

-5-

## Translation: Types of Texts

### Translation:

- Translation is the process of transferring the meaning of the source language **text** into the target language **text**.
- Translation is the replacement of **textual** material in one language by equivalent **textual** material in another language.

## Types of Texts

### The text type-typology approach

Genre-based classification of texts to be translated:

#### **Fedorov (1953) - 3 groups of texts:**

- 1- news and reviews, official and technical documents, and scientific texts,
- 2- political texts, newspaper editorials, and speeches,
- 3- literary texts.

#### **Mounin (1967) - 7 groups:**

- religious texts, literary texts, poetry, children's literature, stage texts, movie texts, and technical texts.

#### translation-focused text typology

- 1- **content-focused** texts: (descriptive function)
- 2- **form-focused** texts: (expressive function)
- 3- **appeal-focused** texts: the (appeal function)
- 4- **audio-medial** text type: (reaches the receptor *not* via printed media)

### **1- The translation of content-focused texts**

#### **For example:**

- press releases, commentaries, news reports, users' manuals, copyright specifications, official documents, non-fiction, specialized books, essays, reports.
- They are focused on conveying information.
- The translator's task is to transmit the SL content in full.

## 2- Translation of form-focused texts

### For example:

literary prose (essays, biographies), imaginative prose (anecdotes, short stories), poetry.

## 3- Translation of appeal-focused texts

### For example:

- commercials, ads, texts related to missionary work, propaganda materials.
- both the content and the form are intended to provoke a particular reaction in the listener reader (appeals for likes and dislikes, or for specific actions -- e.g., shopping -- or the ceasing of specific actions: e.g., smoking).
- The aim of the translator is not to reflect the content or the form of the SL text, but to appeal.

## 4- Translation of audio-medial texts

### For example:

radio and television materials and theatre plays the message reaches the receiver (audience, listener) via a channel.

### The typology of specialized texts

Vannikov's (1987) study:

- a detailed and multidimensional typology of specialized texts.
- 11 features on the basis of which scientific and technical texts have to be characterized to **provide sufficient guidance for translators:**

## 1- Characterization of text on the basis of linguistic organization

- **1.1** Texts with a rigorous structure and with strict linguistic formulation,
- **1.2** Texts with a soft structure, allowing the translator greater variety regarding linguistic formulation;

## 2- Characterization on the basis of the functional style

- 2.1 Scientific texts
- 2.2 Technical texts
- 2.3 Official texts
- 2.4 Legal texts
- 2.5 Journalistic texts

## 3- Characterization on the basis of functional register

- 3.1 Scientific texts → 3.1.1 Academic texts, 3.1.2 Texts with an educational purpose, 3.1.3 Encyclopaedic texts);
- 3.2 Technical texts → 3.2.1 Technical descriptions, 3.2.2 Instructions, 3.2.3 Technical information);
- 3.3 Official texts → 3.3.1 Official directions, 3.3.2 Management texts, 3.3.3 Official correspondence);
- 3.4 Legal texts → 3.4.1 Technical documentation, 3.4.2 Descriptions of inventions, 3.4.3 Patent management texts);
- 3.5 Journalistic texts → 3.5.1 Scientific journalistic texts 3.5.2 Popular science texts

## 4- Characterization on the basis of manner of expression

- 4.1 Narrative texts,
- 4.2 Descriptive texts,
- 4.3 Explanatory texts,
- 4.4 Argumentative texts

## 5- Characterization on the basis of logical content

- 5.1 Exposition/Discussion,
- 5.2 Justification,
- 5.3 Conclusion,
- 5.4 Definition.

## 6- On the basis of subject-related contents

- 6.1 Texts in exact sciences,
- 6.2 Texts in natural sciences,
- 6.3 Texts in social sciences;

## 7- On the basis of manner of communication

- 7.1 Texts for oral communication
- 7.2 Texts for written communication

## 8- On the basis of genre

- 8.1 Book
- 8.2 Monograph
- 8.3 Article/Paper
- 8.4 Dissertation
- 8.5 Presentation/Lecture
- 8.6 letter
- 8.7 Report
- 8.8 Comments

## 9- On the basis of the primary or secondary nature of the information

- 9.1 Primary information,
- 9.2 Secondary information
  - 9.2.1 Report,
  - 9.2.2 Annotation,
  - 9.2.3 Review,
  - 9.2.4 Bibliographical description,
  - 9.2.5 Bibliography

## 10 On the basis of expressive-stylistic features

- 10.1 Stylistically rich/colorful text
- 10.2 Stylistically poor/not colorful text

## 11 On the basis of general pragmatic features

- 11.1 Texts addressed to the SL reader
- 11.2 Texts addressed to the TL reader
- 11.3 Texts addressed to any audience

### Stages of the translation process:

- 1- Find as much information as possible related to the text.
- 2- Read the text carefully, paying attention to its content, purpose, and style.
- 3- Find synonyms in the target language for the words that require special attention.
- 4- Make the rough translation.
- 5- Make the final translation.