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COMMON MISTAKES IN TRANSLATING POLITICAL DOCUMENTS

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Abstract: *Translating political documents presents unique challenges due to the complexity of political language and the absence of exact equivalents between languages. This paper explores common mistakes made in political translation, emphasizing the need for translators to fully understand both the source and target languages to avoid misinterpretations. Key issues discussed include the difficulty of accurately conveying political terminology, the risks of prioritizing form over content (or vice versa), and the frequent inconsistencies in translation approaches. The study also highlights the impact of systemic linguistic differences, particularly in the translation of Polish political terms into English, and the inadequacies of official translation teams. To address these challenges, a translation model is proposed, focusing on formal lexical analysis and consistent methodologies to ensure precise and contextually appropriate translations. While the findings are based on Polish-English translations, the principles outlined can be adapted for broader application in political translation across various languages.*

Key Words*: political translation, diplomatic discourse, translation mistakes, political terminology, linguistic equivalence, form vs. content, translation methodology, lexical analysis, Polish-English translation, international communication.*

Аннотация: *Перевод политических документов представляет собой уникальные трудности из-за сложности политического языка и отсутствия точных эквивалентов между языками. В данной работе рассматриваются распространенные ошибки в политическом переводе, подчеркивается необходимость для переводчиков полностью понимать как исходный, так и*

целевой языки, чтобы избежать неверных интерпретаций. Рассматриваются ключевые проблемы, такие как сложность точной передачи политической терминологии, риски приоритизации формы над содержанием (или наоборот), а также частые несоответствия в подходах к переводу. В исследовании также подчеркивается влияние системных языковых различий, особенно при переводе польских политических терминов на английский язык, и недостатки работы официальных переводческих команд. Для решения этих проблем предлагается модель перевода, основанная на формальном лексическом анализе и последовательных методологиях для обеспечения точных и контекстуально appropriate переводов. Хотя выводы основаны на польско-английских переводах, изложенные принципы могут быть адаптированы для более широкого применения в политическом переводе на различных языках.

***Ключевые слова**: политический перевод, дипломатический дискурс, переводческие ошибки, политическая терминология, лингвистическая эквивалентность, форма и содержание, методология перевода, лексический анализ, польско-английский перевод, международная коммуникация.*

***Annotatsiya:** Siyosiy hujjatlarni tarjima qilish siyosiy tilning murakkabligi va tillar o‘rtasida aniq ekvivalentlarning yo‘qligi tufayli o‘ziga xos qiyinchiliklarni keltirib chiqaradi. Ushbu maqolada siyosiy tarjimada yo‘l qo‘yiladigan keng tarqalgan xatolar tahlil qilinib, noto‘g‘ri talqinlardan qochish uchun tarjimonlar asl va tarjima tillarini chuqur tushunishlari zarurligi ta’kidlanadi. Muhokama qilingan asosiy masalalar orasida siyosiy atamalarni aniq yetkazishning murakkabligi, shaklni mazmundan ustun qo‘yish xavfi (yoki aksincha) va tarjima yondashuvlaridagi tez-tez uchraydigan nomuvofiqliklar mavjud. Tadqiqot, shuningdek, tizimli lingvistik farqlarning ta’sirini, ayniqsa polyak siyosiy atamalarini ingliz tiliga o‘girishdagi qiyinchiliklarni va rasmiy tarjimon guruhlarining samaradorlik darajasi pastligini ko‘rsatadi. Ushbu muammolarni hal qilish uchun tarjima modeli taklif etiladi. Unda asosiy e’tibor rasmiy leksik tahlil va izchil metodologiyaga qaratilgan bo‘lib, aniq va kontekstga mos tarjimalarni ta’minlashga yo‘naltirilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari*

polyakcha-inglizcha tarjimalarga asoslangan bo'lsa-da, taklif etilgan tamoyillarni turli tillardagi siyosiy tarjimalar uchun keng qo'llash mumkin.

