

TRANSLATION PROCEDURES

In contrast to translation strategies (the translators' global approach or plan of action on a given text, according to their intention), translation procedures are used for sentences and smaller units of language within that text.

Translation procedures are methods applied by translators when they formulate an equivalence for the purpose of transferring elements of meaning from the Source Text (ST) to the Target Text (TT). (Delisle)

Vinay and Darbelnet first proposed seven *methods* or procedures in 1973.¹: Loan, Calque, Literal Translation, Transposition, Modulation, Equivalence, Adaptation

Terms between angular brackets <> are those in which Delisle differs from Newmark. When the Spanish term has a form dissimilar to the English one, it appears between inverted commas “”.

1. WORD-FOR-WORD TRANSLATION (CLOSE TRANSLATION) = Transferring SL grammar and word order as well as the primary meanings of all SL words
 - *He works in the house - now → Il travaille dans la mansion maintenant*
2. ONE-TO-ONE TRANSLATION (CLOSE TRANSLATION) = Each SL word has a corresponding TL word, but their primary (isolated) meanings may differ.
 - Hacer un examen → take an exam
3. LITERAL TRANSLATION (CLOSE TRANSLATION) = Literal translation:
 - one word to one word (*un beau jardin → a beautiful garden*)
 - collocation to collocation (*make a speech → faire un discours*)
 - clause to clause (*when that was done → quand cela fut fait*)
 - to sentence to sentence (*The man was in the street → L'homme était dans la rue*)
4. THROUGH-TRANSLATION <CALQUE> = The literal translation of common collocations, names of organizations, the components of compounds, and perhaps phrases.

<To transfer a SL word or expression into the Target Text using a literal translation of its component elements> (Delisle)

 - *marriage de convenance → marriage of convenience*
 - *skyscraper → rascacielos*
 - *football → balompié*
5. TRANSFERENCE, <BORROWING> (loan word, transcription; transliteration) = Transferring a SL word to a TL. either because the TL does not have a lexicalized correspondence, or for stylistic or rhetorical reasons:

¹ Peter Newmark, *A Textbook of Translation* New York: Prentice Hall, 1988) 69, 81-93; Jean-Paul Vinay and J. Darbelnet, *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (Paris: Didier, 1973); Jean Delisle et al., ed. *Translation Terminology*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1999.

- *coup d'état*;
- *noblesse oblige!*
- *Realpolitik*,
- *música rap*
- *ad hoc* formulation
- proper names and names of people

6. NATURALISATION, <DIRECT TRANSFER> = Adapting a SL word first to the normal pronunciation, then to the normal morphology of the TL.

- (in French) *thatchérisme*

7. SYNONYMY = To use a near TL equivalent to an SL word in a context, where a precise equivalent may or may not exist. This procedure is used when there is no clear one-to-one equivalent, when literal translation is not possible, and the word is not important in the text (adjectives, adverbs of quality), not important enough for componential analysis.

- *Personne gentile* → *kind person*
- *Conte piquant* → *racy story*

8. TRANSPOSITION, SHIFT (Catford)

a) <RECATEGORIZATION> = A change in the grammar from SL to TL (singular to plural; position of the adjective, changing the word class or part of speech)

- Working with you is a pleasure → Trabajar contigo... El trabajo contigo ...
- *d'une importance exceptionnelle* → *exceptionally large*
- *Tras su salida* → *after he'd gone out*
- *There's a reason for life* → *Hay una razón para vivir*
- *with government support* → *apoyado por el gobierno*
- *It's getting dark* → *comienza a oscurecer*

b) <DENOMINALIZATION> = To transform a noun or nominal structure in the ST into a verbal structure in the TT. Some languages, such as French and German, prefer to package verb-related information in verbal nouns, whereas English prefers to use verbs, specifically action verbs. Hence we speak of <deverbalization> or <nominalization> when translating out of English into other languages (Delisle)

c) <RECASTING> = To modify the order of the units in a ST in order to conform to the syntactic or idiomatic constraints of the Target Text.

d) MODULATION = Variation through change of viewpoint, of perspective, and very often of category of thought (Vinay and Darbelnet) introducing a clarification with respect to the original formulation.

i. Positive for Double Negative, Double Negative for Positive

- *Il n'a pas hésité* → *He acted at once*
- *shallow* → *poco profundo*

ii. Abstract for Concrete

- *sleep in the open* → *dormir à la belle étoile*
- *sleep by the fire* → *sentarse junto a la chimenea*
- *La scrittura non è altro che una forma di parlare* → *Lo escrito no es otra cosa que una forma de hablar*

iii. Cause for Effect

- *You're quite a stranger* → *No se te ve el pelo* > *On ne vous voit plus*
- *The firing of cannons* → *El estampido de los cañones*

iv. One Part for Another

- *from cover to cover* → *de la primera hasta la última página*

v. Reversal of Terms

- *health insurance* → *seguro de enfermedad*
- *À feu et à sang* → *a sangre y fuego*
- *Safe and sound* → *Sano y salvo*

vi. Active for Passive

9. EQUIVALENCE (Vinay and Darbelnet) = To substitute a TL statement for a SL statement which accounts for the same situation, even though there is no formal or semantic correspondence.

