

## **TRANSLATION METHODS AND PROCEDURES IN INTEGRATING LOAN VOCABULARY FROM ENGLISH INTO OTHER LANGUAGES**

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*Abstract: The hypothesis of this study is that English has become a dominant linguistic force and the present paper examines the complex relationship between various speech functions and translation processes, while at the same time focusing on intercultural communication, grounded in the theoretical frameworks of speech act theory. Furthermore, the study tries to examine how the core speech functions serve as fundamental tools for understanding the complexity and dimensions of language use. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the study explores the role of the translator and at the same time the challenges faced in the translating process, trying to maintain the intent, tone, and social functions comprised by the speech acts*

*Keywords: translation, Anglicization, Calque, Adaptation, Restructuring*

The present paper comes to expand and explore other facets that I have previously approached in other two theses, entitled *Translation Studies and the Influence of Anglicization and Calque on the Restructuring of Other Languages*, respectively *The Contribution of Reminiscence To the Anglicization of Other Languages*. As stated in the previous papers, speech is a fundamental human activity and language is the primary means of communication, tightly related and connected to our surroundings. Because we interact with a complex set of social relations, this also affects the way we organize our speech and furthermore the human interactions and communication. As it allows individuals to express their thoughts, emotions and intentions, it is vital that the speech they use is adapted to the situations and social context they find themselves in. Therefore, speech is not only a simple vehicle for conveying words and vocabulary, but it is also a complex system of functions that fulfill a variety of social and at the same time psychological roles within human interaction.

From the moment we begin to speak and use a certain language, we step into a network of social relationships and, at the same time, become subject to a form of social influence. Even from the beginning, we use language not only in order to denominate the things surrounding us, but we use them particularly in order to learn how to behave with one another, how to interact with the people and the world around us.

Understanding these functions of speech is essentially connected to approaching the process of translation, since each of these functions influences the way messages are communicated, formulated and interpreted across different languages and cultures. In order to translate a text, one needs not only to master the language, but also have thorough information about the culture and civilization of the target language.

According to various linguistic theories, the functions of speech can be categorized into several types, including expressive, directive, phatic, metalinguistic and referential, a categorization attributed to the linguistic theories developed by British linguist Sir Charles Kay Ogden and American philosopher I.A. Richards, particularly through their work *The Meaning of Meaning* (1923). Nonetheless, the most influential and widely recognized framework that formalizes these categories is the theory of *speech acts* proposed by British philosopher J.L. Austin and later expanded by John Searle. Austin introduced the concept that language is action-oriented and identified different types of speech acts based on their functions, because

he states that when people speak, they do not merely produce words but perform actions, which he identifies as speech acts. He further distinguishes three main types of speech acts, that is locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary ones. Each of these is formulated according to the acts that people perform while using different types of communication situations. In order to communicate their inner experiences, the individual must resort to a language governed by publicly shared rules of understanding. Austin supports the idea of language as action, since the speaker, through the use of communication, has the intention to produce a change in the immediate reality. He argues that through the utterance spoken by an individual, the speaker aims to affect the consciousness of the interlocutor which, upon reflection, is entirely true, as we often find ourselves in situations where what we say elicits a reaction that steers the conversation in the direction we desire, ultimately leading to actions that suit our interests or benefit us.

Austin divides speech acts into performatives, used by speakers with the aim of prompting actions, and constatives, which merely describe states of affairs. These distinctions point directly to the title of his book, which from the outset draws attention to the form of expression we choose when we are either simply conveying information to state something evident or aiming to bring about a certain situation, thus choosing, in the latter case, words that carry persuasive force and impact the interlocutor in such a way that the entire conversation leads toward an action in the direction we intend. Human interactions involve the use of specific words adapted to the overall situation, designed to show rather than merely describe the action that accompanies them, thereby demonstrating that the chosen words actually perform actions. One may notice that language is not something we create on our own; it is handed down to us, a system already shaped by the generations before us. We do not fully control it, yet it becomes one of our most powerful tools. Living in a world highly influenced by external factors, among which, at present at least, lays the digital revolution and development which tends to reshape reality at an astonishing pace, speech and languages cannot be immune or indifferent, and therefore need to be adapted to everything happening around us.

