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The Development Of Translation, Terminology And Translation Terminology

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Abstract

This paper seeks to throw light on the development of translation, terminology and translation terminology by first looking at the development of each throughout time. By taking a special look at globalization at the pivotal point of the increase in demand for the same, it seeks to highlight the ever-growing demand of translation and the speed at which it is demanded in the digitized world. Translation in simple terms would be the conversion of source language material into its closest equivalent in the target language. Terminology refers to the well-defined terms used in specialized domains by experts among themselves, which may be difficult for lay people to understand. Terminology development is the process of constantly updating terminologies with respect to the expanding linguistic landscape. This paper dives deep into the rules laid by linguistic organizations for the development of such termini.

Keywords: Translation, Terminology, Terminology Development, New Education Policy

A language in use survives. On making it sacred, it goes out of the range of a language in use. As a result, it begins to fade and gradually becomes extinct. Hence, to keep a language alive, it must be in use. Languages are different from one another in grammatical view. A language also reflects culture, tradition, and ideology of its speakers. Hence, we find difficulty in getting equivalents of terms of a source language into a target language. It is translation which helps us to peep into various literature, culture, ideology, industry etc. With its multifaceted use translation has developed into an industry.

In view of the above given relevance of translation, it becomes important that there be sincere focus on the development of translation and terminology. In India, education in selected disciplines of Engineering has already been initiated in 11 regional languages. Medical education is already on the way. National Education Policy, 2020 encourages education in regional languages. They focus on the scope in this field.

History and Significance of Translation

Translation is one of the oldest ways of learning. Translation has been used as a tool for passing knowledge and information to generation after generation since time immemorial. Its credit can be given to all the civilizations as they have contributed a lot in their ways. We know of contents of an unavailable book or an extinct creature or a thing of interest through translation only. Had this genre not been in vogue, it could not have been possible to us to know of past happenings. It has also given a base to predict future on the earth and in the universe.

India has followed the ‘Gurukul’ system of education in the past. Wherein pupils utter the teachings of their gurus. These repetitions were basically translation which is still the base of our educational system. Gradually gurus used to prepare their pupils for using applications of their teachings. Many ancient texts are based on ‘Shruti’ (listened) or translations which were later published after the invention of a printing press. This is how translation was defined earlier, or came to existence. However, now it has a wide meaning. The contemporary meaning in the lay man language is now the conversion of a text from one language to another, while keeping the meaning intact. As a matter of fact, the word “translation” does have other meanings in other technical fields, and even in the field of translation studies it has elaborate classifications amongst the experts.

E.A. Nida, J.C. Catford, G. Toury, Dr. Johnson, A. H. Smith etc. were among the first linguists who tried to set a direction for translation. It was first seen as a sub-branch of linguistics and then later enjoyed its own individual popularity especially after the advent of globalization in the late twentieth century. The increasing demand of translation due to globalization also yielded to technological investments in the field. Technological advancements have aided the process of translation. CAT Tools, online databases, and instant translation software are a few to name that have not only eased the process of translation but also spread it wider and made it more accessible for the wider masses. This has made translation more than just a bridge between two languages.

National Education Policy, 2020 towards Translation and Terminology Development

Studies have constantly shown that young children learn and grasp concepts quickly in their mother tongue. As per National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 of India; the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be mother tongue or regional language. High-quality text-books, including in science, which was not available in high-quality translation in regional language, will be made available in mother tongue. Teachers will be encouraged to use a bilingual approach including bilingual teaching-learning materials, with those students whose mother tongue may be different from the medium of instruction. All languages will be taught with high quality to all students. According to NEP, textbooks would be developed in all the languages mentioned in the eighth schedule of The Constitution of India for the benefit of the students of those medium. Technology would be employed for the development of such material. The government seeks to develop all the teaching-learning material in good quality.

Languages must have consistent official updates to their vocabularies and dictionaries widely disseminated, so that the most current issues and concepts can be effectively discussed in these languages. India needs to catch up the pace of updating its linguistic database for the languages to remain relevant and accommodative of the faster than ever expansion of language. Since the advent of globalization translation has been in huge demand. Coupled up with digitalization the speed at which such translations are expected has also increased by many folds. The use of technology is the only way out when it comes to catering to a big load of information. The ready-made translation terminology aids this process. CAT Tools and translation memories help tackle such tasks. However, as it is always a matter of debate, skilled linguistics and language experts would still be needed to carry out the process smoothly. Hence, India is also in need of more language teachers, better teaching-learning material for the propagation of language and more infrastructures.

