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CREATIVE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. CHALLENGES OF TRANSLATION - TERMINOLOGY STUDIES

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Abstract: When the pandemic struck in 2020, I thought to myself: I cannot just stand there and lose my minds while waiting for something good to happen. In other words, I decided to contribute to my personal development. I decided to enrol in the Master's Degree in"Babeș Bolyai" University. To be honest, I chose it not because it is a European master, because I did not know back then, but because it was cheaper. The European Master's Degree, Translation and Terminology Studies is indeed a European one. In the present article, I aim to speak about my personal experience of a master's degree student. Translations studies mean a lot more than we all thought they are. Thus, I intend to speak about my experience in Translation and Terminology studies**,** enlightening the most important aspects.

Keywords*:* *translation studies, terminology, term, source text, target text, translation task*

1. Introduction

"The truth is, I've become more and more convinced that everything Man does is utopian." (Gasset: 2000, p. 50) José Ortega y Gasset asserts in his essay, *The Misery and the Splendour of Translation.* He also states that, by nature, the human takes pride only in the unachievable activities. As Gasset himself states, "world history compels us to recognize Man's continuous, inexhaustible capacity to invent unrealizable projects". On the other hand, Gasset explains it, that it would be terribly boring for the human to deal with only successful/ satisfactory endeavours.

This is what occurs whenever we engage in that modest occupation called translating. Among intellectual undertakings, there is no humbler one. Nevertheless, it is an excessively demanding task. He then continues:

To write well is to make continual incursions into grammar, into established usage, and into accepted linguistic norms. It is an act of permanent rebellion against the social environs, a subversion. To write well is to employ a certain radical courage. Fine, but the translator is usually a shy character. Because of his humility, he has chosen such an insignificant occupation. He finds himself facing an enormous controlling apparatus, composed of grammar and common usage. What will he do with the rebellious text? Isn't

it too much to ask that he also be rebellious, particularly since the text is someone else's? He will be ruled by cowardice, so instead of resisting grammatical restraints he will do just the opposite: he will place the translated author in the prison of normal expression; that is, he will betray him. ***Traduttore, traditore****.*

To be honest, I am thrilled by this utopian task. I have always like to translate, yet, during the METT (European Master in Translation and Terminology Studies in UBB), I found out that the correct term for "translating" is "finding the equivalent for the TT and TC" (target text and target culture). This is because, the translator, as a linguistic professional has to deal with the translation task. The translation task comes from a client. The client has to offer as much information as possible, the BRIEF, in order to enable the translator deal with the translation task. The BRIEF resides in information about the aim of the translation, the recipient of the translation, time and place of the TT reception.

2. The translation process

The complex procedure of translation comprises three stages. They are *task initialisation* (1), *task fulfilment* (2) and *task evaluation* (3) to which Professor Anca Greere (Greere: 2003, p. 90) added a *derivative stage* (4). In the first stage, *task initialization*, the client discovers the source text (ST) and finds it relevant enough for the target culture (TC). Nonetheless, in order to render it accessible for TC, the text needs translation. This is the moment, when the client reaches out to the translator. Now, it is also the moment when the client asking for the translation service, provides the translator with the necessary information, residing in the domain of the text, the text genre and type, length and target language (TL). Depending on the familiarity of the translator with the domain as well as the feasibility of the translation task, the length of the text and the deadline, when the client wants the final product delivered, he may accept or decline the service. The translator is also entitled to see the ST before negotiating (price and deadline). Whether feasible, the translator accepts the task.

Let us suppose that the negotiation is fruitful and the translator has accepted the task. Accepting the translation task, the translator is now in the position to require more details about the ST, as to what is the aim of the translation, who are the recipients, where and when.

After he has accepted the translation task, the translator passes to the second stage, *task fulfilment*. During this stage, the translator has to determine the domain of the ST, unless

provide by the client. Determining the domain of the text, he then proceeds in dealing with the terminology deriving from the domain of the ST.

The third stage, *task evaluation* resides in quality control, which may be done by the translator himself as self-revision (revising both the TT and comparing TT with ST, monolingual or bilingual) by another translator (monolingual revision), by the client himself (he may check the accuracy of the data) or by the client, in the case of the addressees' reactions).

The fourth additional stage, added by Greere (Greere: 2003, p. 105) is a deviational one, which may be prove useful for the translator at some time. Thus, it refers to systematization of the files/ documents (glossaries, mainly) in order to be easily found when needed. Especially in the cases when the client satisfied by the translation wants to maintain the collaboration. Or, even if the client does not want a future collaboration, the systematization of the documents may be beneficial at some time.

