

Meeting assets for Criticism 20.11 are ready!

Meeting summary

Overview

This lecture focused on translation techniques, criticism, and practical applications in professional translation. The session included student presentations on various translation projects, including literary translations, song adaptations, and religious text comparisons. The instructor, Andre, provided feedback on students' analyses of translation techniques such as modulation, transposition, explicitation, and adaptation. The class also discussed the impact of machine translation tools like DeepL, Google Translate, and AI-powered translation services, comparing their effectiveness against human translation.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation techniques: modulation, transposition, explicitation, adaptation, and dynamic equivalence
- Comparison between literal translation and adaptation based on target audience needs
- Cultural considerations in translation across different languages
- Machine translation capabilities and limitations compared to human translation
- The importance of side-by-side comparison in translation analysis

Important Questions Raised:

- How do machine translation tools compare to human translation in preserving meaning and emotional tone?
- What translation techniques are most effective for different types of texts (literary, technical, religious)?
- How do cultural differences affect translation choices between languages?
- What is the future role of human translators in an era of advancing AI translation tools?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Understanding various translation techniques is fundamental to producing quality

translations that preserve meaning across languages

- Translation is not merely word substitution but requires analysis of context, cultural nuances, and target audience needs
- Machine translation tools have improved significantly but still require human oversight and editing
- Side-by-side comparison of source and target texts is essential for effective translation analysis
- Different text types (literary, technical, religious) require different translation approaches and techniques

Topic 1: Literary Translation Analysis

The class examined translations of literary works, including Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and Pablo Neruda's poetry. Karina presented her analysis of a scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, comparing the original Old English text with Spanish translations and machine translations. She highlighted the challenges of understanding archaic English vocabulary and syntax, noting that even the original Spanish translation used elevated, classical language that modern readers might find difficult. The machine translation (using Deep AI) simplified the text considerably, making it more accessible but potentially losing some of the poetic qualities of the original. This comparison demonstrated how translation approaches can significantly impact reader experience, with more literal translations preserving style but potentially creating comprehension barriers, while modernized translations improve accessibility but may sacrifice literary nuance.

Topic 2: Song and Religious Text Translation

Students presented analyses of song translations/adaptations and religious text translations. Karina analyzed the official song of the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama, comparing the original Spanish version with Portuguese and English versions. She found that the Portuguese translation was nearly identical to the Spanish original, preserving meaning, tone, structure, and theological focus. However, the English version was an adaptation rather than a literal translation, with significant transformations in the lyrics. Ana presented on translations of Psalm 23 from the Bible, comparing the New International Version (English) with the Biblia de Jerusalén (Spanish). She identified differences in translation approaches, with the English version emphasizing accessibility for modern readers while the Spanish version stayed closer to the original Hebrew poetic structure. These examples illustrated how translation choices

reflect different priorities: preserving original form versus adapting content for target audiences.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: And why did they write aiding instead of helping? That's also traditional in English. When you have usual words that come from the German roots of English help. And other more formal, like aid, aiding.

Edward: Reading the title, I would have gone with helping. When somebody says they are aiding this illegal website, it's like they proactively reach out to support that illegal activity.

Topic 3: Machine Translation and Professional Practice

The class discussed the capabilities and limitations of various machine translation tools, including DeepL, Google Translate, ChatGPT, and Gemini. Edward presented his analysis of news article translations from Japanese and Russian sources, noting that while machine translations generally preserved the core information, there were significant differences in word choice, sentence structure, and cultural adaptations. The class observed that machine translation tools have improved dramatically, with some now capable of making appropriate cultural adaptations and providing explanatory context (like Google Translate explaining what "Obamacare" means in a Spanish translation). However, students and the instructor agreed that human translators still provide essential value through their ability to understand context, make appropriate cultural adaptations, and ensure accuracy in specialized terminology. The discussion highlighted the evolving relationship between human translators and machine translation tools.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: You men have to be aware of the competition that comes from all these tools. We have more work, in fact, but a lot of work now is reviewing these automatic or machine translations.

Karina: The human touch will always be necessary. Always.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Complete the final project, which includes creating an index of all projects and writing final conclusions
- Take the final test for course completion
- For students who haven't presented all projects, prepare to present remaining projects next week
- Review and ensure all projects follow the correct format with side-by-side

comparison of source and target texts

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Gutenberg website for accessing original literary translations
- DeepL and Google Translate for machine translation comparisons
- ChatGPT and Gemini AI tools for GIST translations and analysis
- Bible versions: New International Version (English) and Biblia de Jerusalén (Spanish) for comparative translation analysis

Meeting assets for Criticism Nov 13 are ready!

Meeting summary

Overview

This lecture focused on translation techniques and project presentations by students. The session covered various translation approaches including modulation, transposition, adaptation, and equivalence across different text types: literary works, legal documents, songs, and subtitling. Students presented their translation projects analyzing specific examples from English to Spanish, French to English/Spanish, and vice versa, highlighting the challenges and strategies used in each case.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation techniques: modulation (semantic shifts), transposition (grammatical/word order changes), adaptation (cultural equivalence), and functional equivalence
- Legal translation principles and terminology equivalence
- Literary translation approaches for maintaining tone and meaning
- Song/poem adaptation versus direct translation
- Subtitling techniques and cultural considerations

Important Questions Raised:

- How do translators balance literal translation with cultural adaptation?
- What techniques are most appropriate for different text types (legal, literary, songs)?
- How do languages like French, Spanish and English differ in their poetic and musical expressions?
- When is adaptation more appropriate than direct translation?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation requires different techniques depending on text type, purpose, and target audience
- Legal translation demands precision and knowledge of established terminology
- Literary translation balances faithfulness to the original with natural expression in the target language
- Song and poetry translation often requires adaptation rather than literal translation
- Cultural context significantly impacts translation choices and strategies
- Subtitling presents unique challenges in timing, space constraints, and cultural adaptation

Topic 1: Literary Translation Analysis

The first student presentation analyzed a translation of "The Scarlet Letter" from English to Spanish. Published in 1850 by Nathaniel Hawthorne, this novel is set in 17th century Puritan New England and follows Hester Prynne, who bears a child out of wedlock and must wear a scarlet "A" as punishment. The presenter identified several translation techniques in the Spanish version, including modulation, transposition, and implication. For example, the phrase "the rapture broke into speech" was translated as "su éxtasis desbordó en palabras" (their ecstasy overflowed into words), demonstrating semantic and grammatical shifts to maintain the poetic tone while making it sound natural in Spanish. Another example showed how "the street and the marketplace absolutely babbled from side to side with applause of the ministry" was translated using modulation to adapt the verb "babble" to "murmuraban" in Spanish, as a direct translation would have implied baby talk rather than the intended meaning of collective noise.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: What I'm surprised here is the original, when you say... They, the hearers. I told another what each knew better than he could tell or hear. He is... Refers to the minister, right?

