

PAPER

## THE ART OF TRANSLATION

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### Abstract

The article explores translation as a unique type of activity that possesses artistic characteristics. It analyzes the role of the translator in intercultural communication, as well as the key concept of translation equivalence, which determines the degree of correspondence between the translation and the original text. It is emphasized that translation is not a mere mechanical reproduction of the source text but a creative process that requires analytical thinking, a deep understanding of linguistic structures, and cultural context. The distinction between literal and word-for-word translation is highlighted, along with the necessity of functional equivalence to achieve translation adequacy. The study examines the impact of linguistic asymmetry on the translation process and the need to preserve the stylistic features of the original. The article concludes that translation is not only the transfer of meaning from one language to another but also a complex intellectual act based on the translator's subjective perception.

**Key words:** translation, translation equivalence, intercultural communication, translation adequacy, linguistic asymmetry, stylistic accuracy.

### Introduction

The role of the translator in facilitating intercultural communication is of paramount importance. A translator serves as a crucial intermediary, ensuring the effective transmission of meaning between different linguistic and cultural communities. When reading translated works of foreign authors, one may seldom reflect on the intricacies of translation as an art form. Can translation be classified as an art? If so, should it be regarded as a creative endeavor akin to artistic expression, or is it a meticulously executed practical skill?

Translation, as a professional activity, employs a distinct set of methods and techniques. Many translated works exhibit remarkable craftsmanship, yet translations of the same text by different translators often differ significantly. This variability underscores the substantial expertise and effort required of a translator. Translation entails the precise reproduction of an original text using the linguistic resources of another language while preserving the integrity of both content and style. Unlike retelling, which conveys the general meaning of a text while omitting secondary details and disregarding stylistic fidelity, translation reconstructs the original unity of meaning and style within a new linguistic framework. Con-

sequently, the translated text forms a novel unity, adapted to the linguistic characteristics of the target language.

Like all forms of artistic expression, translation captures and represents reality. The outcome of translation is an individualized interpretation of reality, shaped by the translator's perception and linguistic choices. At the core of translation lies the concept of equivalence—defined as the degree to which a translation corresponds to the original in meaning and function. However, equivalence is rarely an exact replication of the source text; rather, it remains inherently subjective. Contrary to the common assumption that a translator merely recreates the reality depicted in the source text, translation does not entail a direct replication of the objective world described by the author. Instead, through the linguistic framework of the target language, the translator reconstructs the conceptual essence embedded in the original discourse.

Translation is fundamentally influenced by the translator's individual perception of the source text and their subjective ability to determine what is deemed equivalent. However, since no two languages share identical structures, the expressive potential of one language cannot fully encompass that of another<sup>1</sup>. The inherent asymmetry of languages—encompassing semantic, structural,

functional, and stylistic elements—further complicates the process. Translation is a complex, multidimensional task that extends beyond mere lexical substitution. Achieving accuracy requires not only the identification of appropriate lexical equivalents but also their integration into grammatically and syntactically appropriate structures. Additionally, stylistic considerations play a crucial role, as they contribute to preserving the intended tone and communicative effect of the original text.

Equivalence in translation can also encompass associative dimensions. In such cases, a translation may lack direct lexical correspondence with the original yet evoke similar emotional responses in the target audience. The study of translation can be approached from multiple perspectives, including historical, philosophical, literary, psychological, and pedagogical viewpoints. Simultaneously, translation operates within the bounds of rigorous logical reasoning, making it an intellectual process that necessitates analytical thinking.

It is essential to distinguish between literal and word-for-word translation, as these concepts are often conflated. Word-for-word translation retains the syntactic structure of the source language without altering sentence construction or significantly modifying word order. In contrast, literal translation frequently distorts the meaning of the original or violates the linguistic norms of the target language. A.V. Fedorov defines an adequate (or optimal) translation as one that accurately conveys the function of the original text while maintaining linguistic and stylistic integrity. Functional precision—an essential feature of adequate translation—often necessitates deviations from direct lexical correspondence to ensure the effective reconstruction of the source text's content and form within the target language system.

## Conclusion

In summary, translation is a specialized form of artistic and intellectual activity. Its foundational principle is translational equivalence, which ensures alignment with the original text from ontological, aesthetic, semiotic, and epistemological perspectives.

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