3. The terminological work

Some may say that terminological activity is not relevant. Maybe, I would have said something similar before attending the classes of the European Master Degree. For this reason, I would like to demonstrate the importance of terminology. First, I will say that the terminological work has existed since antiquity. Thus, the need for terminology appeared with need for professional communication. In this sense, Picht refers to the German philosopher Oehler (Picht: 2011, p.7), who in turn asserts that Plato in 7th letter emphasizes that *the cognition of an object requires several cognitive media: the name, the definition, a clear representation by an illustration and the object itself.* Therefore, we operate with *object, concept and term.* This is because in everyday life, people see and deal with objects. Nonetheless, when speaking about them they become concepts defining the object (in our mind). When pertaining to a domain of knowledge, the concepts become terms. In other words, terminology deals with terms just as linguistics operates with words.

Each domain of cognition works with a terminology encompassing the totality of terms specific to that area. Terminology worked a long way until reaching this conclusion, though preoccupations existed. The first scholars, who reached the conclusion that specific specialised areas of knowledge needed specific terminology and worked in this sense, were the Austrian Eugen Wüster, the Latvian Ernst Drezen and the Russian Dmitrij Lotte, that are considered the spiritual fathers of modern terminology. Nonetheless, all three were engineers who recognised

the deficits of professional communication. Before them, the first historical attempts to improve terminologies were empirical and not very scientifically approached.

Nevertheless, these three engineers, though each of them independently, were aware of *lack of or incorrect conceptual ordering, confusion caused by excessive synonymy, lack of terms for the concept in a particular language, unclear and undefined concepts, language planning deficits (Picht: 20011, p. 7).* Yet, there were the specialists and language for specific purposes (LSP) media-tors (translators) who felt the need to improve professional communication by solving basic terminological problems (Picht: 2011, ibidem).

The cohort of researchers made possible formulating some principles underlying terminology as it is known nowadays, namely:

> *1. Terminology is not an isolated phenomenon which can be researched and practiced without close contact with other fields of knowledge. Terminology is a trans- and interdisciplinary field of knowledge.*
>
> *2. Terminology is embedded in 'cultural discourse', a concept which has been defined as "a very general semiotic concept, which corresponds to Wittgenstein's 'linguistic discourse'. This discourse includes verbal and non-verbal forms of representation in different quantitative constellations. Forms of representation often have a complementary function and may be interchangeable."*
>
> *3. The basic aim of terminology is a transfer of knowledge at different levels of professionalism with their corresponding registers.*
>
> *4. Terminology consists – as do many other fields of knowledge – of a theoretical and an applied part. (Picht: 2011, p. 6)*

In other words, terminology is an independent interdisciplinary field of knowledge. Terminology refers to "cultural discourse" corresponding to "linguistic discourse". Terminology encompasses transfer of knowledge at different levels of professionalism, each with their register. Just like other fields of knowledge, terminology consists of theoretical and applied parts.

4. Application

Interestingly, we have to mention that our approach to terminology, which, sad but true, of which many translators never heard (myself included, until now), it is important for the

professionals activating in translation field. The aim is to distinguish from the multitude of synonyms and related words those specific to a domain of knowledge. Yet, the terminological work and the research embedded translates through long hours of searching trustful sources of books written by specialists in the domain, doctoral theses, dictionaries or glossaries. The translator, dealing with a translation task commissioned by the client, cannot allocate too much time to this otherwise important aspect, unless, a close collaboration between the two, where the translator acknowledges the client about it.

In order to find the best equivalence of the ST into TT, and thus to fulfil the translation task, the translator should do a thorough research. The research should comprise parallel texts pertaining to same domain of knowledge as the ST. Terminologically speaking, it is important for the translator to determine the domain of the text correctly. This will help him in finding the equivalence in the TT. The parallel texts should include specialised dictionaries and glossaries, doctoral theses, articles in scientific journals, brochures) in the vase of technical texts and not only. Interesting enough is the fact that the translator should not quit searching in case of unsuccessful attempts. On the contrary, he should keep trying, sometimes it may last longer than expected that is why a close collaboration between the client and the translator regarding the deadline of the task is beneficial. In any case, terminological aspect is an important one in the translator activity.

With the aim to underline the importance of terminology, I will quote Cristina Varga (Varga: 2021, p. 493) *Recordar una realidad impactante vivida por una comunidad humana impone un uso peculiar de la terminología, más subjetivo y menos científico*[1]. This is to say that each target recipient lives in a specific reality. This reality is governed by its own customs and norms, memories and experiences different from that of other target recipients. When dealing with a translation task, the translator should consider the reality of the target recipients.

