



second language allows people to interact with people from different cultures and make friends from all over the world.

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THE COGNITIVE NATURE OF TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This thesis explores the intricate cognitive strategies employed by translators, bridging theoretical frameworks from cognitive science to understand translation as a complex cognitive activity. By examining theories such as Conceptual Blending, Relevance Theory, and Cognitive Linguistics, the study delves into how translators manage cognitive load, influence through experience, and utilize cognitive tools to enhance translation quality and efficiency. The research employs methods like think-aloud protocols and eye-tracking to analyze real-time translation processes, emphasizing cognitive efforts such as memory, decision-making, and problem-solving. This interdisciplinary approach extends beyond individual cognitive functions to include the social and cultural interactions that shape translation practices, offering insights into how cognitive and linguistic strategies interact to produce effective, culturally relevant translations.



Key words: translation, cognitive linguistics, conceptual blending, relevance theory, cognitive load, think-aloud protocols

Conceptual translation is an essential field of study that intersects linguistics, cognitive science, and information technology. It explores the challenges and methodologies associated with translating concepts across different cognitive and cultural landscapes. Unlike traditional translation, which primarily deals with the conversion of textual elements from one language to another, conceptual translation focuses on the deeper layers of meaning that encompass theories, ideas, and cultural nuances. This complex process requires not only linguistic expertise but also a profound understanding of the underlying conceptual frameworks that govern different systems or cultures.

The significance of conceptual translation has grown with the increasing globalization of communication and the need for interdisciplinary knowledge transfer. In fields ranging from artificial intelligence and software engineering to international relations and cognitive psychology, effective conceptual translation ensures that essential meanings and ideas are preserved and accurately communicated across various domains. This literature review delves into several key approaches and theories that have shaped the field, highlighting innovative computational tools and cognitive models that facilitate the understanding and implementation of effective translation strategies.

Conceptual translation extends beyond linguistic boundaries, engaging in the complex process of transferring ideas, theories, or concepts between different intellectual or cultural contexts. This interdisciplinary field integrates various computational, cognitive, and theoretical methods to address the intricacies involved in successfully transferring concepts.

A significant development in this area is the ABSURDIST algorithm proposed by Goldstone and Rogosky (2002). This algorithm utilizes relations within individual systems to establish connections between disparate systems, drawing parallels and facilitating the transfer of concepts. Grounded in the conceptual web theory, this



computational model suggests that meanings arise not only from external references, but also from an intricate web of interrelationships within the system itself. This perspective emphasizes the potential of intra-systemic relationships to facilitate the process of translating across conceptual systems (Goldstone & Rogosky, 2002). Further enriching the cognitive aspect of translation studies, the Conceptual Integration Theory, explored by Hei (2007), offers a framework for comprehending translation as a cognitive fusion of the source and target contexts.

This theory conceptualizes translation as a creative endeavor that goes beyond the mere linguistic transfer of text, emphasizing the formation of an integrated conceptual space. It underscores the translator's role in navigating and integrating diverse cultural and conceptual perspectives in a creative manner. In the domain of formal representations, conceptual graphs have proven instrumental in bridging the gap between conceptual structures and linguistic expressions. Research conducted by Wille (1997) and Dogru and Slagle (1992) demonstrates how conceptual graphs can be transformed into formal contexts or simple English, facilitating the simplification and efficient communication of complex informational structures.

This approach supports robust knowledge representation and computational processing, improving both human and machine comprehension of complex data. Addressing the translation of metaphors, Rizzato (2021) examines how pragmatic strategies are employed to navigate the conceptual conflicts inherent in metaphors. These strategies take into account the cognitive and cultural aspects of both the source and target languages, highlighting the complexities involved in metaphor translation.

The conceptual modeling aspect of translation, especially in software engineering, can be compared to the process of translating between natural and structured modeling languages. Castro et al. (2010) propose a linguistic approach to conceptual modeling to ensure semantic accuracy, similar to the meticulousness required in linguistic translation. Their methodology emphasizes the importance of clear and precise representation in order to maintain the integrity of the original ideas in the translation process. Collectively, these studies highlight the significance of



conceptual translation in various fields, emphasizing its role in enhancing our understanding of how ideas are shared and adapted across diverse cognitive and cultural settings. This literature review reflects the dynamic and evolving nature of conceptual translation, underlining its significance in bridging disparate disciplines and promoting a more comprehensive understanding of interdisciplinary communication.

The exploration of computational algorithms, cognitive theories, and formal conceptual structures provides a comprehensive view of how conceptual translation operates beyond mere linguistic transfer. These frameworks not only enhance our understanding but also improve the practice of translation across cultural and conceptual boundaries. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the role of conceptual translation in facilitating clear and effective communication across diverse fields becomes ever more crucial, warranting further research and application to meet emerging global challenges.

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