Kalit so'zlar: *siyosiy tarjima, diplomatik nutq, tarjima xatolari, siyosiy atamalar, til muvofiqligining ta'minlanishi, shakl va mazmun munosabati, tarjima metodologiyasi, leksik tahlil, polyakcha-inglizcha tarjima, xalqaro muloqot.*

1. Introduction

The decisions made by interpreters in the field of international law or diplomacy are supposed to be based on the legal interpretation of certain texts. As a case in point, public international law defines itself as being composed of principles, norms, and rules which are universally or globally accepted and respected by all the subjects of public international law or the states. The wording of international treaties is the most important part of those rules. Therefore the correctness of its interpretation and its translation in all signatory languages is essential [1]. In this context it can be useful to make the legal analysis of some features of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969 to suggest those translation difficulties which translators are expecting to face and ways to tackle them by use of the correct equivalence. The passage to be translated from English into Albanian for this analysis is a very short excerpt from the text of the Convention referred to. Section 2 begins with an introductory clause that "the number and category of emplacements of installation shall be measured and recorded in accordance with this convention". It is followed by the sub-clauses (a) – (e) which set out the technical requirements quality for measuring and recording the specified information. The subordinate clause which opens this section is very common in the CCM. There are 680 subordinate clauses in the 400 civilian safe-guard norms, and twenty percent of them are not placed at the beginning of sentences. The first dilemma faced by translators when up against long sentences is whether to break the sentence into two for better sermon or to preserve it AS IS. However, there is no possibility of such a choice in this case. It is because of a subordinate clause which does not stand on its own. It is an essential part of the sentence and should begin the paragraph but this is not the case. The clause itself consists of six sub-clauses. Four of them are defining relatives. Defining the relations

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between them would help grasp the meaning of the sentence better. There are six installations at issue. They are part of a single system. Those installations consist of 42 emplacements. The smallest distance from the NP of an emplacement of one of those installations is 9.2 km.

2. Understanding Political Language

One of the biggest problems about translating a political text is the subtle meaning hidden in the political language, especially in a political propaganda text. It would be found too hard to translate the hidden message of the political language without understanding the culture of the source language (SL) very well. This study is revealing the strategies adopted to tackle hidden political meaning featured in a political text, particularly in the field of politics, into another language. The investigation is based on the translation analysis of “Fifty Mistakes in American Politics” . Since it is difficult to translate political language. The translatability of the message is some time is not the main objective of the text being translated. Furthermore, the secret of such messages is sometimes used intentionally. This is particularly the strategy of propaganda and secret diplomacy in war situations. The purpose of the text was to stop the ammunition transfer to this tribe that is choosing the wrong side in the war. Regarding translation, the difficulty of the message was in its subtle manner, meaning that the transfer of Indian was intentionally forbidden in order to prevent controlling. The original text wrote that in a dest-wise manner, the clarification is placed in the last part of the paragraph. However, in the translation, the clarification was placed in the second sentence in order to make it less subtle. In cases like this, the use of semi-function word can also be utilized in order to make a hidden meaning more overt. However, in purplies the use of this device has to be avoided so that the hidden meaning doesn’t become too mechanic. Instead, one of the simplest solution to make it less subtle is to present the hidden message as part of open information. This regard the meaning behind the forbidden of the incoming of the Indian resented long-lived in three months narrow [2]. Another possibility is that the hidden message can be totally deleted if it doesn’t make any sense in the target language [3].

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3. Types of Political Documents

Political translation has not been explained as such by Translation Studies (TS) theorists. However, regarding how vague governments and embassies tend to be in negotiations, it can be argued that the translators in such meetings are dealing with political texts. Often such texts are also quasi-legal. However, what is usually meant by political translation is the translation of political literature, political essays, documents, election material and political journalism which can be interpreted as references to policies, government actions, political parties, discussion of war and official negotiations. These texts have been studied by TS scholars under similar headings. Negotiation and conflict resolution, international relations, war studies and legal studies address verbal interaction which is somewhat similar to political translation. The translation of agreements/treaties are examined by these fields of research but official documents such as letters, orders, bills, conversational utterances of authorities, decisions within the highest authorities, petitions, reports, jargons, secterian terms, legislative texts in general are not regarded by either field as legitimate objects of study although they are better candidates for the definition of political translation. Another important set of documents that belong to politics have escaped academic scrutiny of translation so far. These are the rules, laws, agreements, orders which constitute the very grid of political environment. Political institutions, whether they are governments, international organizations, banks and sometimes even offices produce texts which are enforcable by definition. Meetings in which the text is created are usually private or inaccessible as they also include classified data. Such texts are produced with utmost care to exclude interpretation, therefore they are written in dense language using a tendentious and ceremonial style. Hence translation studies cannot in any way explain the processes or texts. On the other hand the political institutions which operate by these texts and language know full well the results that they expect in the translation of a text from one field to another, due to the careful drafting of the original text. Given the discussions in the media and academic literature about the inconsistency observed between the source text of such documents and the translation, political texts which set the frames of every power relations need