Kary: Mm-hmm, exactly.

Topic 2: Legal Translation Techniques

The second presentation examined legal translation between English and Spanish, focusing on a United Nations document about maritime traffic and a pension document. The presenter identified several translation techniques specific to legal texts. For example, "states bordering straits" was translated as "los estados ribereños de los estrechos," using a functional equivalence since "ribereños" is the technical term in Spanish maritime law rather than a literal translation of "bordering." Another example showed modulation in translating "may designate sea lanes" as "podrán designar vías marítimas," where "may" is not translated as "puede que" (possibility) but as "podrán" (legal permission). The presenter also highlighted how legal documents often have established equivalents that must be used rather than literal translations, such as "widow's or widower's pension" for "pensión de viudez" and "domestic partner in a stable and exclusive common law union" for "conviviente en unión libre."

Relevant Q&A

Andre: I wouldn't use this as an example of legal equivalence. Because, in fact, for example, in Spanish, "después de dar la publicidad al mismo," por ejemplo. "Al mismo." La redaction está bien.

Topic 3: Song and Poetry Adaptation

The third presentation analyzed adaptations of Jacques Brel's French song "Ne me quitte pas" into English and Spanish, as well as Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" translated into Spanish and French. For the song, the presenter noted significant differences in how the languages expressed the same emotions. While the French original used a pleading tone ("don't leave me, please"), the English version ("If You Go Away") used a conditional approach ("if you go away, then..."). The Spanish version maintained the pleading tone of the original but added more romantic language. The presenter highlighted how song translation requires almost complete adaptation rather than literal translation to maintain musicality and emotional impact. For Kipling's poem, the Spanish translation attempted to be more literal while maintaining the structure and moral message, whereas the French adaptation took more liberties with the text while preserving the core message, resulting in a more philosophical and introspective tone.

Topic 4: Subtitling and Cultural Adaptation

The final presentation focused on subtitling a TED talk video about conscious bias against Latinos and African Americans in the United States. The presenter created Spanish subtitles

using Canva and analyzed various translation techniques employed. While many translations were literal, several examples of transposition, expansion, modulation, and cultural adaptation were identified. For instance, "I got in trouble again at school today" was translated with a sequencing shift as "Hoy me metí en problemas otra vez en la escuela," moving the time adverb "today/hoy" to the beginning of the sentence. Cultural adaptation was evident in translating "when I'm on the block" as "cuando estoy en el barrio," using a culturally appropriate term that conveys the intended meaning to Spanish speakers. The presenter also noted challenges with expressions like "singled out," which required modulation to "me siento muy señalada" to maintain the meaning in Spanish.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Students should continue working on their remaining translation projects
- Paula needs to revise her presentation for next week, changing the passage selection from Cien años
- Kary will present her Shakespeare translation (Project 6) and Project 7 next week
- Students should finalize their portfolios by adding final comments and an index

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Jacques Brel's original song "Ne me quitte pas"
- Nina Simone's version of "Ne me quitte pas" in French
- Frank Sinatra's English version "If You Go Away"
- Celine Dion's French version of the song
- Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" in English, Spanish and French translations
- TED talk video on conscious bias with Spanish subtitles created by a student

Meeting assets for Criticism 06.11 are ready!

Meeting summary (Partial summary, given that a second para of the meeting was with google meet, after audio issues with Zoom)

Overview

This lecture focused on translation techniques and project reviews, examining various translation approaches and their applications in legal, technical, and audiovisual contexts. The

session involved analyzing student projects and discussing specific translation methods such as transposition, modulation, and equivalence across different language pairs, primarily between English and Spanish.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation techniques: Transposition, modulation, grammar shifts, literal translation, and official equivalence
- Legal translation conventions for international vs. national documents
- Audiovisual translation and subtitling practices
- Adaptation of specialized terminology across languages

Important Questions Raised:

- How should international legal documents be formatted in translation (which language should appear on the left)?
- What constitutes a grammar shift versus a transposition in translation?
- How should timestamps be properly incorporated in audiovisual translation?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Distinguish between different translation techniques including transposition, modulation, and grammar shifts
- Apply proper formatting conventions for legal translations, with source language on the left
- Understand the importance of official equivalents for institutional names and acronyms (e.g., WHO/OMS)
- Recognize when semantic shifts occur in translation and how they differ from literal translations
- Implement proper subtitling techniques including appropriate timestamp placement

Topic 1: Translation Techniques Analysis

The class examined several translation examples, focusing on identifying and categorizing different translation techniques. Transposition was identified as the rearrangement of grammatical structures while maintaining the same meaning, such as in "elecciones periodicas autenticas" becoming "genuine, periodic elections" in English. Modulation was explained as involving grammar shifts, as seen in phrases like "we have invested" translated as "han invertido," representing a change in grammatical structure. The instructor emphasized the

importance of distinguishing between these techniques, noting that what might appear as transposition could actually be modulation if it involves significant grammatical restructuring. Semantic shifts were also discussed, as in the case of "hunker down" translated as "escondernos," which represents a transformation of meaning rather than a direct equivalent.

Relevant Q&A

Yahel: We are mainly using different techniques, like, that were literal, I say, caulk. Some of transposition, modulation, and amplification.

Andre: When you have this definition, it's modulation, because it's a grammar shift. The first one is transposition, but the second one is also a grammar shift, which is part of modulation, not transposition.

Topic 2: Legal Translation Conventions

The lecture covered important conventions for legal translation, particularly regarding the formatting and presentation of international versus national legal documents. For international treaties and documents, the instructor emphasized that the language of reference (typically English) should appear on the left side of comparative translations, with the translated version (e.g., Spanish) on the right. This contrasts with national laws, where the original language of the country would be positioned on the left. The discussion also highlighted the importance of using official equivalents for institutional names and acronyms, such as "World Health Organization" and its Spanish equivalent "Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)," noting that these are not arbitrary translations but officially established equivalents.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: Because normally, then you should have the English on the left, since that's the language of reference for international law, international treaties. And the Spanish is the translation.

Yahel: Alright.

Andre: If it was a national law, a Panamanian law, yes, then you put Spanish on the left. Because that's the language of reference for national laws. But not for international laws.

Topic 3: Audiovisual Translation Practices

The class analyzed a subtitling project based on a Bill Gates TED Talk about epidemic preparedness. The discussion focused on proper subtitling techniques, including the importance of incorporating timestamps for each segment of dialogue. The instructor

demonstrated how timestamps should be included at the beginning of each subtitle segment to ensure proper synchronization with the video content. The analysis also covered translation challenges specific to audiovisual content, such as dealing with specialized terminology, maintaining appropriate subtitle length, and ensuring that the translated content accurately conveys the speaker's message while adhering to time constraints. The instructor noted that in this particular project, the student needed to make adjustments to properly format the subtitles with timestamps.

