

MEANING ANALYSIS AND DYNAMIC EQUIVALANCE

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Abstract

Dynamic equivalence, as a translation principle, aims to recreate the impact of the source text on the target audience. Meaning analysis serves as the foundation for achieving this equivalence. By meticulously examining the source text's semantic and pragmatic aspects, translators gain a deep understanding of its intended meaning. This understanding empowers them to make informed choices in the target language, ensuring that the translated text conveys the original message accurately and effectively while respecting cultural nuances and achieving naturalness of expression.

Keywords

Semantics

Pragmatics

Literal vs. figurative meaning

Connotation / Denotation

Contextual interpretation

Cultural nuance

Source text / Target text

Message intent

Language structure

Аннотация

Динамическое эквивалентное переводение как принцип перевода направлено на воссоздание воздействия исходного текста на целевую аудиторию. Анализ значений служит основой для достижения этого эквивалента. Тщательно анализируя семантические и прагматические аспекты исходного текста, переводчики получают глубокое понимание его предполагаемого значения. Это понимание позволяет им принимать обоснованные решения при выборе языка перевода, гарантируя, что переведенный текст точно и эффективно передает исходное сообщение, уважая культурные особенности и достигая естественности выражения.

Ключевые слова

Семантика

Прагматика

Буквальное и фигуральное значение

Коннотация / Денотация

Контекстуальная интерпретация

Культурные нюансы

Исходный текст / Целевой текст

Намерение сообщения

Языковая структура

Interpretation theory

Meaning analysis, a crucial step in the translation process, goes beyond simply recognizing words. It involves deeply understanding the intended message of the source text by examining its semantic and pragmatic aspects. This approach breaks down the text into its smallest units of meaning, analyzing the relationship between words, phrases, and sentences to grasp the overall communicative intent. It considers not just the literal meaning but also implied meanings, cultural context, and the author's purpose.

- Identifying the core message: What is the author fundamentally trying to communicate?
- Analyzing semantic relationships: How do words and phrases interact to create meaning?
- Considering context: How does the surrounding text and the situation influence interpretation?
- Understanding implied meanings: What messages are conveyed indirectly?
- Analyzing the author's intent: What is the purpose of the text (e.g., to inform, persuade, entertain)?

Dynamic equivalence, a translation philosophy popularized by Eugene Nida, prioritizes the impact of the translated text on the target audience. The goal is to create a response in the target audience that is as close as possible to the response of the original audience to the source text. This often means moving away from a strictly literal translation and focusing on conveying the meaning and intent of the original in a way that is natural and understandable in the target language and culture.

- Focus on the receptor audience: The translation is tailored to the target language and culture.
- Naturalness of expression: The translated text should sound fluent and idiomatic in the target language.
- Equivalent effect: The aim is to produce a similar impact on the target audience as the original text had on the source audience.
- Flexibility in wording: Translators have more freedom to adapt the text to achieve the desired effect.
- Potential for greater cultural adaptation: Adjustments are made to ensure the message is culturally relevant and understandable.

Meaning analysis is essential for achieving dynamic equivalence. By thoroughly analyzing the source text's meaning, translators can identify the core message and intent, which informs their choices in the target language. This analysis helps them determine what adjustments are necessary to achieve an equivalent effect on the target audience.

Meaning Analysis in Translation

Meaning analysis refers to the process of breaking down the meaning of the source text to understand all its components before translating it. This involves analyzing:

a. Types of Meaning:

Lexical meaning: The dictionary definition of a word.

Grammatical meaning: Meaning derived from sentence structure and grammar.

Contextual meaning: How meaning changes depending on the context.

Cultural meaning: Cultural implications or connotations embedded in language.

b. Levels of Meaning:

Surface meaning: The literal or direct meaning.

Deep meaning: The underlying message, intention, or emotion.

c. Purpose of Meaning Analysis:

To preserve the original intent of the author. To ensure clarity in the target language.

To handle ambiguities, idioms, metaphors, and cultural references accurately.

2. Dynamic Equivalence (also called Functional Equivalence)

Dynamic equivalence is a translation approach introduced by Eugene Nida. It focuses on conveying the same effect or response in the target audience as intended in the source audience, rather than sticking to a word-for-word translation.