Going back to the functions identified in the work *The Meaning of Meaning*, we can also expand these ideas that define each of them. Thus, the speaker's attitude, feelings or personal reactions are illustrated by the expressive function, and these aspects are reflected in the tone, intonation and even in the lexical choices made by the speaker. This function reminds us again of Austin's ideas explored in his work, since he highlights that language is fundamentally functional and context-dependent. To continue the functions listed above, there is the directive one, which involves the influence of the speaker on the interlocutor concerning the behaviour or actions, including commands, suggestions or the requests that are formulated. The referential function refers to the information provided about the world the interlocutor lives in and it is one that serves as the foundation of real communication since it takes into consideration the many cultural aspects of the society. We can also debate on the social contact with the people in the society, which implies using the phatic function of language. Whenever people use greetings or intercultural discourse, they actually make use of this function, primarily in order to make sure that communication is possible, or even more, to establish a social bond between themselves and their interlocutors. These types of interactions don't imply informational content, but rather they perform a social role which is vital, nonetheless, in showing politeness or willingness to engage in conversation. We can conclude that this phatic function is activated when we need to sustain human relationships, and it is not used for sharing facts, thus showcasing once again how communication is deeply rooted in social interactions and how much it is governed by social norms.

The metalinguistic function of speech involves analyzing the language itself and commenting on meaning or linguistic elements. There are instances when the speaker needs to talk about the language they are using, therefore this function allows for clarification and

analysis of the meaning and structure of speech and it plays an essential role in understanding and refining the use of a given language. Thus, the focus is shifted towards using words to communicate ideas about the words themselves and this is illustrated in every grammar lesson taught in schools, for example. It is a very important role that language has, when it comes to accuracy in usage and it is activated each time a translator works on the meaning or nuances of a given vocabulary. It is this function that is closely related to the integration of loan vocabulary in a target language, since this integration comes in the form of anglicization or calque, if we are to refer to the English language, both taking into consideration the structure and grammar of the target language. It can easily be seen that this function is the one which highlights the capacity of a language to reflect itself into another one and at present it is probably the most used one, as with the advance of technology, the English words used in so many fields tend to be adapted or used as such in any target language. It is also the most important function when we talk about the evolution of a language over time, since the structures need to be extremely precise when it comes to form and function. Clear communication needs to be done according to the norms of each language, if we want it to be authentic.

Referring to this function precisely, once again one can see that it is a direct reference to Austin's work, *How to make things with words*. His book argues that different types of utterances serve specific communicative purposes, each time language being used to clarify the meaning and the use of linguistic elements, which makes the role of the translator even more important. In the context of translation, the functions listed above are of extreme importance, if the translation is to reflect the source context it was initially used in. Understanding aspects of culture and civilization and the exact circumstances an utterance took place, is the most important element when it comes to rendering the usage of certain parts of vocabulary. All of these need to be considered in correlation to one another, because they shape the way the messages are constructed and interpreted from one language to another. If a translation is done literally, ignoring the intended expressive nuances from the source text, the message may be distorted and thus leading to misunderstandings and even the reception of a completely different version of the information. Once the underlying function of a speech act is recognized correctly, the translator may be able to choose the appropriate procedure to use.

### ***Translation methods and procedures***

The difference between a source language and a target language and the differences between the culture in each of them make the process of translating a real challenge. Different scholars and theoreticians have different approaches towards translation and the translating process as a whole. In the following part, references to certain theories will be made, in order to render the importance of employing the appropriate idiomatic expressions and usage of strategies suitable to build the cultural context of the source language and reflect it into the target one.

Peter Newmark mentions the difference between translation methods and translation procedures. Therefore, "translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language."<sup>1</sup>The main methods of translation, from his point of view, are:

- word-for-word translation, in which words in the SL are translated as such, regardless of the context
- literal translation, which turns the SL grammatical constructions into their TL equivalents, the lexical words being translated as such
- faithful translation tries to produce the contextual meaning of the SL, maintaining the TL grammatical structures

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<sup>1</sup> Newmark Peter, *Approaches to Translation*, Prentice Hall, Hertfordshire, 1988, page 81

- semiotic translation, which differs from the latter only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text
- adaptation is the freest form of translation, the SL culture being converted to the TL culture, and is mostly used for plays and poetry
- free translation produces the TL text without the style, form or content of the SL text
- idiomatic translation reproduces the message intended by the SL text, distorting nuances of meaning by adding idioms and expressions even though they do not exist in the original text
- communicative translation renders the exact contextual meaning of the original in a way that the target audience may easily understand.

