



Overview of the Problems of Equivalence in Translating Texts

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ABSTRACT

Equivalence in translation is a fundamental concept that lies at the heart of the translator's craft. It refers to the process of accurately conveying the meaning, style and tone of the source text in the target language while taking into account various linguistic and cultural differences. Achieving equivalence in translation involves striking a delicate balance between fidelity to the original text and readability, naturalness in the target language. Therefore, this paper investigates the types of equivalency and the views of scholars about the issues in finding the appropriate equivalent words as well as their importance in translation

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Introduction. Comparative linguistics and translation studies aim to address various language and cultural issues and break down barriers. Translation researchers have traditionally relied on comparative and typological study findings. Translation provides valuable data for general and comparative linguistics, allowing for a better understanding of both language specifics and universal characteristics. Within the scientific domains where the interests of the aforementioned disciplines intersect, the issue of equivalency in translation is significant from a theoretical and scientific standpoint. While it has not received enough attention, it holds great significance for translation studies, comparative linguistics, and linguistics as a whole. Equivalence is one of the most frequently used concepts in the translation process, and it is also used as a method of transferring lexical units from the source language to the target language, along with showing the degree of alternation in the translation. The problem of equivalence in translation occupies a central place in linguistic translation studies since the equivalence of the source and translated texts acts as a minimal, contiguous condition of translation. The study of translational equivalence cannot fail to be of interest to the comparative linguistics, as any comparison of two languages involves the consideration of their mutual translatability. Since any kind of linguistic analysis is based on the establishment of similarities and differences. An important task of this discipline is the comparative study of languages on a functional basis. Obviously, that is where observations and conclusions translation studies can provide representatives of this discipline an invaluable help.

Literature review. These are just a few of the notable figures in the study of translation equivalency and adequacy who have made significant contributions to the field. Their research and theories have helped to shape contemporary views on translation practices, emphasizing the importance of context, culture, and communication in achieving effective and meaningful translations.

The concepts of equivalency and adequacy in translation have been widely explored by several translation theorists and practitioners over the years. One of the most influential figures in this field is Eugene

Nida, an American linguist and translation theorist. Nida is known for his theory of dynamic equivalence, which emphasizes the importance of conveying the meaning of the source text in a way that is natural and comprehensible to the target audience, even if it means departing from a word-for-word translation. Nida discusses numerous scientific perspectives on meaning in relation to the research conducted by pragmatics and semantics theorists. Moving away from the antiquated notion that an orthographic word has a fixed meaning and toward a functional definition of meaning - in which a word 'acquires' meaning through its context and can elicit different responses depending on culture - is central to Nida's work (Nida E, 1964). Nida incorporates key features of Chomsky's model into his 'science' of translation. In particular, Nida sees that it provides the translator with a technique for decoding the ST and a procedure for encoding the TT (Nida 1964, p. 60), although he reverses Chomsky's model when analyzing the ST. Thus, the surface structure of the ST is analyzed into the basic elements of the deep structure; these are 'transferred' in the translation process and then restructured semantically and stylistically into the surface structure of the TT.

Another important figure in the study of translation equivalency and adequacy is Roman Jakobson, a Russian-American linguist and literary theorist. Jakobson's theory of translation focuses on the different types of equivalence that can exist between the source text and the target text, including semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic equivalence. Jakobson also highlighted the importance of considering the cultural and contextual aspects of a text in order to achieve an adequate translation. The Russian-born American structuralist Roman Jakobson specifies three types of translation in his paper "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation" (1959-2000): intralingual, interlingual, and intersemiotic. Interlingual translation is defined as translation between two separate written languages. Jakobson continues by looking at important aspects of this kind of translation, most notably linguistic equivalency and meaning (Jeremy M, 2001).

Nida's primary contribution is to indicate the path away from rigorous word-for-word equivalency. The principles of formal and dynamic equivalency that he introduced were essential in establishing a receptor-based (or reader-based) perspective for translation theory. However, for a variety of reasons, the notion of equivalency and the principle of equivalent effect have come under heavy fire. Lefevre (1993:7) believes that equivalence is still unduly focused on the word level, while van den Broeck (1978: 40) and Larose (1989: 78) believe that equivalent effect or response is unachievable.

