UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

TOPIC:

METHODS OF PRODUCING HIGH-QUALITY TRANSLATIONS USING TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES.

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INFORME FINAL DE CURSO DE ESPECIALIZACIÓN FUNDAMENTOS DE LA TRADUCCIÓN PARA OBTENER EL TITULO DE LICENCIATURA EN LENGUAS MODERNAS: ESPECIALIDAD EN FRANCÉS E INGLES.

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UNIVERSITY CITY, DR. FABIO CASTILLO FIGUEROA, SAN SALVADOR CENTRO, EL SALVADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA, OCTOBER 14th, 2024

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Abstract

Translation is a vital tool in today's society for overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers. It makes it possible to communicate effectively across linguistic differences, guaranteeing that ideas, innovations, and information are not limited by place. This procedure is crucial in business, diplomacy, healthcare, and education, among other fields where miscommunication can have serious repercussions. The initial comprehension of the original text is the first step in the multi-stage translation process. Before translating, one must have a complete understanding of the tone, nuances, and context. The actual translation comes next, where linguistic accuracy and cultural appropriateness are weighed equally. Editing and proofreading are done in the last phases to guarantee accuracy and coherence in the target language. Various translation techniques are employed to achieve effective results. These include direct translation, where words are translated literally, and adaptation, which involves altering content to better suit cultural expectations. Other methods, such as transposition and modulation, allow for flexibility in conveying meaning while maintaining the original message's intent. The choice of technique often depends on the text type, audience, and purpose. One of the most important stages is the translation practice we developed during this module, all types of translations from birth certificate, digestive system, radio manuals and different articles, were cleaver to improve translation process and introduce more cultural knowledge to our vocabulary. There are a few suggestions that can be made to improve translation quality. First and foremost, since proficiency in both the source and target languages is crucial, translators should always be improving their linguistic abilities and cultural awareness. Consistency can be increased and the process streamlined by making use of translation technologies and tools. Working with native speakers and subject matter specialists can also produce meaningful data that raises accuracy and relevance. In summary, translation is an essential activity that promotes understanding and collaboration in a multicultural society. It goes beyond just translating words from one language to another. We can maintain successful and inclusive communication by improving translation methods and adhering to best practices.

Keywords: Translations, methods, procedures, quality, communication.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Historically, there have been hundreds of languages that are part of human communication around the world. It is essential to communicate with each other to share different cultures, ideas, and thoughts. One of the most significant barriers is not speaking the same language. As a result, translation has been crucial for developing communication between countries, enabling people to read documents, books, and news, and allowing tourists to visit different places worldwide due to the ease of translation.

This document has different sections. It will start with an introduction to each section, including the main reasons why translation is important. Students involved in this field will explain its significance in our modern world. Understanding this is essential, especially because the translation process plays a crucial role in our daily lives.

The second section will cover the translation process. Students will define the concept and its significance, discussing how different methods lead to successful translations. Detailed mappings created by students will be presented, with each step introduced and explained to provide a better understanding of the process. This will include techniques and computer-assisted translation tools (CAT tools).

During the course, students translated various types of documents, which will be included in the third section. These documents came from different sources, such as books, mechanical and technical manuals, certificates, transcripts, and legal documents. It is crucial to understand that all documents translated during the course are the results of the translation process, following each step and involving several techniques and tools fundamental to the translation of each document. At the end, a certificate of accuracy will be included to validate the authenticity of the translation.

1.2 Importance of translation

Rafael Morel stated that translation is deeply embedded in our daily lives, playing a more crucial role than we can imagine. English, the third most spoken language worldwide, is prevalent everywhere. However, English might not always remain the dominant language globally, as other languages are experiencing significant growth. (Morel, 2019). This highlights several important aspects of translation: its ability to reach a larger audience, create common understanding, the importance of investing in professional translation, and the necessity of legal translation as well as translation for travel and tourism.

Language is not merely a tool for communication; it is a fundamental component of culture, society, and beliefs. Through translation, people are able to access and share vast cultural treasures, allowing for communication in a universal language. (Šimurka, 2020). Translation goes beyond merely changing words from one language to another; it bridges cultural gaps and preserves the richness of diverse traditions and ideas.

One major benefit of translation is that you can reach a larger audience. In our modern world, people also prefer news and entertainment media like movies or videos presented in their languages. Without translation, cinema and movie-making companies can't attract audiences and sell their movies or tickets. That's why most videos and television shows today are dubbed or at least subtitled. Not just on the news and entertainment, translation works with many ideas and innovations, technology, or even life-saving medicine (Nguyen, 2022), so it is so relevant to have all important areas of society for entertainment, medicine, economic development, news, cultures and much more.