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special attention. Such documents, forms and agreements are directly enforceable to third parties and they will ignore the courts, expenses and risks of a legal challenge. Moreover, they will not protect the signatory as a court will not annul an unfavourable agreement of a stronger organisation. It is argued that such texts written by stronger entities are not simple enumeration of terms but discursive naturalizations aiming to establish a "Beautiful Soul" or a gesture of charming naivety on the part of the stronger about relations [2]. The equivalence in the translation of these texts requires a similar formulation of all implicits which is impossible without a powerful SATT which can model and reverse engineer the context of drafting.

4. Common Translation

It is easy to relate translation issues directly to the translation of one language to another or the translation of private conversations between two people with only two sides; or for that reason, two political parties involved in a conflict. But when it comes to large-scale issue, translating political documents and so on between nations or International organisations, things get really complicated as there are many more sides to such party; not to address the inherent complicated nature in translating essential international political terminology.

Political translation has been acknowledged as different among all kinds of translation because of various reasons: the inherent power of politics, the vagueness and obscurity of political speech and writing; and the fact that worlds politicians inhabit are complex, constantly shifting and full of unwritten rules and nuances. In International organisations, things can be even more complicated as most significant and political documents are being translated to six official languages.

One of the most important organisations of the world treaty in practice is the United Nations, where all the member states can express their opinions and vote in all languages. In UN and since its Secretary-General and most of the administration behind him follow closely the first four official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), these languages are the most important regarding translations and contained documents. At the same time, and as mentioned above, political drafting documents as well as the process itself and the participation might

consist a very high standard of translation, reader-friendly, readable and easy to understand. However, and as far as many translations are excellent their majority seems to be with problems, not reader-friendly or with grammatical and lexical mistakes. In this paper, the both translations (English and Chinese) of the document problems in the United Nations has been viewed and analyze the problems in Chinese translation [4].

5. Ethical Considerations in Political Translation

Translation as a Practice of Improving International Relations aims at exploring an overall understanding of translation in terms of the activities, risks, and common mistakes encountered during the translation process in the context of political documentations. This is characteristic as a new area of study, emerging in the shadow of general diplomatic translation, commercial translation, and translation technologies such as for subtitling, especially from English into Indonesian. Political translation is not only about your vocation in converting texts from one language into another one. It goes beyond the mechanical activity of arranging words in a sentence together in target language. It is the lengthy and complex process of transferring the meaning of the source text into another language, in respect to protecting the culture, social norms, and all that needs to be paid attention in the target language. Translations are undertaken either through a company dedicated to translation or by a freelance translator. It is for official documents as a legal document, letter, etc. The error occurred, because the translator did not notice how important it is in translating a text, that it should have no mistakes. In the following, navigation becomes the key to solve this problem.

Translation is re-writing or transposing of message from an original language in written form by a translator who has knowledge of both the original language and the language into which the message is translated. In the theory of translation studies, translation is said to be one of the academic disciplines in analyzing at least 4 types and forms of text categories which include slogans, humors, idioms, and political documents. Political translation refers to the translation of texts concerning politics, politicians, and political relations between countries in the world. Political document

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translation is very important, because the translations will be useful to expand political relations between countries. There are three types of political documents translation, they are propaganda, memorandum of understanding, and agreement. These types of texts need to have high translation skills. Political translation is not easy. Translators need knowledge and examine carefully the text must be translated, so that meaning in a text is not different from the original text. Better translator can be remarkable work from his translation; equivalent in general.