To render a set phrase [idiom, cliché, “locución”] from the SL with a set phrase from the TL which expresses the same idea, although in a different way (Delisle).

Approximate equivalence of complete statements, accounting for the same situation in different terms. Different from modulation in that it belongs to the semantic level, not to the lexical level. An extreme case of ‘modulation’:

- *the story so far* → *Résumé des chapitres précédents*
- *The early bird catches the worm* → *A quien madruga Dios le ayuda*
- *One bitten, twice shy* → *El gato escaldado del agua fría huye*
- *Such hypocrisy makes me see red* → *Esas hipocresías me sacan de quicio*
- *Get off your backside and do something useful!* → *¡Deja de rascarte la barriga y ponte a hacer algo útil!*
- *No parking at all times* → *vado permanente*
- *You are welcome* → *de nada*

10. <ADAPTATION> (Vinay and Darbelnet) (CULTURAL EQUIVALENT for Newmark) = To replace a situation of the SL by an analogous situation of the TL (when communicative situations are difficult to understand in the culture of TL, when the situation of the SL does not exist in the TL - a cultural gap- and therefore another equivalent situation has to be created)

a) To replace a socio-cultural reality from the SL with a reality specific to the Target Culture in order to accommodate for the expectations of the Target Audience (Delisle)

- *Dear Sir* → *Muy señor mío*
- *Yours ever* → *Le saluda atentamente*
- *Saria male usar quelle parole antique toscane* → *Sería malo servirnos de aquellas palabras que ya están fuera de uso*
- *Dupont et Dupond* (characters in *Tinin*) → *Thomson and Thompson* → *Hernández y Fernández* >

b) A cultural SL word is translated by a TL cultural word (Newmark):

- *baccalauréat* is translated as '(the French) 'A' level'
- *He met her in the pub* → *La encontré en el bar* → *Il l' a retrouvée dans le café*
- *vingt mètres derrière lui* → *veinte metros por detrás de él* → *twenty yards behind him*

11. RECOGNISED TRANSLATION = Use of the official or generally accepted translation of any institutional term

- *Rechtsstaat* → *constitutional state*

12. FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT = To neutralise or generalise a SL cultural word by using a culture-free word

- *baccalauréat* → *French secondary school leaving exam*
- *he was not a diplomat but a wistful major in the Life Guards* → *No era diplomático sino triste general del Regimiento Real de Caballería*

13. COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS = To split up a lexical unit into its sense components

14. COMPENSATION = When loss of meaning, sound-effect, metaphor or pragmatic effect in one part of a sentence is compensated in another part, or in a contiguous sentence.

- *The atmosphere in the big gambling room had changed. It was now much quieter* → *El ambiente había cambiado por completo en la gran sala de juego, que ahora se encontraba más tranquila*

E.g. The French use of the pronoun *tu* to express familiarity between two people (as opposed to formal *vous*) could correspond in English to the use of a first name or nickname, or be marked by familiar syntactic phrases (ex. I'm, you're). (Delisle).

15. EXPANSION <AMPLIFICATION> = To use more words in the Target Text in order to re-express an idea or to reinforce the sense of a ST word because his correspondence in the TL cannot be expressed as concisely. (Delisle)

- *vivificante* → *life-giving*

- *penalty* (in football) → *tir de réparation*
- *Yorkshire* → *condado de Yorkshire*

16. DESCRIPTIVE EQUIVALENT, [related to Expansion or Amplification] = To neutralise or generalise a SL cultural word by using a description.

- *Samurai* → *Japanese aristocracy from the eleventh to the nineteenth century*

17. PARAPHRASE = Amplification or explanation of the meaning of a segment of the text.

For Delisle, paraphrase is the result of amplifying a TT by replacing a word from the ST with a group of words or phrasal expression that has the equivalent sense.

18. EXPLICITATION = To introduce precise details into the TT for clarification (Delisle)

- *To help resolve the basic questions of delegation* → *Para ayudar a resolver el problema fundamental de la delegación de poderes*

19. REDUCTION <CONCENTRATION> = <resulting in CONCISION and in ECONOMY>

- *computer science* → *informática*
- *machine à laver* → *lavadora*

20. OMISSION = To concentrate or suppress elements in the TL text

- *The committee has failed to act* → *La comisión no actuó*

21. <IMPLICATION> = A translation procedure intended to increase the economy of the TT and achieved by not explicitly rendering elements of information from the Source Text in the Target Text when they are evident from the context or the described situation and can be readily inferred by speaker of the TL

- *Be sure the iron is unplugged from the electrical outlet before filling with water* → *Desconectar la plancha siempre antes de llenar el depósito*

22. NOTES, ADDITIONS, GLOSSES = When the translator supplies additional information in the form of footnotes, endnote, glossaries at the end of the text, or within the text.

- *Debrecen* → *the city of Debrecen, in West Hungary*