Finally, translation makes different terms sound and feel familiar, it creates a bridge between two different groups and allow us to share different information, it leads popularization of ideas and information, better products can be created thanks documentation and studies around the world translated, it creates a global integration, now we can watch, hear, read and understand people from the other side of the world and most of the cases without learning a new language. (Pomykała, 2021). It helps to expand products and business and can grow in different areas, including potential clients in different countries because they can feel secure and with any difficulties.

As a conclusion, translation is vital in our daily life. Any of this would be possible without this, we now have access to knowledge in different areas, is helping in our social and economic

systems, it is present in our medicine, food, music, books, websites, movies. So is crucial to understand that without translation, the modern world wouldn't be the same.

2. TRANSLATION PROCESS

2.1 Concept of translation process

Understanding the translation process is essential to manage projects and, we are ensuring that will be of high quality on the result. When we know how translation works, we can express easily our ideas and knowledge, make a better decision and work better with what was provided.

Historically, the translation process began long before the Bible, tracing back to the early days of human interaction. From the Rosetta Stone to modern advancements, translation has evolved significantly. The invention of the printing press greatly impacted translation, making texts more accessible and widespread. In the 1950s, institutions were established to facilitate cultural interactions, allowing people from different cultures to work together and improve translation practices. In the 18th century, translation played a crucial role in globalizing the economy by supporting international business. The advent of translation machines and the internet revolutionized the field, enabling us to understand, access, and translate documents from around the world more effectively than ever before. (Network, 2020).

According to Postan (Postan, 2023) having a translation process involves linguistic and cultural gaps to have a better and accurate translation, it is necessary to understand the source and target language, and being fully acknowledged with the cultural nuances. It is not just making a translation is understand the audience if it is kids, literature, business or multimedia. Step one, is to translate, is so common to use translations tools like computer-assisted translation, CAT or other tools, however it is essential to translate stage by stage and concentrate and focus on the text.

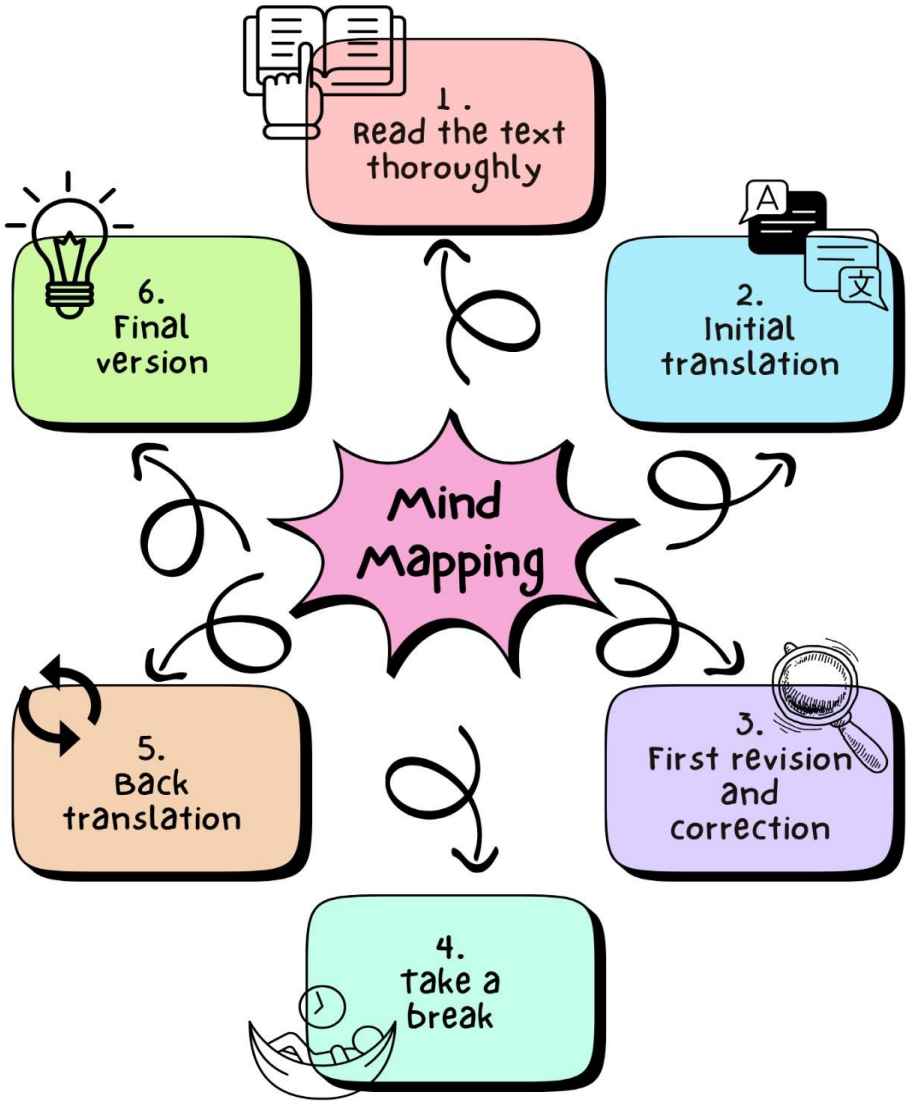
Second step is editing, after the translation have been completed, is crucial to review that has been completing on the first step, have a clear understanding of the translation will create a clear and better quality of the document, read paragraph by paragraph and word by word, will make the translation have a perfect sense on the hole document.

