

## **Translation Challenges Faced By Translators**

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### **Abstract**

*The paper concisely scrutinizes the accomplishments and snags in translation studies and the applied responsibilities as a translator. Being a translator is about much more than simply being bilingual, it is about being able to interpret and transcribe a message appropriately, according to its purpose and reach an audience, taking into account not only language aspects, but also social and cultural factors. In order to successfully and accurately complete a translation, a very specific set of skills is required to overcome language barriers. To compact with these accountabilities, to contemplate and interpret dexterously and artistically, the paper acclaims innovative translation as a specialized field and its practical difficulties. The primary purpose of the paper is that translation is a creative linguistic activity and thus its professional achievement needs specialized and up-to-date linguistic knowledge. Translation empowers functioning communication between people around the world, to ensure this; the author has to be bilingual and bicultural as well. Translating is not an isolated movement, but it is a part of the current intercultural transfer. Translation studies are an arena of study that deals with the theory, explanation, and presentation of translation, because it scrutinizes translation both as an inter-lingual transfer, and as an intercultural communication. Translation plays an important role in the growth of human culture and civilization. Translators and language specialists must go beyond word-to-word translation, to transfer the exact meaning from one language another. Translators need in-depth knowledge of the technical terms and industry terminology to overcome translation challenges. How to translate terminology is the fundamental building block for translators.*

**Keywords:** *Translation Studies and metalinguistic terminology, professional translation, cultural factors, semantic problems, and Interlingual context.*

### **Introduction:**

Translators face challenges when translating from one language to another. A translator should be bilingual in order to interpret and transcribe a message according to its purpose and target audience considering the language, social and cultural factors. In order to successfully and accurately complete a translator needs a specific set of skills to overcome language barriers.

### **Language structure:**

There are about 7000 living languages and their dialects. Dialects are specific forms of languages spoken regions or social groups. Every single one of them is unique with its own origins, roots and structure. Such dialects or set of words may not have



literal equivalent in ‘another’ language, which poses difficulty for a translator. It is important to know how and why these words are used in certain ways.

While most languages will have words and phrases for most things, there are always certain words and phrases that are just either totally different or missing entirely from target languages. While translating specific content must describe a whole story, context world and environment into another language. It involves creativity to transfer cultural values and traditions, to make them understandable and adapted without altering them; the translator must remain true to the original piece. Working professionally as a translator involves having enough knowledge and experience business fields. Translators must be able to work with different materials. A specific knowledge in the right field and industry is essential to be as accurate and reliable as possible, as it takes knowledge of the right vocabulary, the right procedures. It is the duty of the translator to reproduce without misinterpreting the initial core message. Another important component is humor, what is humorous in one culture may not be for another. This requires skill and confidence to present it accurately about idioms and phrases which gives more life and color to the language important in linguistics. They make language interesting, for example: penny for your thought means ‘Asking someone’, Beat about the bush means, trying to avoid’, and burn the midnight oil means, ‘work or labor’, in translation this is a challenge. Translating phrases, phrasal verbs. Prefixes and Suffixes create- variety and richness to the language, but choosing the right words depends on the context and purpose of the content. A **prefix** is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. For example, the word “unhappy” consists of the prefix “un-” [which means “not”] combined with the root (or stem) word “happy”; the word “unhappy” means “not happy.”

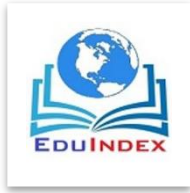
#### A short list of prefixes:

Prefix	Examples
de -	decode, decrease
dis-	disagree, disappear

A **suffix** is a group of letters placed after the root of a word. For example, the word flavorless consists of the root word “flavor” combined with the suffix “-less” [which means “without”]; the word “flavorless” means “having no flavor.”

#### A short list of suffixes:

Suffix	Meaning
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-able            comfortable, portable-ible            reversible, terrible  
-ily            eerily, happily, lazily-er            bigger, stronger

It is sometimes very difficult to find the exact equivalent in other languages. A Translator finds it difficult to aim at accuracy and perfection. Often colloquialism is woven into formal language making the translator's task very difficult. Without hurting sentiments or angering the target audience accuracy should be aimed at. Sometimes this leads to misunderstanding. E.g.: In Sudhamurthy's Novels certain words like Bakula flower, Puja, and specific places and terms cannot aim at accurate translation. Each genre has got its own limitations. One can mean another, if not accurately translated.

