

TOPIC

“The study of Susan Bassnett’s Translation Studies”

INTRODUCTION

In 1978, in a brief Appendix to the collected papers of the 1976 Louvain Colloquium on Literature and translation, Andre Lefevere proposed that the name Translation Studies should be adopted for the discipline that concerns itself with ‘the problems raised by the production and description of translations’ The term translation Studies may perhaps surprise those who had always assumed that such a discipline existed already in view of the widespread use of the term ‘translation’, particularly in the process of foreign language learning. But in fact the systematic study of translation is still in swaddling bands. Precisely because translation is perceived as an intrinsic part of the foreign language teaching process, it has rarely been studied for its sake. What is generally understood translation involves the rendering of a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) so as to ensure that the surface meaning of the two will be approximately similar and the structures of the SL will be preserved as closely as possible but not closely that the TL structure will be seriously distorted. The instructor can then hope to measure the student’s linguistic competence, by means of the TL product. But there the matter stops. The stress throughout is on understanding the syntax of the language being study and on using translation as a means of demonstrating that understanding.

Translation has been perceived as a secondary activity as a ‘mechanical’ rather than a ‘creative’ process within the competence of anyone with a basic grounding in a language other than their own; in short, as a low status occupation. Discussion of translation products has all too often tended to be on a low level too; studies purporting to discuss translation ‘scientifically’ are often little more than idiosyncratic value judgements of randomly selected translation of the work of major writers such as Homer, Rilke, Baudelaire or Shakespeare. What is analyzed in such studies is the product only the end result of the translation process and not the process itself.

The powerful Anglo – Saxon anti- theoretical tradition has proved Especially unfortunate with regard to Translation Studies, for it has merged so aptly with the legacy of the 'servant - translator' that arose in the English - speaking World in the nineteenth century. In the eighteenth century there had been a number of studies on the theory and practice of translation in various

European languages, and 1791 had seen the publication of the first theoretical essay on translation in English, Alexander Tytler's *Essay on the Principles of Translation*.

Hence Dante Gabriel Rossetti could declare in 1861 that the work of the translator involved self-denial and repression of his own creative impulses, suggesting that

Often would he avail himself of any special grace of his own

Idiom and epoch, if only his will belonged to him, often would

Some cadence serve him but for his author's structure - some structure but for his author's cadence.....

TYPES OF TRANSLATION

In this article 'On Linguistic Aspects of Translation', Roman Jakobson distinguishes three types of translation:

1. Intralingual translation, or rewording (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs in the same language).
2. Interlingual translation or translation proper (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language).
3. Intersemiotic translation or transmutation (an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of nonverbal sign systems).

Having established these three types, of which translation proper describes the process of transfer from SL to TL, Jakobson goes on immediately to point to the central problem in all types: that while messages may serve as adequate interpretations of code units or messages, there is ordinarily no full equivalence through translation. Even apparent synonymy does not yield equivalence, and Jakobson's combination of code units in order to fully interpret the meaning of a single unit. Hence a dictionary of so-called synonyms may give perfect as a synonym for ideal or vehicle as a synonym for conveyance but in neither case can there be said to be complete equivalence, since each unit contains within itself a set of non-transferable associations and connotations.

HISTORY OF TRANSLATION THEORY

No introduction to Translation Studies could be complete without consideration of the discipline in an historical perspective, but the scope of such an enterprise is far too vast to be covered adequately in a single book, let alone in a single chapter, what can be done in the time

and space allowed here is to look at the way in which certain basic lines of approach to translation have emerged at different periods of European and American culture and to consider how the role and function of translation has varied. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the study of translation, especially in its diachronic aspect, is a vital part of literary and cultural history. Some historical translation works are here:

1. The Romans
2. Bible Translation
3. Post - Romanticism
4. The Victorians

SEPCIFIC PROBLEMS OF LITERARY TRANSLATION

Anne cluysenaar, in her book on literary stylistics, makes some important points about translation. The translator, she believes, should not work with a general perspective when determining what to perceive or parallel from the SL text, but should work with an eye 'on each individual structure, whether it be prose or verse', since 'each structure will lay stress on certain linguistic features or levels and not on others'. She goes on to analyze.

POETRY TRANSLATION

Within the field of literary translation, more time has been devoted to investigating the problems translating poetry than any other literary mode. Many of the studies purporting to investigate these problems are either evaluations of different translations of a single work or proposal statements by individual translators on how they have set about solving problems. Rarely do studies of poetry and translation try to discuss methodological problems from a non-empirical position, and yet it is precisely that type of study that is most valuable and most needed.

TRANSLATING PROSE

Although there is a large body of work debating the issues that surround the translation of poetry, far less time has been spent studying the specific problems of translating literary prose. One explanation for this could be the higher status that poetry holds, but it is more probably due to the widespread erroneous notion that a novel is somehow a simpler structure than a poem and is consequently easier to translate.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural processes involved in translation.
2. To establish and refine theories that explain how translation works.
3. To establish criteria for assessing the quality of translations and to develop methods for evaluating the effectiveness and accuracy of translated texts.
4. To investigate how cultural differences impact translation and how translation can facilitate cross-cultural communication.
5. To explore the various contexts in which translation occurs, such as literary translation, technical translation, localization, and audiovisual translation. Each area may have its own practices and challenges.

HYPHOTHESIS

1. Every language has so many synonyms for one particular word.
2. Translation Universals
3. Other Translation Universals
4. Qualitative/Quantitative Impoverishment
5. Destruction of Rhythms/Networks/Patternings
6. Testing and Refinement
7. Theoretical Frameworks
8. Actually every words has its own significance and can't be replaceable most of the time.

DELIMITATION

Translation studies face limitations due to inherent differences between languages, cultures, and contexts, making perfect equivalence unattainable, and also due to the challenges of translating idioms, cultural nuances, and evolving languages.