Other scholars who have made significant contributions to the study of translation equivalency and adequacy include Peter Newmark, who proposed a classification of different types of translation strategies based on their level of formal equivalence, and Christiane Nord, who developed the concept of adequacy in translation as the degree to which the translation meets the expectations of the target audience. The concepts of equivalency and adequacy in translation have been studied and debated by various scholars and practitioners in the field of translation studies, each offering valuable insights into how to achieve effective and meaningful translations across different languages and cultures.

Method and the process. The data in this paper was collected through a qualitative research method. The works of Jeremy Munday, Roman Jakobson, Nida, and other scholars are taken into deep analysis.

Discussion. Werner Koller emphasizes that the meaning of the concept of equivalence is defined only when the type of equivalent relationship between two texts is determined. The type of equivalence is determined by the purpose of the translation (1989).

Werner Koller divides equivalence into five types:

- 1) denotative - preserving content, i.e. invariant content;
- 2) connotative - stylistic equivalence, including semantic equivalence covers stylistic functions;
- 3) textual-normative, genre features of the text, speech and language directed to the laws;
- 4) Pragmatic-targeted
- 5) translation aimed at revealing the formal, artistic-aesthetic, individual features of the text.

The old terms such as 'literal', 'free' and 'faithful' translation, which were examined in translation studies, are discarded by Nida in favour of 'two basic orientations or types of equivalence' (Nida 1964a: 159): (1) formal equivalence and (2) dynamic equivalence. These are defined by Nida as follows:

Formal equivalence: This type of equivalence focuses on mirroring the structure and form of the source text in the target language. Translators aim to replicate the syntactic and grammatical patterns of the original text as closely as possible while maintaining readability and naturalness in the target language. As a result, formal equivalency is closely focused on the ST structure, which has a significant impact on accuracy and correctness. Since this type of translation is frequently used in an academic setting, “gloss translations,” which closely resemble ST structure and frequently include scholarly footnotes, are the most typical of this type of translation. They give readers close access to the language and customs of the source culture. **Dynamic equivalence:** Dynamic equivalence emphasizes conveying the overall meaning and intention of the source text in the target language, even if it means deviating from the literal translation. Translators may seek to capture the spirit and tone of the original text rather than adhering strictly to the exact words.

However, Newmark strays from Nida's receptor-oriented line, believing that “the conflict of loyalties, the gap between emphasis on source and target language will always remain as the overriding problem in translation theory and practice” and that the success of equivalent effect is “illusory” (Newmark 1981: 38). Newmark proposes reducing the difference by using the terms “semantic” and “communicative” translation in place of the previous ones: Communicative translation aims to emulate the original text's intended effect as closely as possible on its audience. Semantic translation aims to replicate the precise contextual meaning of the source text as accurately as possible using the semantic and syntactic structures of the target language (Newmark 1981: 39). This description of communicative translation resembles Nida's dynamic equivalence in the effect it is trying to create on the TT reader, while semantic translation has similarities to Nida's formal equivalence. However, Newmark distances himself from the full principle of equivalent effect, since that effect is inoperant if the text is out of TL space and time (1981: 69)

Equivalence in translation is not always easy to achieve, especially when dealing with complex or culturally-specific content. Translators often face challenges in finding the right balance between fidelity to the original text and readability in the target language. It requires linguistic proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and creative problem-solving skills to navigate the complexities of translation and produce a successful, equivalent rendition of the source text.

Conclusion. In conclusion, equivalence in translation is a multifaceted and nuanced concept that encompasses various types of equivalence, from formal and dynamic to communicative and functional. Achieving equivalence requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as the cultural context in which the text is situated. By carefully considering linguistic and cultural factors and balancing fidelity to the original text with readability and naturalness in the target language, translators can produce translations that accurately convey the meaning, style, and tone of the source text, achieving true equivalence in translation.

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