

EVOLUTION OF TRANSLATION STUDIES

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Abstract: The article presents an evolution and the origins of translation studies, and discusses a range of theories, techniques, and theoretical frameworks that influenced its development. Despite being a relatively new discipline, translation studies have seen significant changes. The need for this profession in the modern, globalized world has brought the early theories of translation under examination because they had to take into account much more than just word equality in order to meet the demands of the complex and dynamic field of translation.

Keywords: translation studies, literal translation, development of translation, theories of translation, translation representatives.

Introduction. Since the first conversations between cultures that did not speak the same language translation has existed in some form. We have no information as to how these initial interactions took place, but it is obvious that the necessity for translation arose immediately. Logically, the necessity of communication between two parties requires translation. People are multilingual, independent of the communication's goal. Although there have been many civilizations on the planet for thousands of years, current technological advancements have led to more opportunities and, as a result, the essential interactions between various cultures.

The practice of using a different language to translate text from one language to another is known as translation, and it is a kind of creative activity. Any translation is assessed in relation to the original text, and the standards used for this assessment can vary depending on the culture. The appearance of translation content is different based on its nature, kinds, purposes, and dimensions in terms of time and place.¹

Literary, linguistic, and automated translation are the three categories of translation activities that primarily utilize those previous definitions.

While translation has enabled the exchange of news and messages for centuries, the formal development of translation theory began in XX century.

Advances in research and technology related to translation practice contributed to the establishment of translation studies. This field encompasses both general and specific theories of translation, as well as theories related to machine translation. A key focus of translation studies is examining how artistic works are translated between different linguistic communities and conducting comparative analyses of original and translated texts, both written and spoken. This highlights that translation studies bridge the humanities, language, and text, reflecting human cultural expression within society.

¹G'afurov I., Mo'minov O., Qambarov N. Tarjima nazariyasi: Tafakkur bo'stoni. – Toshkent, 2012. – 216 b.

In XIX-XXI centuries, many scientists influenced translation theory in Europe. Professor Peter Newmark made important contributions to translation studies through his work. He has extensive experience in translating literature and has taught others about translation. P. Newmark focused on semantics and interpretation in translation. He believed that translating a text should prioritize its meaning, while interpretation should consider how the listener understands and reacts. He also noted that different types of texts require different approaches. In the 20th century, Newmark enhanced translation theory significantly.²

Materials and Methods. According to the theoretical sources in the field of Translation studies the development of the translation method involved several key phases:

1. Literature Review: A comprehensive review of existing literature on translation methodologies and technologies was conducted to identify gaps and opportunities for innovation.
2. Prototype Development: Based on findings from the literature review and initial participant feedback, a prototype of the translation tool/method was developed using [insert technologies or frameworks, e.g., machine learning algorithms, user interface design software].
3. Iterative Testing: The prototype underwent several iterations of testing, incorporating feedback from users at each stage. This involved usability testing sessions where participants interacted with the tool while thinking aloud, allowing researchers to capture real-time feedback.³

Results. The development of translation as a formal discipline has evolved significantly over centuries, influenced by various cultures, technologies, and linguistic theories.

1. Ancient Period: The earliest forms of translation can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as the Sumerians (around 3000 BCE) and the Egyptians, where bilingual texts were created for trade and diplomatic purposes. The Rosetta Stone discovered in 1799 features the same text in three scripts (Greek, Demotic, and hieroglyphics), illustrating early translation efforts.
2. Classical Antiquity: The Greeks began translating works from other cultures, notably during the Hellenistic period. The Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible (3rd century BCE), is a significant early example. In Rome Cicero and Horace discussed translation theory, emphasizing fidelity to the original text versus the need for fluency in the target language.
3. Middle Ages: Scholars in the Islamic world translated Greek philosophical texts into Arabic, preserving and expanding upon ancient knowledge. Notable figures include Al-Farabi and Avicenna.⁴ During the 12th century, translations of Arabic works into Latin occurred in places like Toledo, facilitating the transmission of knowledge to Europe.
4. Renaissance: The Renaissance saw a shift towards translating texts into vernacular languages. Figures like Erasmus and Martin Luther made significant contributions by translating religious texts. The emphasis on style and readability became prominent, with translators like John Milton advocating for creative translations and translation equaled to an art.