The third step will be to correct all documents mistakes, it is necessary to double check the translation to review punctuation, grammar and capitalization as well. The final text needs to be natural and now to read it needs to have sense according to the audience the translation goes. (Postan, Gent Blend, 2023).

Not all the translators use the same process, there is some of them that use 4,5 6 or more steps, including extra points, like, a break, recognized of potential, formatting translation so it mirrors the original, final QA and delivery, and others. It depends on the translation industry or company that better organize the steps according to their customers and audience.

The translation process is necessary for all professionals that want to work in this specific area, to better organize the time and quality of the translations, and have more customers involved. At the end, all of them have the same job to translate and double check the material.

2.2 Translation process



2.3 Explanation of the translation process

1. Read the text thoroughly

To ensure an accurate and effective translation, it's crucial to begin with a thorough source text analysis, which involves evaluating the text's purpose, audience, tone, and level of technicality. This helps to maintain the integrity of the original message. Next, glossary creation is essential for consistency throughout the translation, as it involves identifying and defining key terms and phrases specific to the subject. Lastly, conducting context research provides a deeper understanding of cultural and contextual nuances, which ensures that the translation resonates with the intended audience.

2. Initial translation

Start by dividing the text in segments**,** breaking the content into manageable sections to focus on individual meanings. Then, translate the text focusing on meaning**,** prioritizing the essence of the message over perfect grammar. Finally, conduct a reference check using dictionaries, online resources, and existing translations to ensure accuracy and alignment with established terminology.

3. First revision and correction

Begin by revising the text in segments, comparing each translated section to the original for accuracy and clarity. Afterward, review the translation as a whole to ensure it flows naturally and maintains coherence. Finally, make any necessary corrections to improve the fluency and ensure the translation sounds natural while preserving the original meaning.

4. Take a break

Step away for at least two hours to refresh your mind. This pause helps clear your thoughts, ensuring a more effective and accurate translation when you return with a fresh perspective.

5. Back translation

Conduct a back translation by translating the text back into the source language to identify any discrepancies between the original and translated versions. Then, perform a final revision, carefully reviewing both the original and translated texts to spot areas for improvement and ensure the translation is as accurate and natural as possible.

6. Final version

This step ensures that the document adheres to standard language conventions and presents a polished, professional appearance. Following this, a proofread serves as a final check to catch any remaining overlooked errors or inconsistencies that might have been missed earlier. Together, these steps are crucial for producing a clear, error-free document that is ready for publication or submission.

2.4 Translation techniques and their importance

Translation techniques are critical to achieving accurate, coherent, and culturally appropriate translations. Each technique serves a distinct purpose and allows the translator to navigate the complexities of language transfer more effectively (Yatuzzuhriyyah, 2022).

2.2.1 Adaptation

Adaptation is a technique used when the literal meaning of a word or phrase does not work in the target language due to cultural or contextual differences. It involves modifying the text to make it culturally relevant and understandable to the target audience while maintaining the original intent (morausky, 2024).

Example:

- It’s raining cats and dogs.
- Se está cayendo el cielo.

2.2.2 Transposition

Transposition in translation involves shifting one grammatical form to another to achieve a smoother, more natural expression in the target language. (Translation, 2021)This shift preserves the original meaning but improves the sentence's style and coherence in the target language.

Example:

- She gave me a beautiful smile.
- Me sonrió de manera hermosa.

2.2.3 Modulation

Modulation is a technique where the translator changes the form or perspective of the original text without altering its meaning and message.

Example:

- He is afraid of spiders.
- El tiene aracnofobia

2.2.4 Amplification

Amplification is a technique that involves adding extra information or context to the target text that is not explicitly present in the source text. (Mahmud, 2021) This approach is often used to clarify meaning, enhance understanding, or convey nuances that may be implicit in the original language.