Relevant Q&A

Yahel: In a lot of the other subtitles, there were timestamps, but I don't really know how to place it correctly.

Andre: You could put them for every segment. For example, when you have a sentence like "When I was a kid. The disaster we worried about most was a nuclear war." Period. Then you start the next one.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Yahel needs to revise the project with proper timestamp formatting for the subtitling assignment
- Students should adjust their legal translation projects to follow proper formatting conventions (reference language on left)
- Review and correct identified translation technique classifications (transposition vs. modulation)
- Complete project revisions before final grading

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Bible translation video resources in English and Spanish were mentioned as supplementary materials
- Zoom and Google Meet were discussed as alternative platforms for virtual class sessions
- Bible Gateway ([biblegateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com)) was mentioned as a resource for comparing different Bible translations

Meeting Summary for Criticism 30.10

Quick recap

The meeting began with Andre and Edward reviewing translation projects and techniques, focusing on functional equivalence and modulation while discussing challenges in adapting Spanish phrases to English. The group then explored a literature project about two brothers, one human and one drone-based, examining themes of humanity, technology, and climate change. The discussion concluded with reviews of upcoming translation projects, including Bible and Shakespeare translations, and addressed concerns about final project completion and guidance from Andre.

Next steps

- Edward: Add the full Spanish transcription to the project page for the TED Talk video, as per the regulation (source on left, translation on right).
- Yahel: Add a summary and comments for Project 3B (literature project), including a summary of the story, as instructed.
- Edward: Complete Project 6 by selecting a scene from Shakespeare, comparing the official Spanish translation with a CAT tool or own translation, and analyzing the translation techniques used, as described.

Summary

Translation Techniques Review Meeting

Andre and Edward discussed the progress of their translation projects, with Edward being the most advanced, having presented Project 5. They reviewed Edward's translation techniques, focusing on functional equivalence, modulation, and transposition. Andre provided feedback on Edward's use of translation techniques and emphasized the importance of choosing the most appropriate technique to describe a translation's complexity. They also briefly discussed the absence of another group member, Karina, who was dealing with administrative tasks.

Spanish to English Translation Challenges

Andre and Edward discussed translation challenges, focusing on adapting Spanish phrases into English while preserving meaning and context. They explored options for translating phrases like "shame is left only for thieves" and debated the impact of word choice on clarity. They also discussed the importance of context in understanding certain phrases and the colloquial nature of some expressions. Edward mentioned the need to adapt certain phrases for a broader audience. The conversation concluded with a brief mention of a literature project and a transition to discussing another topic with Yahel.

Brother Story Translation Discussion

The group discussed a literature project involving the translation of a story about two brothers, one human and one living inside a drone, exploring themes of humanity, technology, and climate change. Andre shared insights about the story's themes and compared it to historical battles and AI developments, while Yahel explained the plot details and characters. The discussion included a brief conversation about AI's role in public bidding systems in Albania,

and Andre suggested adding clarifying phrases to the translation for better understanding.

Rainmaker Text Analysis Discussion

Andre and Yahel discussed the translation and interpretation of a text about a rainmaker, focusing on semantic shifts and amplification in language. They analyzed how the description of speakers evolved from "teeny" to "metallic" and explored the concept of modulation and generalization in the text. Andre emphasized the importance of providing a summary of the story for their project, and they briefly touched on the content of the story, including its themes of automation and the futility of large-scale solutions to societal problems.

Translation Project Review Meeting

Andre discussed the upcoming projects with Edward and Ana. They reviewed Project 6 options, which include a Bible translation project and a Shakespeare translation project. Edward chose to work on the Shakespeare project, comparing an English scene with its Spanish translation and using a CAT tool for a modern translation. Andre explained the translation techniques and differences between the official Spanish translation and the CAT tool translation. They watched a past student's example of comparing translations of Macbeth, focusing on different approaches and techniques used.

Adapting Macbeth: Setting and Plot

Edward and Andre discussed various adaptations of Macbeth over the years, focusing on changes in setting and plot details. Andre provided a detailed summary of the Shakespearean play, including the roles of the three witches, Macbeth's ambition, and his eventual downfall. They also touched on the significance of the witches' rituals in different adaptations. The conversation concluded with Edward asking about Andre's role as an assessor for their final project, which is an option. Edward discussed his final translation project with Andre, expressing concerns about his skills after a long break and seeking feedback from Andre, who agreed to review the translation when needed. Andre clarified that while he cannot be a formal advisor, Edward can reach out to him for guidance, and explained that students often have more time to complete and defend their projects after the final class.

Meeting assets for Criticism 23.10 are ready!

Meeting summary

Overview

This lecture focused on translation criticism and techniques, specifically examining how to

identify and apply different translation methods in literary and legal texts. The session involved student presentations of their projects, where they analyzed translations between English and Spanish, identifying techniques such as modulation, transposition, adaptation, and equivalence. The discussion highlighted the challenges students face in distinguishing between different translation techniques, particularly modulation and transposition, and addressed concerns about the curriculum structure in their translation program.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation techniques: modulation, transposition, adaptation, equivalence, addition, omission
- Legal translation and its specific challenges
- Literary translation analysis
- Distinction between literal translation and more creative approaches

Important Questions Raised:

- When should specific translation techniques be applied?
- How can students clearly distinguish between modulation and transposition?
- Should translation techniques be taught earlier in the translation program curriculum?
- How does the target audience/country affect translation choices?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation techniques exist on a spectrum from literal word-by-word translation to more creative adaptations
- Transposition involves changing word order while maintaining meaning
- Modulation involves semantic or grammatical shifts that change how meaning is expressed
- Legal translation often relies on legal equivalents but requires understanding of different legal systems
- Literary translation requires more creative techniques than technical translation
- Identifying the correct translation technique requires careful analysis of both source and target texts

Topic 1: Translation Techniques Analysis

The class focused extensively on analyzing specific translation techniques through student

projects. The distinction between transposition (changing word order) and modulation (changing semantic or grammatical elements) is highlighted. For example, when analyzing the translation of "Como Agua Para Chocolate," the class identified instances where the translator changed passive constructions to active ones and where semantic shifts occurred, such as translating "intentó comer" (tried to eat) as "she started to eat" (modulation). The instructor described translation techniques as existing on a spectrum, with literal translation at one end and more creative adaptations at the other. In the middle are techniques like transposition, modulation, expansion, and reduction. Different types of texts require different approaches - technical and legal documents often use more literal techniques, while literary texts demand more creative solutions like functional and cultural equivalence.