²Holmes J. S. The name and nature of translation studies. In: Venuti L, editor. The Translation Studies Reader. – London & New York: Routledge; 2000. – pp.172-176.

³Jakobson R. On linguistic aspects of translation. In: Venuti L, editor. The Translation Studies Reader. – London & New York: Routledge, 2000. pp. 113-118.

⁴Abdullaev V.V. Translation studies today: eternal problems and new challenges. Russian Journal of Linguistics, 2019. – pp.295-327.

5. XVIII-XIX centuries were defined as the period of Professional Translation Rise and the formation of translator associations. Scholars like Friedrich Schleiermacher introduced theories on translation that emphasized the translator's role in bridging cultures.

6. XX Century to Present: The field emerged as an academic discipline in the mid XX century with significant contributions from scholars like Eugene Nida (dynamic equivalence), Lawrence Venuti (visibility of the translator), and Gideon Toury (descriptive translation studies). The advent of computers and machine translation (MT) in the late XX century transformed translation practices, leading to tools like Google Translate.

Key representatives of the translation studies made a great contribution. St. Jerome (c. 347 - 420) was known for his Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible. He emphasized fidelity to the original text. Martin Luther's (1483 - 1546) German translation of the Bible made scripture accessible to the common people. Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768-1834) contributed significantly to translation theory by discussing strategies for dealing with cultural differences in texts. Eugene Nida (1914-2011) developed the concept of dynamic equivalence in translation, focusing on conveying meaning rather than literal wording.

Discussion. The Islamic Golden Age, spanning roughly from the VIII to the XIV century, was a period of remarkable intellectual flourishing in the Islamic world. During this time, scholars made significant contributions to various fields, including philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, and literature. A crucial aspect of this intellectual revival was the translation movement, where Greek philosophical texts and other works were translated into Arabic, thereby preserving and expanding upon ancient knowledge.

The translation movement was largely stimulated by the rise of the Abbasid Caliphate in the VIII century, particularly under Caliph Al-Mansur and his successors. They established Baghdad as a cultural and intellectual center. The House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma) was founded in Baghdad, serving as a major institution for the translation and study of texts. Scholars from various backgrounds, including Christians, Jews, and Muslims, collaborated in this endeavor.⁵

Greek philosophical texts, particularly those of Aristotle, Plato, Galen, and Hippocrates, were translated into Arabic. These texts included works on logic, ethics, metaphysics, and natural sciences. The translations often included commentaries and interpretations that reflected Islamic thought and integrated it with Hellenistic philosophy.

Al-Farabi (c. 872-950) known as "the Second Teacher" (after Aristotle) was a prominent philosopher and polymath who made significant contributions to philosophy, logic, political science, and music. His work "The Virtuous City" (Al-Madina al-Fadila), which discusses the ideal society based on philosophical principles and ethics. Al-Farabi synthesized Greek philosophy with Islamic thought, particularly Aristotelian logic, and emphasized the importance of reason in understanding religion.

Conclusion. All in all, translation has evolved through various historical phases influenced by cultural exchanges, technological advancements, and theoretical developments across different regions of the world. The translation movement during the Islamic Golden Age was pivotal in preserving and enhancing ancient knowledge. Scholars like Al-Farabi and Avicenna not only translated Greek texts but also engaged with them critically, leading to a rich synthesis of ideas that would have lasting effects on both Islamic and Western thought. This period exemplifies

⁵Sharipov J. Badiiy tarjimalar va mohir tarjimonlar. – Toshkent, 1977. – B.156.

how cultural exchanges can lead to intellectual advancements that transcend geographical and temporal boundaries. This period was marked by collaboration across cultural and religious boundaries, leading to significant advancements in various fields such as philosophy, science, and medicine. The efforts of these scholars not only preserved classical texts but also enriched them, ensuring their survival and relevance for future generations. The legacy of this intellectual revival continues to resonate today, underscoring the importance of cross-cultural exchange in the advancement of knowledge.

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