Eugene Nida, on the other hand, distinguishes between technical procedures, such as an analysis of the SL and TL, a thorough study of the SL text before trying to translate it and making judgments of the semantic and syntactic approximations, and organizational procedures, such as constant reevaluations of the attempts made, contrasting it with the existing available translations of the same text done by other translators and checking the text's communicative effectiveness by asking the target language readers to evaluate its accuracy and effectiveness and studying their reactions.<sup>2</sup>

The linguist, one of the most influential figures in modern translation theory, offers a nuanced framework for understanding the processes involved in producing an effective translation. Central to his approach is the distinction between two interrelated but distinct types of procedures: technical procedures and organizational procedures. This dual framework underscores the fact that translation is not a purely linguistic endeavor but also a methodological and evaluative process requiring iterative reflection and adaptation.

Technical procedures, in Nida's conception, refer to the linguistic and analytical operations that form the foundational basis of the translation process. These include a comprehensive and systematic analysis of both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL), particularly at the semantic and syntactic levels. Such analysis enables the translator to discern not only the surface structures of the source text, but also the deeper levels of meaning and stylistic nuance embedded in it. A careful reading of the SL text is paramount; before any attempt at translation is initiated, the translator must engage in a thorough interpretive process, identifying key lexical items, idiomatic expressions, contextual implications, and grammatical structures that may not have direct equivalents in the TL. In this phase, judgments must be made concerning the most appropriate semantic and syntactic approximations that will preserve both the meaning and the intended communicative effect of the original message. This approach reflects Nida's well-known concept of dynamic equivalence, which seeks to reproduce in the TL audience the same response that the original text elicited in the SL audience.

In contrast, organizational procedures pertain to the strategies employed during the execution and refinement of the translation. These include the ongoing evaluation and adjustment of translated material in response to both internal and external criteria. One key organizational procedure involves contrasting the emerging translation with existing versions of the same text produced by other translators. This comparative analysis serves as a form of quality control, enabling the translator to identify alternative renderings, resolve ambiguities, and refine their own choices in light of established practices. Additionally, Nida emphasizes the importance of testing the communicative effectiveness of the translated text by soliciting feedback from members of the TL audience. This feedback loop is crucial, as it allows the translator to gauge the degree to which the translation is comprehensible, culturally appropriate, and functionally equivalent to the original. By analyzing the reactions and interpretations of TL readers, the translator can assess whether the intended message has been

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<sup>2</sup> Nida Eugene A., *Towards a Science of Translating*, E. J. Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 1964, pages 241-247

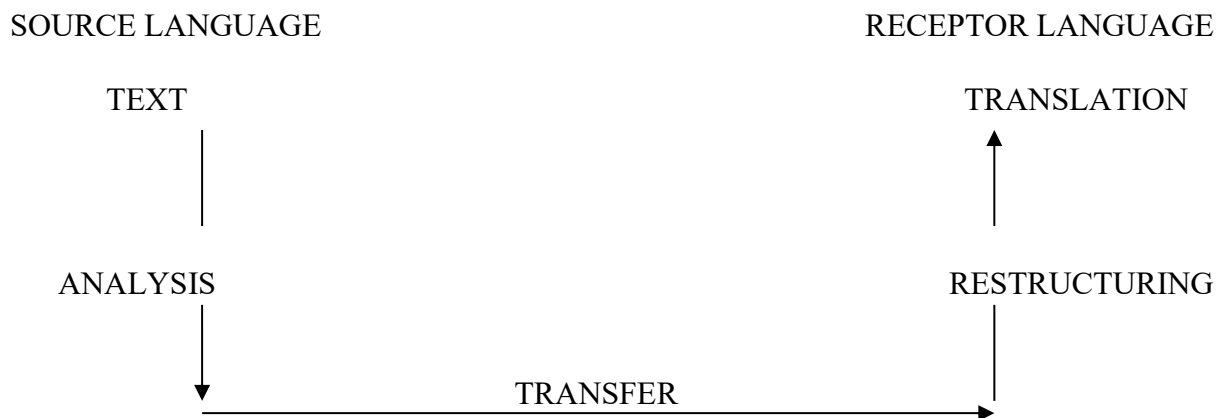
preserved and whether any revisions are necessary to improve clarity, tone, or cultural resonance.

