

Translating Prose: Techniques

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Abstract:

The present paper is divided into five sections: In the introductory section, the presenter talks about why prose; drama and fiction are not much challenging to translate? In the next part, he discusses the chief aims and objectives regarding present study. In the third section, the presenter will talk about the things that one should keep in mind meanwhile translating prose. The subsequent part of the presentation lists certain principles of translation set Hillare Belloc by reviewing literature. The concluding part of the presentation will throw a considerable light on certain other problems while translating prose.

Keywords: Superficial or Sub Interpretation, Block out, idioms by idiomatic translation, Embellishment, etc.

1.0 Introduction:

‘**Translation of Prose**’ is less attractive than ‘Translation of Poetry’. There we find lesser status awarded to translate ‘Prose’ and ‘Drama’. Prose, drama or fiction is easy to translate and for this reason they are not as challenging as poetry translation. However, ‘a good translator always finds nuances techniques involved in prose translation’.

1.1 Aims and Objectives of the study:

This research paper aims at fulfilling following aims and objectives:

1. To study the mentality of the Indian translators towards prose translation.
2. To study techniques involved in prose translation.
3. To raise awareness among literary scholars about the possibilities of being good prose translator through various techniques.
4. To study the Problems encountered while translating prose.

1.2 Techniques involved in Prose Translation:

The following things should be kept in mind while translating prose:

- The translator should study the work thoroughly to analyse its underlying significance before translating any texts. The translator must be able to identify the tones and spirit of the works.
- The stylistic factors like 'pronouns', 'questions', 'word order', 'sentence arrangement', 'repetitions' etc. must be studied first.
- He/She must take care to abstain from 'misinterpretation', 'superficial interpretations', or 'sub-interpretations of informations', etc.
- Not only content is important but the translation should study the whole work to make his/her translation effective and acceptable.
- He/she must view every word and sentence. In addition to this, one should identify the symbolic, metaphoric, and terms like 'repetition' and their role. Thus, the translator can not only concern with the content only.
- He/she must be aware of 'mistranslation', which can make his misleading one.

1.3 Hilare Belloc's Principles of Translation:

Hilare Balloc gave following six general rules for translation of prose texts:

1.3.1 Block Out:

According to Hillare Belloc, the translator should always 'block out' his work. By the term 'block out', Belloc means that, the translator should consider the work as an integral unit and translate in sections, keeping mind the whole sense he has to render each time. Thus, the proper translation should only deal with the text in blocks. The word or sentence level translation can not be fully accepted as what Belloc believes.

1.3.2 Idiom by Idiom Translation:

A translator should render 'idiom by idiom'. If, he'll not translate in this way, then the awkward results might be possible. For illustration, he gives example of the Greek exclamation, "By the Dog!" If the translator translates this idiom literally in English, then it merely becomes comic. This, Belloc suggests that "By God!" is much closer translation.

1.3.3 Intention by Intention:

Belloc gives much more importance to the intention of a phrase than the form of a phrase. The intention of a phrase may be less emphatic than the form of a phrase in one language. At the same time, it may be more emphatic. By intention, Belloc means: 'the weight a given expression may have in a particular context in the Second Language'.

1.3.4 Effect of S.L.in T.L.

At certain circumstances, the translator while translating 'intention' has to add a word or has words to retain the effect of S.L. in T.L.

1.3.5 Misleading Words/Phrases:

Belloc also warns the translators against the false friend- the words or structure that 'may appear to correspond in the S.L. and the T.L. but actually do not correspond'.

Belloc gives advice to 'transmute boldly'. According to Belloc, the essence of translation lies in 'the resurrection of an alien thing in a native body'.

1.3.6 No Embellishment:

According to Belloc, the translation should not be embellished. The translator has to remain close to the original text. It is his moral responsibility to make the text as close to original as possible. However, the translator has the right to alter the text with significance with a view to provide the reader the understanding of stylistic and idiomatic norms of the T.L.

1.4 Other problems of Prose Translation:

One should bear in mind certain inherent problems while translating prose. It's as under:

1. The transference of dialect forms: novels often use dialectal forms to indicate hierarchy/community.
2. The translation of 'regional devices-regional variations such as, waiting for Godal, rhythm, intonation, pitch, etc.
3. Translating class/ gender specific texts.
4. The problem of translating style-stylistic devices: you must have faced this problem while translating *News of a Kidnapping*.
5. The problem of translating intended audience: if the text was written for a particular audience how do we recreate it in the translation.

6. Translating age/historical texts: it is very difficult to retain historical significance. According to the changing needs, the translator has to modernize it.

Conclusion: To conclude, I would say that its indeed not easy to translate prose from source language to target language as it looks.

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Biographical Sketch

Mr. Tushar S. Brahmhatt teaches at Vadnagar Arts and Commerce College affiliated to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan (North Gujarat), India. He did his MA and an M Phil in English Language Teaching (ELT) from Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat. At present, he is pursuing Ph.D in English at Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan. He has put in 4+ years of experience as a teacher, teaching English Language and Literature at various levels and purposes. He has participated and presented a papers at various state, national and international level conferences, seminars and workshops. He has published 3 books and 9 research papers in International peer-reviewed research journals. His areas of interest are CALL Materials, Multimedia and ELT, E-Learning Management System, Language and Media, Communicative Language Teaching and Indian English Literature.