Relevant Q&A

Kary: How do I determine what parts of a translation I need to analyze?

Andre: It depends on the type of document. Literary texts like recipes require more creativity in translation and will have more interesting techniques to analyze. You don't have to be exhaustive in your analysis - focus on the most interesting or important aspects.

Edward: What's the difference between modulation and transposition?

Andre: Transposition is changing word order while maintaining meaning. Modulation is changing the semantic or grammatical elements, creating a shift in how the meaning is expressed.

Topic 2: Legal Translation Challenges

The class examined legal translation through student projects, highlighting the importance of understanding legal equivalents across different systems. Edward presented a translation of a U.S. law, the "Artistic Recognition for Talented Students Act," demonstrating how terms like "act" translate to "ley" in Spanish through legal equivalence. The discussion revealed challenges in translating specific legal terminology, such as "House Resolution" and "Congress," which require adaptation to target legal systems rather than simple equivalence. The professor emphasized that legal translation typically involves more straightforward techniques but can be complicated by poorly written source texts. He mentioned that even within the Panamanian legal system, judges sometimes create confusion through ambiguous writing, leading to contradictory interpretations. The class also discussed dating conventions in legal documents as a form of cultural equivalence rather than transposition.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: Would the format change for dates be considered transposition or linguistic

equivalence?

Andre: It would be considered a dating convention or cultural equivalence rather than transposition.

Andre: How did you translate "House Resolution"?

Edward: I translated it as "Resolución de la Asamblea Nacional."

Andre: That's an adaptation to the Panamanian legal system, not an equivalence, which in legal terminology is not accepted.

Topic 3: Curriculum Structure Concerns

Students expressed frustration about the timing of learning translation techniques in their program. Kary noted that she was encountering these techniques for the first time in her final semester while simultaneously working on her final project. She suggested that translation techniques should be taught earlier in the curriculum to give students more time to practice and understand these concepts. Edward agreed, noting that the program seemed to emphasize grammar and speech over translation techniques, despite being a translation program. He mentioned that in his experience, translation techniques were mentioned in previous courses but not explored in depth. Andre acknowledged these concerns and agreed that the curriculum structure could be improved. The discussion highlighted a disconnect between the theoretical foundation students receive and the practical application required for their final projects.

Relevant Q&A

Kary: I have a suggestion for the whole English program. You should have this specific subject within the first and second semester because having taken this subject just at the same time that we are doing our final project makes you doubt everything you have learned before.

Edward: I think that the focus should be translation itself. A professor once told me, "The career is not for you to speak English. You're supposed to already know how to talk. This is for you to learn the language."

Andre: The problem is also that different approaches exist in translation theory, similar to psychology or pedagogy having different schools of thought.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Kary will complete Project 3B for next week's class
- Students should practice using speech-to-text tools for translating speeches
- For the next project, students should find a speech that is expressive and analyze what translation techniques appear

- Students should review the definitions of translation techniques provided by the professor
- Andre will update the document of reference on translation techniques

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Google Docs voice typing tool for speech-to-text practice
- Module 7: Review of translation procedures (mentioned as available in the course materials)

Translation Criticism Meeting summary 16.10

Overview

This lecture focused on translation criticism, covering various translation techniques and their applications. The session included student presentations of their translation projects, detailed discussions of translation procedures like modulation, transposition, and adaptation, and an exploration of legal terminology translation challenges between English and Spanish. The instructor provided feedback on students' work and explained the nuances of different translation techniques through examples from literary and legal texts.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation procedures: Modulation, transposition, adaptation, equivalence, reduction, expansion
- Cultural mediation in translation
- Legal terminology translation challenges
- Source language identification importance in literary translation
- Mental processes involved in translation

Important Questions Raised:

- How do we distinguish between transposition and modulation in translation?
- When does one translation technique outweigh another in complex sentences?
- How do cultural differences affect word choices in Spanish across different countries?
- What makes legal translation particularly challenging between English and Spanish?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation involves complex mental processes including reading comprehension, analysis, and cultural mediation
- Different translation techniques serve specific purposes: transposition for word order changes, modulation for grammatical shifts, adaptation for cultural equivalence
- Legal terminology requires precise translation with awareness of jurisdictional differences
- Source language identification is crucial when translating literary works
- Multiple translation techniques often apply simultaneously to complex sentences

Topic 1: Translation Procedures and Techniques

The teacher emphasized the importance of distinguishing between different translation procedures. Transposition refers specifically to changing word order while maintaining the same meaning. Modulation involves grammatical shifts such as changing word forms (nouns to adjectives) or positive to negative expressions. Adaptation is used for stronger semantic shifts when cultural context requires significant changes to convey meaning appropriately. Expansion adds words to clarify meaning, while reduction removes unnecessary words in the target language. Explicitation explains concepts rather than directly translating them. He illustrated these concepts through student project examples, such as translating "bump into someone" (chocar con alguien) and "giving me goosebumps" (erizándose la piel). Students were encouraged to identify multiple techniques within single sentences, recognizing that complex translations often employ several procedures simultaneously.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: When does one technique outweigh the other, because it seems that there were two techniques used here, reduction and modulation, so can I just say I use two techniques?

Andre: Yes, you can, if you identify. You can say both, modulation and reduction.

Edward: I was having a hard time with transposition and modulation. For example, "I was in disbelief" to "No lo podía creer" - would that be transposition or modulation?

Andre: That's modulation because we're changing from a positive verbal form to a negative verbal form.

Topic 2: Cultural Mediation in Translation

The lecture explored translation as cultural mediation, examining how translators must understand their intended audience to effectively convey meaning. One student presented a project on this topic, highlighting how language can differ in meaning even when translated

correctly. The discussion included examples of how family-specific language creates unique linguistic contexts that translators must navigate. The professor and students discussed regional variations in Spanish vocabulary, noting how the same object might have different names across Latin American countries. This cultural dimension of translation requires translators to make informed choices about whether to borrow terms, adapt them, or find functional equivalents. The concept of "lengua familiar" (private family language) was presented as an example of how intimate language contexts create additional translation challenges.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: How do you explain that words like popcorn have different names in each Spanish-speaking country?

Yahel: I think it's beautiful that there are different types of words for the same exact word. I have friends across Latin America, and I've noticed that in the Caribbean regions, there are similarities between words that differ from South America.