Focus on meaning over form. Prioritizes naturalness and readability in the target language. Takes into account cultural differences and adapts accordingly. Often used in Bible translation, literature, and media.

Example:

Source (literal): "He kicked the bucket."

Dynamic equivalence: "He died."

(Literal translation wouldn't make sense in many cultures.)

Importance in Translation:

Improves communication between cultures.

Ensures comprehension and emotional impact are retained.

Essential for marketing, literature, religious texts, and films.

Ensures Comprehension and Emotional Impact Are Retained

Dynamic equivalence in translation is not just about converting words from one language to another — it is about preserving the same understanding and emotional resonance that the original audience would feel. This approach ensures that readers or listeners in the target language respond in a similar way to those of the source language.

1. Comprehension (Ensuring Clarity)

Focus on Meaning: Attention is given to what the words mean, not just how they appear in the original.

Cultural Adaptation: Cultural elements that may be difficult to understand — such as customs, religious terms, or social values — are adapted to the new culture.

Simple and Natural Language: Complex or obscure expressions are replaced with familiar ones, which makes the text easier to understand.

Choosing Equivalent Meaning: It's not necessary to translate every word literally; the main goal is to convey the overall meaning and message of the sentence.

Example:

English: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Dynamic translation: "The soul is

ready, but human nature is weak." (A literal translation might be confusing or misunderstood.)

2. Emotional Impact (Preserving Emotional Tone)

Emotional Atmosphere: The feelings conveyed in the original (joy, sadness, fear, awe) should also be reflected in the translation.

Idiomatic Translation: Literal translation might lose emotional tone, so expressions are translated based on their emotional and contextual meaning.

Style and Tone: It's important to preserve the author's style, tone, and intent — especially in literature and religious texts.

Reader's Response: Dynamic translation allows readers to feel the same emotions as the original audience, deepening the connection.

Example (literary text):

Original: "Her heart shattered like glass."

Dynamic translation: "Her heart broke into pieces, and the pain inside her was unbearable."

(This enhances emotional effect and resonates better with readers.)

As a Result: The reader easily understands the text. They experience the message like the original audience would. The translation feels natural and sincere. Cultural barriers are removed without losing the meaning.

Dynamic Equivalence in Literary Translation

In literature, language is often rich in metaphor, idiom, emotion, and cultural nuance. A literal translation may preserve the structure, but dynamic equivalence aims to preserve the feeling, tone, rhythm, and intended response in the reader.

1. Preserving Character Voice and Emotion

Every character in a story may have a unique way of speaking — formal, humorous, emotional, or dialectal. A dynamic translation recreates that tone and emotion in the target language.

Example: Original (English): "I ain't never been no good at nothing."

Dynamic translation (Uzbek equivalent): "Men hech qachon hech narsaga usta bo'lmaganman."

(Not literal, but keeps the humble, regretful tone.)

2. Adapting Metaphors and Idioms Metaphors and idioms often lose meaning in literal translation. Dynamic equivalence replaces them with culturally equivalent or emotionally similar expressions.

Example: Original: “He’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”

Dynamic translation: “U tashqaridan muloyim ko‘rinsa-da, aslida xavfli odam.”

(Retains the meaning, adapted for clarity.)

3. Recreating Poetic and Rhythmic Style In poetry or poetic prose, rhythm, alliteration, and sound play a role. Literal translation breaks that, so dynamic translation aims to rebuild the aesthetic in the new language.

Example: Original: “The wind whispered through the trees.”

Dynamic translation: “Shamol daraxtlar orasidan pichirlab o‘tdi.”

(Keeps the poetic softness and imagery.)

4. Maintaining Cultural Emotions and Symbols

Symbols and emotions tied to a specific culture may not carry the same weight in another. Dynamic equivalence adapts them to convey the same emotional intensity.

Example: Original: “She wore black for a year in mourning.”

In cultures where mourning is expressed differently, the translator may adapt this:

“U bir yil davomida g‘amdan o‘ziga kelolmadi, doimo motam libosida yurdi.”

(Captures the emotional impact beyond literal color symbolism.)

Readers connect emotionally with the story and characters.

Literary themes and cultural values are faithfully conveyed.

The artistic and emotional beauty of the original is preserved

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This information should provide a comprehensive overview of meaning analysis and dynamic equivalence. Let me know if you have any other questions.