This procedural distinction reflects Nida's broader theoretical commitment to functionalism in translation, which prioritizes the communicative function and the intended effect of the text over rigid formal equivalence. It also illustrates the inherently interdisciplinary nature of translation, involving not only linguistic competence but also skills in textual analysis, cultural sensitivity, audience awareness, and iterative revision. Furthermore, Nida's emphasis on process over product anticipates later developments in translation studies, particularly the focus on translator agency, workflow, and the socio-cognitive aspects of translational decision-making. Thus, the process of translation involves a careful analysis of all these functions and it should aim to preserve both the initial content and the communicative situation or context. All these aspects highlight the importance of translation studies and cultural competence in translating a text.

Translation Studies is a relatively young academic discipline, being a flourishing academic discipline, which has been attracting considerable interest in recent years. In order to best understand the notions connected to translation theories, we must see them from a historical point of view.

Translation theories of the last two hundred years need to be seen in a historical context, since they bring together the dynamics of thought dialogues, and of the heated discussions concerning the impact and usefulness of translation practices.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest explicit, more or less formalized models of the translation process were designed in the late forties and early fifties as bases for programs of research into the feasibility of so-called automatic translation. These models started from the notion that texts were strings of word which could be translated item by item. This model was, later on, replaced by Nida's model of translation process:<sup>4</sup>



Translation is a very complex operation and, due to the many factors that are involved in this process, it has been impossible for theoreticians to formulate a specific theory throughout history. Because of this, nowadays we only have models and approaches that some scholars have suggested, and the translator can only follow them or not, function of his own understanding of the notion and process of translation. But, regardless of the theory that one may prefer, we may say that a general support discipline in understanding translation theory and translation process in general, is linguistics, which includes pragmatics, text-linguistics, semantics, comparative linguistics and cognitive linguistics.

<sup>3</sup> Schulte Rainer, Biguenet John, *Theories of Translation. An Antology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1992, page 1

<sup>4</sup> Holmes S. James *Translated! Papers on Literary Translation and Translation Studies*, Editions Rodopi B.V., Amsterdam-Atlanta, GA 1988, page 82

The difficulties of pinning down the boundaries of the discipline derive from the variety of perspective from which it can be tackled. It is actually from this complexity that translation studies draws its fascination, but this very complexity has also been a major source of frustration for scholars constantly in search of all encompassing concepts and labels under which to fully integrate the research that has been done in the field. At the same time, this interdisciplinary character does not deprive translation studies of its specificity and of its relevance for various kinds of academia curricula, with different educational objectives in view.<sup>5</sup>

One of the few things on which there is agreement among present-day translation scholars irrespective of orientation is that communication by language is primarily a communication by texts.<sup>6</sup>

Writings on the subject of translating go far back in history. George Steiner divides the theory of translation into four main periods:

- the first period extends from the statements of Cicero and Horace on translation up to the publication of Alexander Fraser Tytler's *essay on the Principles of Translation* in 1791, a period characterized by statements and theories about translation directly from the practical work of translating.
- the second period runs up to the publication of Larbaud's *Sous l'invocation de Saint Jérôme* in 1946, characterized as a period of theory and hermeneutic enquiry with the development of a vocabulary and methodology of approaching translation.
- the last period begins with the publication of the first papers on machine translation in the 1940s, being characterized by the introduction of structural linguistics and communication theory into the study of translation.

Steiner's division illustrate the difficulty of studying translation from a chronological point of view.<sup>7</sup>

Great theoreticians and scholars throughout history have tried to establish an exact definition of translation studies and its field of activity but reached the conclusion that it is best to follow a chronological structure, instead of trying to establish an exact division of the period of development, especially since the period of study would cover an extremely large period of history, extending from Cicero to the present.<sup>8</sup>

This acknowledgment of the evolving nature of translation theory aligns with the ongoing development of translation methods and procedures, such as anglicization and calque, which have been previously mentioned and which have emerged and adapted in response to shifting cultural and linguistic contexts over time. The technological development has also brought about changes in the domain of translation and, while it has determined the usage of more and more English terms, it has also made it easier for scholars to access data bases which helped the process of translation as the resources referring to different aspects of the target language can be used by anyone.