Topic 3: Legal Translation Challenges

The lecture dedicated significant time to legal translation challenges between English and Spanish. The teacher shared a legal glossary resource and explained how legal terms often have multiple possible translations depending on context. For example, "jurisdiction" in English might be translated as "jurisdicción," "competencia," "tribunal," or even "país/estado" depending on the specific meaning. Similarly, "legal" in English has broader applications than in Spanish, where terms like "jurídico" might be more appropriate in certain contexts. The discussion highlighted how legal systems differ between countries, creating translation challenges that require deep understanding of both legal systems. The teacher emphasized that legal translation demands precision and awareness of established equivalents, such as "affidavit" translating to "declaración jurada" in certain contexts.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: Like "affidavit"? Who came up with that word?

Andre: It's from Latin. I first learned that word when I was 18 at my first job. We had to send those to clients, and I didn't know what it meant until someone said "declaración jurada."

Edward: So it depends on what Spanish it has been translated to?

Andre: Yes, some terms vary by country. For example, "tax returns" in Panama is "declaración de impuesto," but in Argentina, they use "declaración jurada."

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Complete Project 3 (Literary Translation): Students can choose between translating a short story or analyzing samples from literary works in English and Spanish
- Prepare for Project 4 (Legal Translation): Find international legal texts (English to Spanish) and local laws (Spanish to English) for translation analysis
- Study the legal terminology glossary for the upcoming test
- Future projects will include oral translation criticism, movie adaptation criticism, and Bible translation criticism

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Legal terminology glossary document shared by the professor
- Short story collection "Historias de dos ciudades: Cuentistas de Panama y El Salvador"
- Online resource with short stories for translation practice: "Grist.org"
- Sample projects from previous students demonstrating legal translation techniques
- Materials on Bible translation history and criticism for upcoming modules

Overview

This lecture focused on translation criticism, covering various translation techniques and their applications. The session included student presentations of their translation projects, detailed discussions of translation procedures like modulation, transposition, and adaptation, and an exploration of legal terminology translation challenges between English and Spanish. The lecturer provided feedback on students' work and explained the nuances of different translation techniques through examples from literary and legal texts.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation procedures: Modulation, transposition, adaptation, equivalence, reduction, expansion
- Cultural mediation in translation
- Legal terminology translation challenges
- Source language identification importance in literary translation
- Mental processes involved in translation

Important Questions Raised:

- How do we distinguish between transposition and modulation in translation?
- When does one translation technique outweigh another in complex sentences?

- How do cultural differences affect word choices in Spanish across different countries?
- What makes legal translation particularly challenging between English and Spanish?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation involves complex mental processes including reading comprehension, analysis, and cultural mediation
- Different translation techniques serve specific purposes: transposition for word order changes, modulation for grammatical shifts, adaptation for cultural equivalence
- Legal terminology requires precise translation with awareness of jurisdictional differences
- Source language identification is crucial when translating literary works
- Multiple translation techniques often apply simultaneously to complex sentences

Topic 1: Translation Procedures and Techniques

The teacher emphasized the importance of distinguishing between different translation procedures. Transposition refers specifically to changing word order while maintaining the same meaning. Modulation involves grammatical shifts such as changing word forms (nouns to adjectives) or positive to negative expressions. Adaptation is used for stronger semantic shifts when cultural context requires significant changes to convey meaning appropriately. Expansion adds words to clarify meaning, while reduction removes unnecessary words in the target language. Explicitation explains concepts rather than directly translating them. The professor illustrated these concepts through student project examples, such as translating "bump into someone" (chocar con alguien) and "giving me goosebumps" (erizándose la piel). Students were encouraged to identify multiple techniques within single sentences, recognizing that complex translations often employ several procedures simultaneously.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: When does one technique outweigh the other, because it seems that there were two techniques used here, reduction and modulation, so can I just say I use two techniques?

Andre: Yes, you can, if you identify. You can say both, modulation and reduction.

Edward: I was having a hard time with transposition and modulation. For example, "I was in disbelief" to "No lo podía creer" - would that be transposition or modulation?

Andre: That's modulation because we're changing from a positive verbal form to a negative verbal form.

Topic 2: Cultural Mediation in Translation

The lecture explored translation as cultural mediation, examining how translators must understand their intended audience to effectively convey meaning. Ana presented a project on this topic, highlighting how language can differ in meaning even when translated correctly. The discussion included examples of how family-specific language creates unique linguistic contexts that translators must navigate. The teacher and students discussed regional variations in Spanish vocabulary, noting how the same object might have different names across Latin American countries. This cultural dimension of translation requires translators to make informed choices about whether to borrow terms, adapt them, or find functional equivalents. The concept of "lesico familiar" (private family language) was presented as an example of how intimate language contexts create additional translation challenges.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: How do you explain that words like popcorn have different names in each Spanish-speaking country?

Yahel: I think it's beautiful that there are different types of words for the same exact word. I have friends across Latin America, and I've noticed that in the Caribbean regions, there are similarities between words that differ from South America.

Topic 3: Legal Translation Challenges

The lecture dedicated significant time to legal translation challenges between English and Spanish. The instructor shared a legal glossary resource and explained how legal terms often have multiple possible translations depending on context. For example, "jurisdiction" in English might be translated as "jurisdicción," "competencia," "tribunal," or even "país/estado" depending on the specific meaning. Similarly, "legal" in English has broader applications than in Spanish, where terms like "jurídico" might be more appropriate in certain contexts. The discussion highlighted how legal systems differ between countries, creating translation challenges that require deep understanding of both legal systems. The instructor emphasized that legal translation demands precision and awareness of established equivalents, such as "affidavit" translating to "declaración jurada" in certain contexts.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: Like "affidavit"? Who came up with that word?

Andre: It's from Latin. I first learned that word when I was 18 at my first job. We had to send those to clients, and I didn't know what it meant until someone said "declaración jurada."

Edward: So it depends on what Spanish it has been translated to?

Andre: Yes, some terms vary by country. For example, "tax returns" in Panama is "declaración de impuesto," but in Argentina, they use "declaración jurada."

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Complete Project 3 (Literary Translation): Students can choose between translating a short story or analyzing samples from literary works in English and Spanish
- Prepare for Project 4 (Legal Translation): Find international legal texts (English to Spanish) and local laws (Spanish to English) for translation analysis
- Study the legal terminology glossary for the upcoming test
- Future projects will include oral translation criticism, movie adaptation criticism, and Bible translation criticism

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Legal terminology glossary document shared by the instructor
- Short story collection "Historias de dos ciudades: Cuentistas de Panama y El Salvador"
- Online resource with short stories for translation practice: "Grist.org"
- Sample projects from previous students demonstrating legal translation techniques
- Materials on Bible translation history and criticism for upcoming modules

Meeting assets for Criticism 09 oct are ready!

