

COMPLEXITIES OF DIALECT TRANSLATION

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Tackling the problem of dialect translation often presents numerous challenges that significantly affect the accuracy of the translated content. Due to their unique linguistic characteristics and rich cultural nuances, dialects can pose a challenge for translators. It goes without saying that language and culture are closely related, and the vocabulary of any language invariably reflects many factors, including history, as well as national and cultural traditions that are inherent to specific regions.

An important aspect of ensuring the translation's equivalence is the accurate representation of sociolinguistic factors that highlight all differences in the speech of diverse groups of native speakers. Deviations from the national language in the source text, such as territorial or social dialect forms, can pose significant challenges for flawless translation. The meanings of these linguistic items are often difficult to convey in the target language.

When it comes to dialects, the translation difficulties a translator faces can be quite significant. However, with the help of such a translation technique as compensation it is possible to at least partially reproduce the stylistic nuances associated with these territorial deviations. Compensation provides the perfect opportunity to convey elements of the source text that may be lost in translation through alternative means, not necessarily in the same place in the target text, in order to achieve the highest level of equivalence in multilingual texts.

The flexibility of substitutions and compensations provides various strategies for solving practically untranslatable language issues. Although dialects were once considered to be completely untranslatable, the main goal of a translator is to constantly look for potential solutions to these problems. Translatability is always possible provided translators strive to establish a relation of equivalence considering not only linguistic structure (Cozma, 2022, p.375).

When the source text is written in a particular dialect, the translation process becomes comparable to translation between national languages. However, there are cases when dialectic linguistic elements can be included in literary texts to characterize individual characters, identifying them as inhabitants of a particular region where this dialect is spoken. In George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion*, Professor Henry Higgins emphasizes how dialects can reveal a person's origin. "You can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshireman by his brogue" (Shaw, 1991, p.15). This highlights the importance of preserving the nuances of dialects in translation. Thus, it is necessary to emphasize that translating regional dialects of the source text using

dialects from the target language is an unacceptable mistake. The use of certain regional dialects in translation may contradict the original content, introducing features that may inevitably lead to discrepancies and distortions of the meaning, as well as a loss of authenticity.

In general, translating dialects is associated with a complex range of problems that require careful consideration of linguistic and cultural nuances. Although it is obvious that certain dialect words and cultural subtleties could create difficulties in finding exact correspondences, experienced translators use a variety of methods to convey the intended meaning. Such translation techniques as compensation and substitution provide potential strategies for finding appropriate translation of nearly untranslatable elements. However, it is of vital importance for every translator to be aware of the risk of oversimplification and misinterpretation, as well as a loss of authenticity.

As it was illustrated by observations of Professor Henry Higgins in Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, dialects serve as markers of identity. Thus, it is crucial for every translator to tackle the problem of dialects’ translation with a deep understanding of their cultural aspects, ensuring the authenticity of the source text is maintained while achieving an equivalent representation that boosts readers’ experience.

References

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