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Questions for discussion

1. What is the difference between interpreting and translating? In what ways do the qualifications of interpreter and translator differ? Discuss the relative difficulties of the two activities.

They differ that one is done written and the other is orally.

Translator:

-ability to write well

-to express him/herself clearly in the target language

-professional translators almost always work in only one direction, translating only into their native language.

-And many excellent translators are far from being bilingual - they may not be, and need not be, fluent speakers of the source language (the language of the original text being translated).

-The key skills of the translator are the ability to understand the source language and the culture of the country where the text originated, and, using a good library of dictionaries and reference materials, render that material into the target language.

Interpreter:

-has to be able to translate in both directions

-without the use of any dictionaries or reference

-right away

1. What is faithful translation? What factors must be taken into account to produce a faithful translation?A faithful translation gives the reader the same meaning and impression that it would give in the original language. The factors are: set phrases, connotation, style and tone, Anglicism, regional differences, cultural adjustments.
2. Eugene Nida has written, “The appropriate response to the question ‘Is this a correct translation?’ must be another question ‘correct for whom?’” Explain.

The translator should focus on the prime reader or the reader who is gonna make use of the text. For example a prescription is written for the pharmacist in technical language, so it doesn’t matter if the patient doesn’t understand, the one that must understand is the pharmacist.

1. Explain whether an attempt should be made to rationalize obviously confused or garbled statements in translating the following:

-Ramson note: it shouldn’t be rationalize because it is sensitive material and it should be faithfully translated so the professionals are able to analyze every detail.

-Bomb thread: it should not be rationalized either.

-Instruction to client to appear in court: I think this could be rationalized because it is for a client who may not understand some legal terminologies(at least this client has a lawyer, to be sure, we always ask).

-Excerpt from a diary to be used in evidence: It should not be rationalized for the same reasons I gave about the ramson note.

-Medical examiner’s report: it should not be rationalized.

-Transcript of statement made by mental patient: it should not be rationalized because doctors need to analyze whatever the patient has said even if it doesn’t make sense to the translator.

1. Explain the approach you will use in translating the following, can you find equivalents?

The approach will be to find the set phrases that are equivalent to the ones in the original language to creat the same feeling in the reader..

-Rome wasn’t built in a day: no se ganó Zamora en una hora.

-It’s an ill wind that blows nobody good:

-It’s time to throw in the sponge : hay que saber cuando tirar la toalla.

-She was born with a silver spoon in her mouth: nacio en cuna de oro

-El hábito no hace al monje: all that glitters is not gold

-Metiendo muchas cucharas se echa a perder la sopa:

-Le canté las cosas claras: I went straight to the point.

-No te dejes dar gato por liebre: To be sold a pig in a poke.

1. Give some examples of anglicisms. Explain whether or not would you use them in writing a newspaper article in Spanish.

Examples: party, mouse, click, bar, wachiman.

I would use some of these such as bar and click, but I would rather use the Spanish equivalents.

1. Explain why it is difficult to translate the following.

Baby sitter

Suburb

Singles bar

¡Que sea enhorabuena!

Guayabera

Minister (of a church)

Oficialía de estado civil

These statements happen to have a cultural discrepancy. These terms are very attached to cultural situations that vary from a counry to another.