Meeting summary

Overview

This lecture focused on translation techniques and strategies, with students presenting their projects on analyzing headlines, literary texts, and equivalence in translation. The session covered various translation procedures including literal translation, modulation, transposition,

expansion, and cultural equivalence. Students analyzed Spanish-English and English-Spanish translations of news headlines and literary excerpts, identifying specific translation techniques used in each case.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation procedures: literal translation, modulation, transposition, expansion, explicitation
- Cultural and functional equivalence in translation
- Denotation vs. connotation in linguistic translation
- Intertextuality and its role in translation
- Equivalence theory as presented by Umberto Eco

Important Questions Raised:

- How can translators balance faithfulness to the original text while adapting to the target language?
- When is literal translation appropriate versus when should translators use modulation or other techniques?
- How do cultural references impact translation choices?
- What is the difference between translating words versus translating concepts?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation is not merely word-for-word substitution but requires understanding cultural context and meaning
- Different translation procedures (modulation, transposition, expansion) serve different purposes depending on context
- Grammar shifts between languages often necessitate modulation in translation
- Word order differences between languages frequently require transposition
- Cultural references may need explicitation or adaptation to maintain meaning in the target language
- Equivalence in translation focuses on preserving meaning rather than exact wording

Topic 1: Translation Procedures Analysis

Students presented analyses of news headlines translated between Spanish and English, identifying specific translation procedures. The procedures discussed included literal translation (direct word-for-word translation maintaining structure), modulation (changing

perspective or point of view), transposition (changing word order or grammatical categories), expansion (adding words to clarify meaning), and explicitation (providing additional information to make implicit content explicit). The instructor provided feedback on students' analyses, helping them distinguish between different procedures. For example, when analyzing "Argentine bonds collapsed and the debt risk index soars," students identified literal translation in some parts but modulation in others, particularly where reflexive verbs in Spanish became non-reflexive in English. Students also examined how word order changes between languages, such as "anti-abuse bracelet" versus "pulseras antimaltrato," demonstrating transposition.

Relevant Q&A

Kary: Is "based on" translated as "basando" a transposition?

Andre: No, that's a grammar shift, so it's modulation. The transposition would be "hopeful fiction" to "ficción esperanzadora."

Ana: I used expansion for "Los Andes Station" because it makes the location clear.

Andre: That's not an expansion, it's a transposition. "Estación de los Andes" to "Los Andes Station" is changing word order, not adding information.

Topic 2: Equivalence in Translation

The class discussed Umberto Eco's perspective on equivalence in translation, emphasizing that faithful translation doesn't necessarily mean literal translation. According to Eco, perfect synonyms don't exist, and translators should focus on preserving the essence and meaning of the text rather than translating word-for-word. The discussion highlighted the importance of understanding cultural background and context when translating, as well as considering both denotation (literal meaning) and connotation (implied meaning). The instructor explained that translation occurs not just between languages but also within the same language and even between thoughts and words. The concept of intertextuality was also introduced, referring to references within texts that require cultural knowledge to understand fully.

Relevant Q&A

Kary: What caught my attention was the concept of "drawback" in translation, which happens when you lose cultural or religious hints by not translating literally.

Andre: This raises questions about whether translators should aim for clarity or cultural preservation.

Andre: Do you know the difference between denotation and connotation in linguistics?

Kary: Not really.

Andre: Denotation is the literal meaning of a word, while connotation is the implied meaning

based on context. For example, "miserable dog" can denote a sick animal or connote an insult to a person.

Topic 3: Cultural Adaptation in Translation

The lecture emphasized the importance of cultural adaptation in translation, particularly when dealing with institutional names, legal concepts, or culturally specific terms. The instructor provided examples of how translators must consider cultural equivalents rather than literal translations in certain contexts. For instance, when translating "US Supreme Court" to Spanish, using "Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos" or "Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos" involves understanding the legal systems in both cultures. Similarly, legal concepts like "first-degree murder" might be better translated as "asesinato con premeditación" in Spanish rather than a literal translation. The discussion highlighted how cultural references and intertextuality require translators to have deep knowledge of both source and target cultures to accurately convey meaning.

Relevant Q&A

Paula: Why did I translate "El Congreso español" as "Spanish Parliament" instead of "Spanish Congress"?

Andre: The names of legislative bodies vary by country. In the US, they say "Congress" for what functions like a Parliament in other countries. You could use either "Spanish Parliament" or "Spanish Congress," but the official name in Spain is actually "las Cortes."

Andre: When you have a cultural reference like "el incidente de la Tajada de Sandía" translated as "the Watermelon War," that's a cultural equivalence because they refer to the same event but with different wording that reflects cultural differences.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Students should continue working on their translation projects
- Kary will present her remaining two projects after next week
- Students should prepare for Project 3A and 3B (literary translation)
- Students should review translation procedures and be able to identify the dominant translation technique in each example

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Umberto Eco's writings on translation theory and equivalence

- Dean Withers' debates (recommended by the instructor as supplementary viewing)
- "Como agua para chocolate" by Laura Esquivel (mentioned as a literary text for analysis) Thank you for the comprehensive meeting summary. It's very well-organized and captures the key points of the translation lecture effectively. The structure with clear sections makes it easy to follow the main topics discussed.

Meeting assets for Criticism 25.09 are ready!

Meeting summary

Overview

This lecture focused on translation criticism and techniques, covering two main projects: Project 1 (headline translation analysis) and Project 2 (summary comparison from the Logos course). Professor Andre guided students through examples of both projects, explaining various translation procedures and techniques. The session included student presentations of their Project 1A assignments, where they analyzed and translated headlines between English and Spanish using specific translation techniques.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation procedures: modulation, transposition, adaptation, equivalence, borrowing, literal translation
- Cultural equivalence in translation: how cultural elements require specific translation approaches
- Summary comparison methodology: analyzing differences in summaries across languages
- Headline translation challenges: addressing cultural references and idiomatic expressions

Important Questions Raised:

- How do we properly identify and apply specific translation techniques to headlines?
- What causes differences in summaries when using AI tools across different languages?
- How should cultural-specific terms (like "botellas" in Panamanian Spanish) be translated?
- What is the appropriate approach for translating proper nouns and acronyms?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation techniques must be correctly identified and applied based on specific contexts
- Headlines from popular newspapers reflect local culture more strongly and present unique translation challenges
- Project 2 requires comparing summaries in Spanish and English, analyzing differences caused by language or AI processing
- Proper nouns generally remain untranslated unless there is an established equivalent in the target language
- Acronyms often have functional equivalents across languages (e.g., ICC to CPI)

Topic 1: Project 1 - Headline Translation Analysis

Project 1 focuses on analyzing and translating headlines between English and Spanish, identifying specific translation techniques used. Students selected headlines from newspapers like La Critica (Panama) and NYC Post, which often contain cultural references and slang. The assignment required translating these headlines while documenting the specific translation procedures applied, such as modulation, transposition, adaptation, equivalence, or borrowing. Cultural elements presented particular challenges, as demonstrated in examples like "tiene culillo" (being frightened/chicken) or "chifiado" (ignored/ghosted). Students needed to recognize when literal translation would be inappropriate and select techniques that preserved the meaning while making the headline understandable in the target language.