Just as scholars recognize the importance of understanding translation's history to appreciate its current practices, the application of different integration techniques for loan vocabulary demonstrates how translation strategies have continually evolved to address the complexities of linguistic borrowing and intercultural communication. Both perspectives reinforce that translation is a dynamic discipline, shaped by historical developments, theoretical

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<sup>5</sup> Dimitriu Rodica, *Theories and Practice of Translation*, Colecția Cursus 5, Institutul European, 2002, page 13

<sup>6</sup> *ibidem*, page 49

<sup>7</sup> Bassnett Susan, *Translation Studies*, Third edition, Printed and bound in Great Britain by International Ltd., Padstow, Cornwall 2002, page 46

<sup>8</sup> Bassnett Susan, *Translation Studies*, Third edition, Printed and bound in Great Britain by International Ltd., Padstow, Cornwall 2002, page 48; the original quotation is "In trying to establish certain lines of approach to translation, across a time period that extends from Cicero to the present, it seems best to proceed by following a loosely chronological structure, but without making any attempt to set up clear-cut divisions."

advancements, and practical needs, highlighting its rich and adaptive nature across different periods and contexts.

Translation methods and procedures play a crucial role when it comes to integrating loan vocabulary into target languages, especially when talking about terms borrowed from other languages, such as English. Two of the main possibilities of restructuring a certain language being anglicization and calquing, since we refer to the influence of English on a target vocabulary, there is a fine distinction between them and one should consider the aspects they alter. For instance, anglicization means altering words in the target language to a characteristic English form, sound or spelling, while calque implies a word for word translation and it aims to preserve meaning through structural translation. They both reflect linguistic influence from English but differ in form, since the first creates a new phrase through translation, while the other follows the original word, the speaker using the word from English in its translated form. These procedures determine how foreign words are adapted to fit the norms of the target language, be them morphological, syntactic or phonological, at the same time ensuring that the borrowed terms are recognizable and naturally integrated within the new linguistic environment.

We might say that anglicization often facilitates quick adoption, since it targets especially technical or commercial terms, while calques can contribute to more standardized terminology, in scientific or legal contexts. It is obvious, as stated before, that these methods reflect the translator's goal of balancing fidelity to the source language with relevance and ease of understanding in the target one. The choice of method depends on numerous factors such as the cultural acceptance of foreign elements, the level of technicality of the vocabulary, and the need for clarity or cultural sensitivity.

We might conclude that translation is a multifaceted and dynamic process that extends well beyond the mere substitution of lexical items between languages. Rooted in ancient practices and shaped by centuries of evolving theoretical perspectives, translation encompasses a broad spectrum of interpretations, definitions, and disciplinary alignments. As the analysis demonstrates, translation may be conceived variously as a science, an art, a craft, or a hybrid of all three, each perspective highlighting a different aspect of the translator's task and the complexities involved in linguistic transfer.

Despite the lack of consensus on a single, universally accepted definition, there is broad agreement among scholars that translation is inherently semiotic in nature, entailing the mediation of meaning between different sign systems. It is this process of negotiating meaning and cultural context, that underscores translation's central role in cross-cultural communication. Theories from linguistics and semiotics, particularly those of Saussure, Jakobson, and Nida, have profoundly influenced contemporary understandings of translation, emphasizing both the structural and interpretive dimensions of the act. Moreover, as highlighted by scholars such as Bassnett, Munday, and Newmark, translation is not only an academic field of study but a crucial practical activity that supports global interaction, cultural transmission, and intellectual exchange. It is an indispensable mechanism by which texts, ideas, and knowledge are made accessible across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Ultimately, translation studies as a discipline continues to evolve, incorporating insights from linguistics, literary theory, cultural studies, philosophy, and communication science. The translator's role, once seen as secondary or derivative, is now increasingly recognized as creative, interpretive, and ethically charged. In a globalized world marked by linguistic diversity and intercultural interdependence, the study and practice of translation remain more vital than ever. Thus, effective translation needs not only linguistic accuracy, but also cultural awareness and sensitivity to the various functions that speech involves and which it performs within a social and cultural context.

Speech implies a variety of roles and understanding these acts is what guides the translator in preserving the integrity of the message in its integrity, from one language into another. Translation comes to be seen more than a linguistic exercise, since it represents an act of communication across cultures, relying on the awareness that the various functions of speech shape the entire interaction between individuals and therefore between cultures. The translator needs to take into account all these aspects when navigating the meaning of the message from the source language into the target one, while at the same time ensuring that the essence of the original text is faithfully and effectively conveyed.

The translators need to balance the preservation of the original concepts with the needs of the target language community, but at the same time they are faced with the task of ensuring that these concepts are comprehensible in the target language and also culturally appropriate. These strategies have to be fully understood and carefully employed, being essential for seamlessly integrating foreign loanwords, while aiming to develop coherent and culturally sensitive translations, thus making the process of translation both a challenge and a form of art.

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