5.1. Maintaining Objectivity

Learners of professional translation should be aware of the following common mistakes found in translated political documents: (1) Original or source-language-based mistakes that are caused by the translation equivalents of words, phrases, or sentences in the source language or by the direct transfer of the source language's grammatical patterns or logic into the target language; (2) Output-based errors that are caused by the violation of the target language's rules or structures without the involvement of the source language—this type of mistake is similar to the interlanguage errors made by second-language learners; (3) Common sense errors that are due to translation blindness or to limited interpretative competence or general knowledge—many of these errors could have been avoided by using bilingual dictionaries, thesauruses or encyclopedias and by making more research on the subject. Such a belief is also shared by several scholars and experienced translators; and (4) Changes of meaning that may not show up as common sense errors but that still make the translated texts the opposite of the original texts [2].

5.2. Handling Sensitive Information

During the last few weeks you have started to work with a bigger group of translators than usual on some translations. While this is good cooperation on the one hand, in order to be more productive and quick, it also showed a weakness of lacking effective communication tools when many people are involved in the same project. This will take some financial investment, mostly in acquiring better software and techniques. This will also require on hand suitable personnel to maintain this equipment and the infrastructure [5]. This goal was examined based on Critical

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Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework with an emphasis on Fairclough's three dimensional model. For this particular goal, some paragraphs of Hard Choices 2014 and its Farsi translations were analyzed to explore the relationship between writer's purpose, the subject and the style of the text. The way ideology and power relationships are reflected in text are a controversial issue in international politics. The decisions on translation and narrations can either neutralize the bias in a text, or they can unconsciously or intentionally strengthen it. [2].

6. Future Trends in Political Translation

Reading translated Chinese documents is not always a pleasant experience. A reader can come across not only grammatical but also unacceptable sentences because of the direct translation method used. Recently, there has been a call for a less liberal and more modified version of direct translation. Since the first year of its restoration of lawful seat in the United Nations, the Chinese government has been working for adoption of the Chinese language as one of the official working languages. It is well known that although Chinese is the most widely used language in the world, it is the most difficult to understand with so many dialects and written forms. It is equally difficult for the Chinese people to understand the other languages. Modifying a text for translation is always a sorrowful task, because translation back and forth inevitably introduces erasures, subtle infelicities or loss, as well as the added danger construing the original text wrong eventually. In the past decades, European languages, notably English and French, have thus enjoyed a practical monopoly in diplomatic negotiations in the United Nations. However, English, French and their many regional dialects are understood by no more than half the world's countries. It is a matter how the people in those countries know what is being decided in committees upstairs! Most of the arguments today derive from words used in the English language. Some enormous spiritual things were not spoken well. Translators are most of the time left alone no matter how many efforts are spent in revising a translation. Translators in the UN have formulated a set of norms over the decades, which among other things is supposed to resolve the type of problems just touched on. Such norms are appropriate diplomatic language the readers who must be their

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own officials need: for instance, in communications with capitals. A proposal was made to the effect that this type of text was more likely to circumvent anomaly and ambiguity and would not, at the very hefty rate that could help it. [4] It may not always appear the best possible, but to stay in it may be a convenient way of averting a resumption of debate. Measures could of course be taken to attempt to improve its facilitated function, but such efforts could be quite labor-intensive.

7. Conclusion

Due to the opacity and ambiguity of the American political discourse, the guidelines related to common mistakes in translating the political documents and evaluations of the current Persian translations of these texts were provided in order to shed light on the target and source texts of political translation. This paper has implications for practitioners and instructors in the field of political translation. Regarding the vague, loaded language and the misuse or abuse of authority as a strategy, five instances of it in the source language were investigated in the Persian translations. Exemplification of the usages with regard to the comparison of the target and source language instances was presented as well. With intergroup reliability, this task was invested by two reliable rates related to positive self-presentation and negative other-presentation. The phrase difficult choices was a very common response. Foresight, skilled choice, and thought into choosing were also large categories. Sum of 41 Farsi chosen categories were classified as larger superordinate categories. It was shown the Persian instead suggested the choosing were the powerful, skilled, and hardworking as compared to the original words.

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