style maybe spoiled by too many details.

One should make his audience comfortable with short words and sentences. Figures and proper names should be pronounced correctly and confidently. Report and rapport should go together for not only information but also the way it is presented matters much in speech activity. It is crucial that a medium is to follow the audience's reaction to his speech and make readjustments go.

Proper presentation has always been rewarding as a genuine effort of thoughtful, careful and intensive work of an interpreter. His craftsmanship is transformed into arts in the workshop of interdisciplinary training in terms of cognitive quest in pedagogical and psychological insights,

translation and literary studies, innovative culture-oriented paradigm of learning languages.

Interpreters aren't born, they are trained. Special syllabuses, methodological approaches facilitate interpreters' training. Assignments are aimed at further development of interpreting skills, enhancing erudition through exercises, texts for translation, talks on relevant topics, comments on aspects of intercultural communication, practical tips and the like. The high quality of translation derives much from the deep background knowledge of trainees, their efficiency in the interlinguistic and intercultural thesaurus. Much should be done here by contrastive analysis of original and target texts, by constant search of differences and similarities in linguo-cultural systems. Efficiently goes the process while dealing both with aspect (A) and text categories (B). Quick solutions of challenges are naturally acquired and developed through the relevant paradigm of exercises:

(A) - match the folklore names with their English equivalents;

- say it in English (words and phrases);
- pick out words relevant to the topic;
- suggest suitable versions for cultural phenomena;
- match the units in A and B columns;
- enlarge the list of synonyms;
- give antonyms to the words, phrases;
- pick out the words of address;
- pick out expressions, words of politeness;
- commit to memory paradigms of certain language units;
- pick out seemingly international units, comment on their meaning;
- identify cases of transcription, transliteration, generalisation, concretization in the original and target communicative units;
- comment on the way the international units are translated;

- trace losses and increments in sentences (original and target);
- identify the denotational, situational, descriptive and communicative equivalents in the given sentences;
- pick out cases of complete, partial equivalents and translation loans.

A translator is to exercise his craftsmanship through developing skills of text comprehension, of overcoming linguistic shock and attention span. Dealing with texts as the highest communicative units translators should keep in mind major categories of textuality and intertextuality.

Prerogatives belong to the text assignments of the type:

(B) listen to the text (small in form) and pick up some dominant words;

- make a summary of the text;
- put questions on the text;
- answer the questions on the text;
- make consecutive, spontaneous translations;
- complete the text;
- name major blocks of the text;
- give situations illustrating the proper words;
- make a sight translation of the text;
- identify difficulties and challenges of a source text;
- identify precision information units in a text;
- jot down a text in universal interpreter's notation;
- analyse a text (typological aspects);
- find the cases of ambiguity in a text;
- remedy the sentences before interpreting them;
- complete proverbs with suitable units;
- make informal liaison (two way) interpreting of a dialogue;
- make formal liaison (two way) interpreting of a dialogue(interview, talk);

- make discourse interpreting of a speech (lecture, appeal, briefing, toast).

Thus, exercises and assignments make the training process' as the main stream go. They widen an interpreter's thesaurus,; promote his background knowledge of grammatical, discourse,; sociolinguistic and strategic categories. They facilitate an interpreters cognition of valid procedures concerning text encoding and decoding, relation with communicators on both sides. The involved process makes the stable cycle: Text<sub>1</sub> (speaker) > Text<sub>2</sub> (interpreter) > Text<sub>3</sub> (listener). T<sub>1</sub> (speaker) and T<sub>3</sub> (listener); usually represent different languages and cultures. T<sub>2</sub> (interpreter) lets communication go. Translation text analysis is highly beneficial for the future specialists; it reveals to the trainees how the factors works (social, linguistic, cultural), how the text is verbalized in it's explicit and implicit means. Some hints may be suggested by the following list of metalanguage terms of translation text analysis:

- the text under analysis belongs to (publicistic, newspaper, belles-lettre, official, scientific, colloquial ...) style;
- the dominant words;
- they refer to ...;
- they make the topic go ...;
- the pragmatic foundation of the text is to be verbalized by special means of TL;
- the precision words (proper names, numerals) are rendered literally for they bear exact information, are devoid of connotation;
- one can trace here terminological units;
- the author's intentions should not be neglected either;
- a translator should focus his attention on the relevant modal words, phrases, parentheses;



- the structure of a text should be taken into consideration too;
- the stylistic means of SL and TL matter much at that;
- redundancy, abundance and modeling work validly while rendering inner structures from SL to TL.

An interpreter communicates comfortably with people in another culture provided he is quite at ease both with language and culture differences in  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  cycles. Interpretation is cross-cultural communication. Effectiveness of it depends much on an interpreter who sees the whole iceberg deep within the ocean just as much of culture is deep within people.

Thus, training process is volumous and multiaspected. It prepares trainees for a thorny path of bringing people with different languages and cultures together. Language is the bearer and the expression of a culture and a culture means a certain cast of mind, certain attitudes, certain understandings of values, and all of that has to be adequately conveyed in terms of through interpretation. Interpreting is not only simply an attempt to convey the meaning of the words but also to convey the values and the concepts that lie behind what is being said by whichever side.

#### *Literature*

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