

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSLATION AND STRATEGIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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**Abstract:** Learning a foreign language can definitely become a challenge for learners in terms of unlikely grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, not least for undergraduates who are still in an acquisition process. Various strategies and factors have been found to encourage students to get motivated. The purpose of this paper is to focus on what students' beliefs are about the role of translation in learning a foreign language and how many of them consider and use it as a crucial tool while learning a language. Significantly, the key research methods, especially involve an online questionnaire on which the percentages of students who answered are represented in a specific university by both qualitative and quantitative research. One of the most fundamental aspects of a learning language is undoubtedly a translation by which learners not only comprehend the meaning of what they are acquiring in the second language, but also they can understand key inclusions of a particular language, such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Overall, survey carried out online, involving 55 participants, showed that majority of respondents consider translation as one of the most significant factors in learning a foreign language, meanwhile, most of them mention that they use dictionaries in order to translate.

**Keywords:** second language, pronunciation, key inclusions, translation strategies

## INTRODUCTION

Clearly, acquiring a foreign language includes plenty of factors and tactics, and one of the most pivotal them is without a doubt a translation process in which the comprehension of a certain source, more importantly an accuracy of the language, lies. It is said that translation is a process in which the meaning of the context is facilitated by turning one language into another, or vice versa in Numan M. Al-Musawi's (2014) research work [1]. It is true that translation stands at the forefront of learning a second language since only after comprehending what is presented in the context regardless of which aspect of the language such as grammar rules, structure, vocabulary and etc., the importance of the language could be understood. For instance, whoever is inclined to learn a new language tends to start by a memorization of vocabulary even which is learned by heart with the translation of a native language to obtain the meaning of the word. Notably, it can be straightforward to store foreign words in one's mind with the translation and definition of the word rather than just memorising. Speaking of techniques and strategies to utilize, there are a number of translation strategies and each learner uses them in terms of their preferences and abilities to catch. According to Sanjun San (2013), in "Strategies of Translation": The

Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics, majority of researchers consider that there are two prototype strategies of translation which are literal translation and free translation. The first stresses word level while the latter goes beyond the word level and emphasizes the creation of a target text sounding natural in a target language [2]. By saying that it means various word levels are available in every language, let's take English as an example in which there are six word levels, including A1, A2, B1, B1, C1, C2. The comprehension of a word varies in terms of sophistication, number of syllabus and pronunciation as levels rise. Rather than trying to use complicated and high-level words, in free translation translator is more likely to utilize low-level and the ones coming to their mind at first. In spite of an inevitable role of vocabulary memorization in learning these levels step by step, by means of translation the meaning of context could be obtained, making easier to reminisce words with definition or examples of words. Thus, the importance of translation is prevalent in learning foreign languages, as well as its strategies. Fei YE (2023) states that translation assists students applying their language knowledge to real-contexts. In the process of translation, students need to accurately opt for appropriate words and phrases, perform language conversion and expression, hence cultivating their language application skills in practical communication and writing. Through translation process, students can learn how to express their thoughts and ideas via language, honing their language expression skills and accuracy [3].

This research paper explores the significance of translation in undergraduates in tertiary education, delving into reasons why it is crucial, the methods through which the suitable translation results could be attained. By using research methods, especially quantitative and qualitative, students' opinions about the role of translation and what kind of strategies and methods they use for translation were collected.

### **Literature review:**

#### **The significance of translation**

While discussing translation matters and strategies, it is essential to mention others' opinions about it and what they considered about role these factors. When spoken about translation most individuals believe that it means an original text in a particular language and its meaning in a native language which converted by a means of translators. Similarly, Boris Buden (2006) also thinks that there are always two elements of a translating process, an original text in one language and its secondary production in some other language. It is therefore its relation to the original, which decisively determines every translation [4]. Additionally, translation also matters in cultural realms, for example, prominent manuscripts, sagas, poems, novels and to name but few, all of which become well-known after being transferred from one language into another one. Let's take Agatha Christie's renowned detective novels, or Arthur Conan Doyle's, drawing excessively huge attention from not only in the European countries, but also all over the world. No one would be interested in or enjoy these detective literatures unless they are not available translated in many languages. Hence, Gelavizh Abbasi (2012) says that translation is not only restricted to fundamental aspects and features of culture, but also modern science and foreign histories are transferred by. Thus, consideration like translator should be able to eradicate and demolish boundaries is not always correct. The borders are to be crossed by it in order to communicate with cultures [5].