Example:

- He is a doctor
- Él es médico especialista en pediatría

2.2.5 Equivalence

Equivalence in translation is a technique that focuses on finding a comparable expression in the target language that conveys the same meaning, function, and emotional impact as the original text, even if the words are not a direct translation.

Example:

- Break a leg!
- Mucha suerte!

3. CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, translation process in our actual word has transformed the global communication. Now that we know how translation works, we can now better manage different projects and ensure a high-quality result and following all the steps required, we can reach our audience and that is essential for achieving successful results (Language, 2024). However, as we mentioned before, people don't know about it since they believe all the documents they utilize are written in their native language. Depending on the viewpoint, it could be either beneficial or bad because occasionally the translation sounds so natural that the target does not believe that has come from another language. After conducting research and gathering this material, the students came to several conclusions regarding the field, particularly the myths and the significance and meaning of the process of translation.

First and foremost, communicating a message in a different language is the primary goal of the translation process. But doing so would involve significantly narrowing down its intent. The significance of the translation process becomes evident when one considers the steps the original message's author took to craft his intended message. (Yildiz, 2021)A high-quality output is ensured by the many translation methods, adhering to grammatical, syntactic, and linguistic standards in both languages, and being knowledgeable about how to use all those resources. As a result, the translation process stands in for the fundamental guidelines that a competent translator must adhere to.

Similarly, maintaining consistency in a translation process requires more than just being a proficient speaker. It demands that they, as speakers, have a variety of abilities, including common sense, critical thinking, logical reasoning, strong memory, and deep reading comprehension. (Weldon, 2024) Like this, being a skilled speaker alone is insufficient to ensure consistency when translating. It requires a wide range of skills from them as speakers, such as good recall, critical thinking, logical reasoning, common sense, and in-depth reading comprehension. They all make it possible for the translator to distinguish between what has been written and the meaning that the author intended.

They need to have a deep awareness of not just the language but also colloquialisms, contractions, jargon, double meanings, cultural settings, and even vulgarities to determine the most effective ways to convey the information and make the required modifications in the translation.

Working with a second person can help improve and accelerate the task, as the human brain is more evolved than CAT equipment. While some translators operate independently, they are always required to collaborate with a lawyer or notary to get paid for their services. To optimize their time and quality, however, some translators collaborate with editors, proofreaders, and other team members. For amateurs, it is essential to work as a team; they will make decisions and share knowledge. In the case of legal documents, they might even feel more confident in their job. To guarantee the caliber of their work and time management, they would still need to specify their translation procedure.

Furthermore, many believe that if a person knows two languages, they can translate anything using a machine translation. A machine will never be as capable as the human brain, even though some CAT technologies exist to aid translators in their work. One of the most well-known fallacies regarding translation is that most people consider using Google Translate to be an excellent method. (Kay, 2023)

In conclusion, translation is a ubiquitous and frequently overlooked aspect of human existence; nevertheless, this does not imply that everybody can perform it. A subject-matter specialist will always understand the significance of his work. Therefore, regardless of whether they use a CAT tool, work alone or in a group, or work on a legal document or not, translators must broaden their expertise in a variety of themes and areas and adhere to a translation process. The work completed for this specialization has shown that being a successful translator requires a variety of practices in several domains, technological instruments, and fundamental knowledge.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Learn about different cultures.** Whether agriculture, economics or technology, to mention a few, and although certain branches may not be of interest or specialty, it is useful to acquire vocabulary. You never know when you're going to need it and who will be your audience, so when that happens, you will be already prepared to handle translation accordingly.
2. **Accumulate synonyms.** The translator should carry a suitcase full of words and phrases that can not only get you out of trouble, but also prevent it from happening again, a translator should be able to invoke at least three equivalents of any word; I don't know if I would ask so much, but I agree with her that it is important to have a good vocabulary base and to be able to introduce variety in a text.
3. **Time management.** Not all the time you will have translations with an audience you already know or will be easy to complete. You cannot take a translation as your last activity to complete, you need to be prepared, read, translate, take a break and at the end read again to do all corrections if it is necessary and have a better quality of the project.
4. **Always read and review carefully what we translate.** Another way to analyze ourselves and see what we sin and do well -that's why we are good professionals, and it won't be all negative- is to re-read with a critical eye what we translate. Let the translations rest and see what we could have done differently and apply it later.
5. **Do not translate literally**. When doing a literal translation, loses all the meaning of the message to the audience that we want to share the information, it is necessary to apply the techniques necessary to give the best sense to the translation and sound natural.

TRANSLINGUA

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