Relevant Q&A

cogley: When we translate proper names, particularly artistic names like "El General," should I have used cursive to indicate it's not a regular name?

Andre: You can use cursive, or if translating for an audience unfamiliar with Panamanian culture, you could add the real name and explain that "El General" is a nickname.

cogley: I found the term "borrowing retention" when researching how to describe when the source language has borrowed a word from the target language. Is this correct?

Andre: "Borrowing retention" is actually a financial term. In this case, it's simply a borrowing, as the word "influencer" originated in English and was borrowed into Spanish.

Topic 2: Project 2 - Summary Comparison from Logos Course

Project 2 involves selecting two chapters from the Logos course, available in both English and Spanish, and comparing their summaries. Students need to use AI tools to summarize the chapters in both languages, then analyze differences in the summaries. The professor demonstrated this process using Deep AI to summarize a chapter on "The Meaning of Meaning," showing how the AI tool extracted key concepts like the communication triangle (mental processes, symbols, and reference). The project requires students to determine whether differences in the summaries stem from the AI tool's operation or from inherent differences between the source languages. Students should post their selected chapters in the course glossary to avoid duplication of topics.

Relevant Q&A

cogley: I just want to make sure I understand Project 2. We select two chapters from Logos, but what exactly do we do with them?

Andre: You compare the Spanish and English versions of the chapters. Then use AI tools to summarize both versions and compare the summaries, analyzing if differences are related to how the AI tool operates or to differences in the source languages themselves.

Kary: This subject is more complicated than I expected. The translation procedures feel like learning multiplication tables or chemistry conversion tables.

Andre: I understand. We focus on different priorities in different courses. In computer-assisted translation, we focus on tools; in interpretation, we focus on recording simultaneous interpretations. This course requires more research to understand all the procedures.

Topic 3: Translation Techniques and Cultural Considerations

The lecture emphasized the importance of understanding various translation techniques and their appropriate application. Cultural considerations were highlighted as particularly challenging, especially when translating culturally-specific terms that have no direct equivalent in the target language. For example, the Panamanian Spanish term "botellas" (referring to government jobs given as political favors with little actual work) requires careful translation into English, possibly as "phantom jobs," "bogus jobs," or "funny government jobs" with additional

explanation. Similarly, proper nouns and acronyms require specific approaches - proper nouns generally remain untranslated unless there's an established equivalent in the target language, while acronyms often have functional equivalents (like ICC to CPI). The professor also discussed the concept of fidelity versus literality in translation, referencing Umberto Eco's perspective that a translation can be faithful without being literal.

Relevant Q&A

Andre: Do you know where "Parque Norte" is in Panama?

Yahel: Parque Norte is in Colon.

Andre: Let's check that. It's actually in Chilibre, which is part of the Panama municipality.

Andre: When you say "adaptation keeps the location of Virginia intact as a proper noun," you shouldn't mention that. A proper noun is not a translation procedure.

Yahel: It's an implicit thing.

Andre: It's just a proper noun. When you don't have a name in the other language, we just keep it, we don't translate it.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Complete Project 1A/1B: Analyze and translate headlines between English and Spanish, identifying specific translation techniques
- Complete Project 2A/2B: Select two chapters from the Logos course, summarize them in both languages using AI tools, and compare the summaries
- Post selected Logos chapters in the course glossary to avoid duplication
- Prepare for Module 5, which will cover literary translation
- Review the stories shared on WhatsApp for future literary translation exercises

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Logos course chapters in both English and Spanish
- Examples of previous students' Project 2 submissions shared via WhatsApp
- Translation procedures reference document
- Umberto Eco's work on translation theory, including his novel "The Name of the Rose" which was mentioned as an example of literary work with linguistic themes
-

Meeting assets for Criticism 18.09 are ready!

Meeting summary 18.09

Overview

This lecture focused on translation criticism, covering translation procedures, strategies, and project requirements. Professor Andre clarified the course structure, particularly regarding Module 3 projects (1A and 1B) which involve headline translation and paraphrasing. The session included a review of translation procedures through interactive quizzes and examples, as well as a discussion of the theoretical foundations of translation criticism.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation procedures: Transposition, modulation, adaptation, borrowing, calque, explication, impication
- Paraphrasing as intralinguistic translation (reformulating ideas using different words)
- Text analysis approaches for translation criticism
- Functional equivalence in translation
- Cultural equivalence in translation (especially for proverbs and idiomatic expressions)

Important Questions Raised:

- How do we distinguish between transposition and modulation in translation?
- What makes translation criticism meaningful beyond simple comparison?
- How should different text types (literary, legal, technical) be evaluated differently in translation criticism?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation criticism involves evaluating existing translations rather than necessarily creating new ones
- Projects 1A and 1B focus on headline translation and paraphrasing of news articles
- Translation procedures include specific techniques like transposition (changing word order), modulation (changing grammatical categories), and borrowing (using source language words)
- Different text types require different translation approaches and evaluation criteria
- Understanding both the source text and target text is essential for meaningful translation criticism

Topic 1: Course Structure and Projects

The professor clarified the course structure, explaining that there had been some confusion with duplicate information in the modules. Module 3 contains Projects 1A and 1B, which focus on headline translation and paraphrasing. Project 1A involves translating headlines from English to Spanish and vice versa, identifying translation procedures used. Project 1B requires students to select articles in English and Spanish about current affairs, science, technology, economics, or business, and apply paraphrasing to at least three paragraphs. The professor emphasized that students should choose articles they find important or interesting. Future modules will cover summarizing and translating summaries (Module 4), literary works (Module 5), and legal documents (Module 6).

Relevant Q&A

Kary: Thank you so much, because I was so confused. I tried to start working on the projects. And when I see that there were models that have repeated information. I was like, wait, I should hold on then.

Andre: Yes, conflicting. Not conflicting, but... Project 2A2B here. I removed that from here.

Edward: I have one question. So, I went ahead and refreshed the module number 3. Uh, to verify. And it still shows the Module 4 project in there, so I just want to make sure if we have to do both of them by next week?

Andre: No, no, it's not... Some information was repeated, and I discovered it now.

Topic 2: Translation Procedures and Strategies

The lecture included an extensive review of translation procedures through interactive quizzes. The professor explained various translation techniques including transposition (changing word order), modulation (changing grammatical categories or semantics), borrowing (using source language words in target text), calque (literal translation with adjusted spelling), adaptation (cultural substitution), explicitation (adding clarifying information), and implicitation (omitting information that remains understood). Examples were provided for each procedure, such as "a big blue van" requiring transposition in Spanish to "una van azul muy grande" because adjectives typically follow nouns in Spanish. The professor emphasized the importance of understanding the differences between these procedures for proper translation criticism.

