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VITAL ISSUES OF LINGUISTICS: TERMINOLOGY, TRANSLATION.

First of all I would like to give a definition of the term "linguistic" as a science. Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It can be theoretical or applied.

Theoretical (or general) linguistics is concerned with the frames for describing individual languages and theories about universal aspects of language; applied linguistics refers these theories to practical problems such as language teaching, speech synthesis or speech therapy.

Linguistic inquiry is considered by a wide range of specialists, who not all may agree completely. Russ Rymer stressed:

"Linguistics is arguably the most hotly contested property in the academic realm. It is soaked with the blood of poets, theologians, philosophers, philologists, psychologists, biologists, anthropologists, and neurologists, along with whatever blood can be got out of grammarians" [1, p.35].

The central concern of autonomous theoretical linguistics is to characterise the nature of human linguistic ability or competence: to explain how an individual comes to master languages.

Origin of language is the major unsolved problem, despite centuries of interest in the topic.

The origin of language (glottogony, glossogeny) is a topic that has been written about for centuries, but the ephemeral nature of speech means that there is almost no data on which to base conclusions on the subject. We know that, at least once during human evolution, a system of verbal communication emerged from proto-linguistic or non-linguistic means of communication, but beyond that

little can be said. No current human group, anywhere, speaks a "primitive" or rudimentary language. While existing languages differ in the size and subjects covered in their several lexicons, all human languages possess the grammar and syntax needed, and can create, translate or borrow the vocabulary needed to express the full range of their speakers' concepts.

Such field of linguistics as terminology has many disputable points too. Terminology, in its general sense, simply deals with the usage and study of terms, that is to say words and compound words generally used in specific contexts.

Terminology also refers to more formal discipline which systematically studies the labelling or designating of concepts particular to one or more subject fields or domains of human activity through research and analysis of terms in context, for the purpose of documenting and promoting correct usage. This study can be limited to one language or can cover more than one language at the same time (multilingual terminology, bilingual terminology, and so on).

The discipline of terminology is based on its own theoretical principles and consists primarily of the following aspects:

- analysing the concepts and concept structures used in the field or domain of an activity;

- identifying the terms assigned to the concepts;

- in the case of bilingual or multilingual terminology, establishing correspondence between terms in various languages;

- compiling the terminology on paper or in databases;

- managing terminology databases;

- creating new terms, as required.

A distinction is made between two types of terminology:

ad hoc terminology which deals with a single term or a limited number of terms; systematic terminology which deals with all the terms in a specific subject field or domain of an activity.

Ad hoc terminology is prevalent in the profession of an interpreter, where a translation for a specific term (or group of terms) is required quickly to solve a particular translation problem.

And the last point I would like to speak about is translation itself. Translation is an activity comprising the interpretation of the meaning of a text in one language – the source text, and the production, in another language, of a new, equivalent text – the target text or translation.

Traditionally, translation has been a human activity, although attempts have been made to automate and computerise the translation of natural-language texts –machine translation, or to use computers as an aid to translation –computer-assisted translation.

The goal of translation is generally to establish a relation of equivalence of intent between the source and target texts (that is to say, to ensure that both texts communicate the same message), while taking into account a number of constraints. These constraints include context, the rules of grammar of both languages, their writing conventions, their idioms, and the like [2].

Translation is basically a difficult activity. Translators can face with additional problems which make the process even more difficult, such as:

Problems with the source text:

- changes made to the text during the translation process;
- illegible or difficult-to-read text;
- misspelled or misprinted text;
- incomplete text;
- poorly written text;
- missing references in the text (for example the translator is to translate captions to missing photos)

- the source text contains a translation of a quotation that was originally made in the target language, and the original text is unavailable, making word-for-word quoting nearly impossible;

- obvious inaccuracies in the source text.

Language problems:

- dialect terms and neologisms;

- unexplained acronyms and abbreviations;

- proper names of people, organisations, places, etc.;

- obscure jargon;

- obscure idioms;

- slang.

The problem of common words

The words that are truly difficult to translate are often the small, common words. Cultural aspects can also complicate translation. Consider the example of a word like "bread". At first glance, it is a very simple word, referring in everyday usage to just one thing, with obvious translations in other languages. But ask people from England, France or China to describe or draw "bread" and they will describe different things, based on their individual cultures [3, p. 2].

The problem often lies in failure to distinguish between translation and glossing. Glossing is what a glossary does: give a short (usually one-word) equivalent for each term. Translation, as explained above, is decoding meaning and intent at the text level (not the word level or even sentence level) and then re-encoding them in a target language. Depending on the context, the meaning of the Spanish "tutear" could be translated as "to be on first name terms with". "Bread" has perhaps a better claim to being untranslatable, since even if we say "French bread", "Chinese bread", "Algerian bread", etc. we are relying on our audience knowing what these are like.

Any type of a written text can be translated, however, the translation industry is often categorised by a number of areas of specialisation. Each specialisation has its own challenges and difficulties.

Literature

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