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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Date: April 4, 2012 | Subject: Translation | |

**Questions for discussion**

1. *What is the difference between interpreting and translating? In what way do the qualification of interpreter and translator differ? Discuss the relative difficulty of the two activities?*

**Answer:** Translating is the process of carrying across the meaning of a written text from one language to another. In contrast, Interpreting is the activity of transporting meaning orally from one language to another.

**Qualification of interpreters**

* Work in a variety of settings, such as conferences, meetings and over the telephone.
* Able to translate in both directions on the spot, without using dictionaries or other supplemental reference materials.
* Have extraordinary listening abilities, especially for simultaneous interpreting.
* Process and memorize the words that the source-language speaker is saying now, while simultaneously outputting in the target language the translation of words the speaker said 5-10 seconds ago.
* Have to possess excellent public speaking skills.

**Qualification of translator**

* Work with different types of written works, including literature, newspapers, contracts, software interfaces, and web sites.
* Ability to understand the source language and the culture of the country where the text was originated.
* Use a good library of dictionaries and reference materials; render that material clearly and accurately into the target language.

1. *What is a faithful translation? What factors must be taken into account to produce a faithful translation?*

**A:** A faithful translation is the one that gives “…readers and audience the impression that they would have if they could hear or read the original”(American translators association).

Some factors that must be taken into account in order to produce a faithful translation are:

* Prime reader
* Gains and losses
* Connotation
* Natural expressions
* Set phrases
* Regional differences
* Anglicism
* Style and tone
* Cultural adjustments

1. *Eugene Nida has written, “The appropriate response to the question” ‘Is this a correct translation?’ Must be another question, ‘correct for whom?’” Explain.*

**A:** I think that Eugene Nida should, first of all, write the context of what is going on. By only writing “The appropriate response to the question”, I get confused. I do not even know what she is talking about. Her translation lacks of sense to me.

1. *Explain whether an attempt should be made to rationalize obviously confused or garbled statements in translation the fallowing:*

* **Ransom note:** I would not dare to rationalize any confused statement in this type of situation because I would give the wrong impression thinking that what I have in mind is actually what the kidnapers are trying to say.
* **Bomb threat:** In this case, I would not rationalize any garbled statement because I can be omitting what can be helpful in order to deal with the situation.
* **Instruction to client to appear in a court:** In this case, I would rationalize any confused statement in order to help my client, especially if I know about the field.
* **Excerpt from a diary to be used in evidence:** I would not rationalize any confused statement in this case because I may carry across a wrong meaning that might affect someone negatively.
* **Medical examiner`s report:** In this situation, I would ask for the primary reader and then I would decide. If the primary reader is another doctor, I will not rationalize it because they usually can understand each other very well. If the primary reader is just a client, I would try to work it out to make it more understandable.
* **Transcript of a statement made by mental patient:** I will by no means rationalize any confused statement in this case because since I am dealing with a transcript of a statement of a mental patient, I do not think that it will be easy to understand what he is trying to say.

1. *Explain the approach you would use in translating the fallowing. Can you find equivalence?*

**A:** In all of the following cases, I would use set phrases so that the translation can sound more natural.

* Roma wasn`t built in a day:

*No se ganó Zamora en una hora.*

* It`s an ill wind that blows nobody woods:

*No hay mal que por bien no venga.*

* It`s time to throw in the sponge:

*Tengo ganas de tirar la toalla.*

* She was born with a silver spoon in her mouth:

*Nació en cuna de oro.*

* El hábito no hace al monje:

*It is not the cowl that makes the monk.*

* Metiendo muchas cucharas, se echa a perder la sopa:

*Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

* Le cante las cosas claras.

*I told him what I had to say.*

* No te dejes dar gato por liebre.

*Don't let yourself be fooled into a sense of safeness, since it may not last.*

1. *Give some example of Anglicism. Explain whether or not you would use them in writing a newspaper article in Spanish.*

* Watchman
* Mouse
* Trip
* Party
* mail
* Chat
* Friend
* Pretty
* Baby
* Cool
* nice

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

* **Baby sister:** It would be hard to translate it into Spanish because baby sisters in the US only take care of children while in some Spanish speaking countries, they are maids as well.
* **Suburb:** At the US, it is a place where wealthy people live in. It will be hard to find an exact equivalent and by using other words, an inaccurate meaning can be provided.
* **Single bar:** These types of bars are not very common in Panama and people can be confused if a literal translation is made.
* **Que sea enhorabuena:** It is difficult to find something similar in English and by trying to find something similar, there can be gains or losses.
* **Guayabera:** This is a regional word commonly used in Panama but in English speaking countries it is not. That is what makes it hard to translate it.
* **Minister (of the church):** This Word can be referring to a pastor or a minister who is part of a government.
* **Oficial del estado civil:** This can be someone who works as a public police or someone who works in marital affairs.