A combination of two or three nouns and adjectives make compound words. They could be closed of three forms – closed form, like notebook; hyphenated like long-distance or open form like fighter pilot. Some compound words are straightforward and mean exactly what they say – like afternoon. In such cases, it can get very tricky for the translator.

### **There is a challenge when we translate phrasal verbs-**

For example; break up, break apart, break away, break off, break in, break down, break into... each phrasal verb connotes differently. It is unlikely that translating two words into a target language will give us the same meaning. While translating Homonyms and homophones the translator must be vigilant, careful and grasp the meaning of the original text. To quote some examples: break/brake/break, Blue/blue; cell/sell; our/hour; Eight/ate; Here/hear, bye/buy etc., Translators should specialize in certain niches and gain subject matter expertise.

### **Lexical-semantic difficulties:**

These difficulties comprise terminology alternatives, neologisms, semantic gaps, contextual synonyms and antonyms. When words have more than one meaning translation is difficult. Colloquial expressions translated word for word will elicit a troubled document. The source text is clean clear and unambiguous, and the target language is an excellent lexical match, then the translation process is quick and painless. The problematic areas include grammatical problems, pronouns, lexical, semantic, syntax, rhetoric, pragmatic and cultural problems, syntactical glitches, such as figures of speech- hyperbole, anaphora, repetition, comparison, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche oxymoron, paradox and diction. Cultural Differences: Cultural differences come into the mix to make things just difficult for the translator. Translator and language specialist need to go beyond word- to-word translation to transfer the meaning from one language to



the other. Cultural references such as names of food, festivals and cultural connotations stand vital. Pudumaipithan's views may be successfully understood by the following definition he gives of translation and adaptation.

“To translate a story means that to the best of our ability, to the very extent that the flexibility of our language allows, we present to our readers the product of a foreign culture without jeopardizing its essence.”

There are many translators who have faced many difficulties, still reproduced the intensity and vigor of the original book. To quote some of my understanding – Pudumaipithan and Lakshmi Holmström etc. Pudumaipithan himself having translated quite a few works from English, found it challenging and favorable. He wrote reviews of translations of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* (Theyintha Kanavu, 1937) and Molière's plays like *Misanthrope*. His translations include Guy de Maupassant's short stories, commenting on a Tamil translation of Molière's play *Misanthrope*, he mocks the translator's efforts of word-by-word literal translation and the act of replacing the original names of the characters with Tamil names as it does not reflect as a true translation. A similar criticism was aimed at writers translating from Tamil to English, wherein he cited the case of Neethi Noolkal Paththu ('Ten Didactic Texts').

Here the translator had taken 10 Tamil didactic texts and translated them but failed to convey the essence of the texts into English, despite being a Tamil and English teacher by profession. Although critical of most translators, he appreciated the efforts of a few chosen writers who did justice to the original and the translated text. He approved of the translation of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* into Tamil by Ki. Rajanarayanan as the translator successfully handovers the stylishness and lucidity of Dickens's prose into Tamil.

**Lakshmi Holmström** an Indian-British writer, literary critic, and translator of Tamil fiction into English. Her most prominent works were her translations of short stories and novels of the contemporary writers in Tamil, such as Mauni, Pudumaipithan, Ashoka Mitran, Sundara Ramasami, C.S. Lakshmi, Bama, and Imayam. *Karukku* is her milestone work.

“I think that most readers – and again I'm excepting the specialist reader or indeed the discriminating and sensitive reader – don't understand what exactly is involved in a translation. They can't quite grasp the notion that languages differ hugely in lexis as well as syntax; that one language doesn't 'move into' another automatically. Nor do they realize that when you translate a work, whether it is a poem or a long work of



fiction, you must keep in mind the integrity of the whole thing. Words and sentences may be the bricks and mortar, but it has a structure that you are constantly aspiring towards. But of course, I'm also aware that different translators read, interpret and work differently."— Lakshmi Holmström on translation.

### **Conclusion:**

To turn translation challenges into opportunities and make efficient, accurate translations, translators should, not be verbatim: adapt the translation to transcribe specifically the meaning of the message and custom the appropriate expressions, ascertain about the industry, its technical vocabulary, its measures: specializing in explicit industries, fields be able to do some research, as qualms can always occur, have superior communication skills: to transcribe a message without altering its drive and keep its authentic meaning. The brilliance of a translator's work includes translating and localizing messages and documents appropriately. Every translation job is dissimilar, and so it is really challenging for the translator to give the original aura to the text.

**Paper Presented by Karan Alistair Kishore**

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