Speaking of the specialised terminology, the translator should pay close attention to ambiguity. One term may have a significance in one domain while in another may be completely different. For example, let us take the case of *cuvertură*. Going to Dicționarul explicativ, we find out that the first definition is *Învelitoare cu care se acoperă o masă, un pat sau cu care se învelește cineva (când doarme)* while the second *Ansamblu de sedimente care acoperă un soclu.*

[1] Amintirea unei realități traumatizante trăite de o comunitate umană impune o utilizare specifică a terminologiei, care este mai mult subiectivă și mai puțin științifică. (trad. MCD)

Or there may be cases, when "false friends" may obstruct the translation. Here is an example from Spanish, this time.

ST *Hay dos tipos de pulpa o pasta química: Kraft o sulfato (proceso básico) y sulfito (proceso ácido).*

TT *Există două tipuri de pastă de hârtie sau pastă chimică: kraft sau sulfat (proces de bazic) şi sulfit (proces acid).*

The term examined is "pulpa". A translator who does not pay close attention would translate "pulpă". Yet, after research in parallel texts, as it is the case of the brochures of the paper factories or companies, we found the equivalent according to the technical standards.

In other words, the translator should translate taking into consideration terms utilised in the TC (target culture). The reason is that finding the proper equivalent of the ST for TT, a displacement occurs from the SC, while in the case of TC, a replacement occurs of the term.

An illuminating example in this sense is "paper factory" or "paper company". The research resided in looking for the term with more occurrences (how many times it is used one or the other) and "paper company" is the most utilized term for "fabrică de hârtie". This is the situation when the SL (source language) is Romanian and TL is English. During the process of translation, the translator, as a linguistic expert acts as a mediator between the SC (source culture) and TT (target culture). For this reason, his decisions should govern the translation taking into account the communicative purpose of the translation.

With the aim to enlighten what terminology really means for the activity of the translators, we will annex a fragment from an English-Romanian glossary, which constituted our research activity of the last semester.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, the translation process may be difficult, yet, it is an enthralling activity, despite the time-consuming research.

The translation process is a complex procedure comprising three main stages with an additional stage.

The translation process begins with the client asking for a translation service. The brief is a collection of important information, necessary for the translator to fulfil the translation task.

In order to fulfil the translation task according to the reality of the target recipient, the translator must endeavour with some terminological activity, constituting an important aspect

of the translation activity. The terminological research comprises determination of the ST domain, extraction of the specialised terms, pertaining to the identified domain and finding trustful parallel texts helping the translator to fulfil correspondingly the translation task.

6. English-Romanian Glossary, afferent to the ST, *Crop Protection & the EU Food System Where are they going?* RISE Foundation, Buckwell, A., De Wachter, E., Nadeu, E., Williams, A. 2020, Brussels

Termen limba B/C	Gr.	Definiţie / Context	Termen Ro	Gr.	Definiţie / Context	Notă
biocontrol	n	**Definiție:** refers to a range of tools used to control pests, diseases and weeds based on naturally occurring compounds or organisms. (RISE, p. 11) **Context**: PPPs used in biocontrol must be sourced from nature or can be synthetized as long as they're nature identical and are sometimes called biopesticides. (RISE, p.11)	control biologic	s	**Definiție:** controlul unui organism prin intermediul altui organism. (REV.FERMA) **Context**: Metode de control biologic (a) utilizarea biopreparatelor entomopatogene; (b) lansări de artropode parazite, (c) lansări de nematozi paraziţi. (ICDPP)	This is a matter of displacement from ST and replacement into TT. The sources are trustful as they are specialized in the sub-subdomain, crop protection. (a magasine and a scientific article)
common agricultural policy (CAP)		**Definiție:** abbreviated as CAP, is the European Union agricultural policy, established under Article 33 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. (Eurostat) **Context**: Beyond the SUD, the principal	politica agricolă comună (PAC)	s	**Definiție:** Serie de reguli şi mecanisme ce reglementează producţia, procesarea şi comerţul cu produse agricole în Uniunea Europeană, accentul punându--se, din ce în ce mai mult, pe dezvoltarea rurală. (AC)	Here again a displacemnet of the term CAP occurs becoming PAC in the TT. The sources are

		policy aimed at influencing the behaviour of farmers and which might be used to influence the way crops are protected is the Common Agricultural Policy. (RISE, p. 24)			**Contex:** Lansată în 1962, politica agricolă comună (PAC) este un parteneriat între agricultură și societate, între Europa și agricultorii săi. (EC.EUROPA.EU)	documents of the EU, which are highly trusted.

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