## Translation methods

As for strategies and methods, Jerome said that two things are necessary for a good translation - an adequate understanding of the original language (source language) and an adequate command of the language into which one is translating (receptor language) [5]. However, for a good translation only understanding these two factors may not be enough, if other factors such as idioms, jargons and phrases are taken into consideration. Unless, translator is not aware of these necessary components of a language, the meaning of the context may not be comprehensive or understandable, particularly for learners studying in lower steps of the language.

According to Newmark (1988b: 45-47p), here are some translation methods:

- Word-for-word translation: in which the SL word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context.
- Literal translation: in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.
- Faithful translation: it attempts to produce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.
- Semantic translation: which differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text.
- Adaptation: which is the freest form of translation, and is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.

- Free translation: it produces the TL text without the style, form, or content of the original.

Idiomatic translation: it reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

- Communicative translation: it attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership [6].

These translation methods are essential depending on the realms they are utilized. For example, while the first one is largely used by beginners, the next also called direct translation is used in academic and formal text. It is also worth noting that in this type of translation idioms, slangs and such expressions cannot be used, if done so this may trigger mistranslation since words are translated directly. Faithful translation concerns with the meaning of the text which means one can acquire general meaning of the context, albeit a lack of vocabulary or grammar, whereas in semantic translation aesthetic value, namely beautiful sounding plays crucial role. This method is especially used in literary works with expressive texts, including idioms and other phrases, concerning with meaning rather than strict structure. As for adaptation method, it is used when its equivalent cannot be found target language. It is particularly encountered in films, marketing and dubbing. Free translation has nothing to do with original text regardless of grammar structure, vocabulary, or punctuation, but the meaning of the text. Idiomatic translation focuses on natural sounding of the context, using colloquial language to become natural in the target

language, in speaking to understand the meaning in idiomatic way. Finally, last one prioritizes reader's understanding meaning and response to acceptance, ensuring that reader comprehends meaning of the text effectively and naturally. Notably, all methods should be utilized in their own spheres, so no misunderstanding would occur between learners of each method, thus, being aware of what really these methods are, knowing exactly where each one can be used helps learners distinguish them from another. Take word-for-word and faithful translation methods as an example which cannot be compared to each other, otherwise reader could be confused, even cannot understand true meaning of the text.

### Methodology

The aim of this research work was to learn the significance of translation in academic life and concern what kind of translation methods and procedures are utilized the most by learners in translation process. Focusing on such objectives, this paper put relevant questions for undergraduate students in a particular university most of whom were over 18, including major, frequency of their use of translation strategies, the importance of translation rating 1 to 5, cases in which they use translation procedures the most, and strategies they for translation. Overall, 55 students took part in this survey and the results presented below. It became obvious from the survey that majority of students major in English Philology faculty and many of whom translate texts for academic purposes on a daily basis. It is also worth noting that more than half of the respondents translate between English most frequently and the rest constituted other languages, while almost 30% of them marked translation with 5 as important. Approximately 40% of participants marked that they translated reading academic texts, whereas the percentage of participants using dictionaries, particularly WISDOM, made up 60%. General results mean that the amount of respondents considering translation is crucial for learning language is significantly high and the strategies they are using various, albeit the dominance of dictionaries.

### Findings and Discussion

The findings of this study provide compelling evidence for the significance of Translation and its strategies for undergraduate students. Both quantitative and qualitative data collected consistently emphasize the prevalent use of translation in academic life, especially in academic texts, lectures given in foreign language, communication, or in writing assignments. The quantitative analysis revealed that undergraduate students perceive translation as highly valuable in learning a foreign language. The qualitative findings further enriched our understanding of translation. Other researchers' works also identified the significance of translation from different angles and highlighted some method types that are beneficial for obtaining languages depending on fields they are used, such as in literature, communication, or other different areas. This document analysis displayed that while many researchers have made efforts to hone translation procedures to make easier for students to learn foreign languages effectively, space for improvement into this field has yet to be filled. There is still a need for more effective translation and language learning techniques and to stress inevitable factors of a language, not only focus on learning grammar rules and vocabulary memorization, but also the need to improve comprehension, the meaning of the context should equally be prioritized. The advent of novel kinds of dictionaries, not only providing translation of a certain word or text, but also challenging learners by making them solve puzzles related this content, should be discovered, by doing that critical, logical thinking and problem-solving skills could be facilitated.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this study underlines the critical role of translation and its techniques in preparing undergraduate students for learning foreign languages. By comprehending function of translation and its procedures in undergraduate curricula, higher education institutions can provide students with necessary skills and tactics to be proficient in foreign languages who can contribute to teach future learners by what they have got related to language learning experience. However, it is vital to have proper planning beforehand, by collaborating with other translators, interpreters and other professionals. By prioritizing translation and its tactics, higher education organizations can entitle their students to be adept at learning foreign languages.

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