Relevant Q&A

Kary: It's confusing, it's really confusing because it depends on the translator perspective. Because if I'm translating whatever document, I might transpose the sentence in one way. But

then another translator might translate my... transpose another way. But the sentence is keeping the same meaning. So, it's confusing for me.

Andre: It's formal, because, for example, "working with you is a pleasure," you can translate it without changing the word order. You can say "trabajar contigo es un placer." The only thing that will always change here is that in English, you use a gerund form, and in Spanish, you use an infinitive form. While with the other example, "a big blue van," if you say in Spanish, "un gran azul sale," no sale bien.

Topic 3: Theoretical Foundations of Translation Criticism

The professor discussed theoretical aspects of translation studies based on a course from Logos. He explained Jakobson's factors of verbal communication and their functions (emotive, referential, poetic, conative, phatic, and metalingual), emphasizing their importance in translation. The lecture covered intralinguistic translation (paraphrasing), interlinguistic translation (between languages), and intersemiotic translation (between different sign systems). The professor also discussed content substance versus content form, explaining how languages shape perception differently, using color terminology as an example. The theoretical foundation helps students understand how to approach translation criticism by considering both linguistic and cultural aspects.

Relevant Q&A

No specific Q&A was recorded for this topic.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Complete Projects 1A and 1B for next week
- Project 1A: Translate headlines between English and Spanish, identifying translation procedures used
- Project 1B: Select articles in English and Spanish, apply paraphrasing to at least three paragraphs, and evaluate the paraphrasing
- Review the translation procedures quiz for practice (not graded)

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Flashcards on translation procedures for criticism
- Formative quiz on translation procedures (shared via chat and WhatsApp)
- Video presentation by Karina on translation criticism based on Katherine Reiss's

book "Translation Criticism: The Potential and Limitations"

- Course materials from Logos on translation studies, particularly chapters on verbal communication, translation process, and text analysis

Meeting summary 11.09

Overview

This lecture introduced students to Translation Criticism, focusing on critical thinking skills for evaluating source texts and developing explicit translation techniques. The course emphasizes the fundamental differences between translation and adaptation, particularly when working with ancient documents, literary texts, or movie scripts. Students will create portfolios of translation projects on Google Sites and present them during class sessions.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Translation types based on document categories (general, technical, scientific, legal, administrative, literary)
- Translation procedures and techniques for different text segments
- Critical analysis of source texts before translation
- Distinction between translation and adaptation in various contexts
- Translation equivalence across cultures and languages

Important Questions Raised:

- When should translators translate literally versus adapt content for the target audience?
- How do different subject matters affect translation approaches?
- How can translators identify and defend their use of specific translation procedures?
- How should culturally-specific terms be handled in translation?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Translation criticism involves developing critical thinking skills to evaluate source texts before translation
- Different types of translations require different approaches based on document type,

- purpose, and audience
- Translation procedures can be categorized as literal or non-literal, with various techniques for each
- Translators must understand when to translate literally versus when to adapt content
- Creating a portfolio of translation projects helps demonstrate mastery of different translation techniques
- Understanding cultural equivalents is essential for effective translation

Topic 1: Types of Translation

Translation can be classified in multiple ways, including by document type, end product use, technological system, and translation studies criteria. Document types include general translation (non-specialized texts like personal letters), technical translation, scientific translation, medical translation, legal/judicial translation, administrative/economic translation, financial/business translation, marketing/commercial translation, and literary translation. Each type requires different approaches - for example, medical translations for patients prioritize comprehension over terminology, while legal translations require finding precise legal equivalents between systems. Marketing translations focus on effectiveness in the target language rather than literal accuracy, allowing translators more freedom to adapt content for cultural relevance. Literary translations must consider both content and style to create the appropriate effect on readers.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: How does the subject matter affect translation?

Andre: Different subjects require different approaches. For example, medical translations for patients prioritize comprehension over terminology, while legal translations require finding precise legal equivalents. Marketing translations focus on effectiveness rather than literal accuracy.

Topic 2: Translation Procedures and Techniques

Translation procedures apply to small segments of text, unlike translation strategies which apply to entire documents. Literal translation procedures include word-for-word and one-to-one translations where each source word has a corresponding target word. Non-literal procedures include borrowing (using source language words in the target text, like "tortillas" in English), calque (slightly modifying borrowed words, like "hamburguesa" from "hamburger"), transposition (changing word order), modulation (changing grammar form or semantic form,

such as passive to active voice or noun to verb), expansion/reduction (using more or fewer words in the target language), explicitation/implicitation (making implicit information explicit or vice versa), and equivalence (using completely different words to recreate the same idea, especially for idioms, proverbs, and cultural references).

Relevant Q&A

Edward: How can we identify that we're using modulation rather than equivalence?

Andre: When the words remain related, it's modulation. When you use very different words, it becomes equivalence. For example, "you're welcome" and "de nada" is a functional equivalence because they use completely different expressions for the same situation.

Edward: For culturally-specific terms like "pollera" (Panamanian traditional dress), can we use borrowing with explanation?

Andre: Yes, you could say "she was wearing a nice traditional Panamanian dancing dress called pollera" and then in later text, just use "pollera" without explanation.

Topic 3: Critical Thinking in Translation

Critical thinking skills are essential for translators to evaluate source texts before translation. When translating non-fiction works like biographies or historical descriptions, translators should include summaries and comments on the content to provide context. Critical analysis involves asking questions about the source text: Who said it? What did they say? Where and when did they say it? Why did they say it? How did they say it? This analysis helps translators understand the perspective and intentions of the original author, which informs translation choices. The course encourages students to develop these analytical skills through practical exercises and projects.

Relevant Q&A

Edward: For newspaper headlines like "Hate Squad" that reference culturally-specific concepts (a progressive group of U.S. Congresswomen), how should we translate this?

Andre: This requires explicitation. You would need to understand the cultural and political context first. In Spanish, it might be translated as "El escuadrón del odio," but you would need to explain what "the squad" refers to in U.S. politics.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Create or update your Google Sites webpage for the Translation Criticism course
- Send the professor the address of your website
- Read the information about the 51 types of translation
- Review the Logos translation course materials
- Prepare for future projects involving summarizing chapters in two languages

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Personality profile test based on 16 types (Jung's typology)
- Logos Translation Course (described as "very strong and important")
- Document on "[Procedures for Translation Criticism and Final Project](#)" (the most important document for the course)
- Resource on "51 Types of Translation"