Government of India is trying for early implementation of three-language formula to promote multilingualism. High-quality programs and degree in Translation and Interpretation, within the higher education system will also be created. In order to preserve and promote its arts and culture, develop high quality materials in various Indian languages, Translation industry will need to expand. India will urgently expand its translation and interpretation efforts in order to make high-quality learning materials and other important written and spoken material available to public in various Indian and foreign languages. As per government notifications, Indian institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) will be established for this purpose. Experts in translation and interpretation will help to promote all Indian languages. The IITI shall also make extensive use of technology to aid in its translation and interpretation efforts.

Universities dedicated to languages will become multidisciplinary. It is also proposed that a new institution for language will be established. National institute or institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit will also be set up within university campuses. Efforts to preserve and promote all Indian languages including classical tribal and endangered languages will be taken on with new vigor. Scholarships for people of all ages to study Indian languages within the higher education institutions will be provided. Regular teaching and learning of Indian languages can help in their promotion. Proficiency in Indian languages will be included as a part of qualification parameters for employment opportunities.

Academies consisting of some of the experts and native speakers will be established for each of the languages mentioned in the 8th schedule of The Constitution of India to determine simple yet accurate vocabulary for the latest concepts, and to release the latest dictionaries on a regular basis analogous to the successful efforts for many languages around the world. These dictionaries will be widely disseminated for use in journalism, writing, education, speech making etc. They will be available on the web as well as in the book form. These academies for the eighth schedule languages will be established by the central government in consultation or collaboration with the state governments. There are other government proposals which say that academies for other highly spoken Indian languages may also be similarly established similarly by the centre and states.

The Process of Developing Translation

Translation is a process that goes beyond just words in two given languages. It is an understanding of connotations, expressions, culture, politics, history and many more such nuances of not just the source and target language but also source and target country/countries, communities, etc. As communities and languages are dynamic the translators need to be constantly in touch with concepts and themes and the vocabulary stemming out of it. The nuances of translating expressions can be understood by the following examples:

To hold one's tongue = to keep quiet

नौ दो ग्यारह होना = भाग जाना

अमीर को मित्रों की क्या कमी = A full purse never lacks friends.

क्लर्क की मुट्ठी गर्म करो = Grease the palm of the clerk.

Translation of poetry is totally different. In most of the cases we don't know when, where and with which state of mind a poem was composed. We guess the poets' imagination which may not match exactly to that of theirs. There is no technique to peep through one's imagination. The translation of technical and legal terms also poses similar difficulties as they need the understanding of the different governmental structure, legal system and laws of both of the target and source countries. In addition to this technical translation needs the bilingual expertise of domain of whose material needs to be translated in addition to the languages.

The Central Translation Bureau and Central Institute of Indian Languages have also been playing a pivotal role in training translators and preparing standard books on glossary and standard translation etc. for execution of translation tasks smoothly. Centre for endangered languages has been opened in many universities. Their job is to prepare a glossary/ dictionary of endangered languages to explore its beauty at the world portal. The government has also established a National Translation Mission. It works in coordination with National organizations such as CSTT, C-DAC, NBT, Sahitya Akademi for making knowledge texts accessible in all the 22 official languages of the Indian Republic listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution through translation.

The Need for Translation Terminology

Terminology development is the process of creating or adapting specialized vocabulary in a particular field or domain. The process includes defining terms, specifying their meanings, and potentially finding or creating equivalent terms in other languages. It is done in order to facilitate clear communication and comprehension in a particular field or domain. It is mainly useful in the case of technical fields like medicine, law, engineering, etc. This also applies to other non-scientific fields too. Most of the domains have their own set of technical terminologies. Here one must not relate the term “technical” as something that is connected to technology, but it means a word or phrase that has a specific, specialized meaning within a particular field or subject. It's often used to communicate accurately and efficiently among professionals within that field, and may not be immediately clear to those outside of it.

The development of translation terminology helps facilitate clear communication that is since the terms are well defined; they have a consistent meaning throughout, and are not dependent on context. This prevents ambiguity and misunderstanding. This process can also be seen as standardization, since now the vocabulary has a standard definition and usage. Standardization also ensures that all the experts are using the same set of vocabulary thereby further accelerating the transfer of knowledge among the field experts. Another strong point, mainly in which this paper seeks interest, is the ease of translation. Having defined a particular set of technical vocabulary in a particular field, with a consistent definition, it becomes easier to link each vocabulary or terminology with a or a few suitable technical vocabularies in other languages. This helps in the standardization of translation. Since, different languages may have other technical words that are not found in every language, it also helps in enriching the glossaries of other languages.

In the era of globalization, standard translation containing standard terminology is very important. Communication channels have increased a lot. News is telecast and seen all over the world. To understand them properly we require a standard terminology e.g., COVID-19 was a pandemic which affected the entire planet, since it was affecting the entire population of the planet traversing boundaries; it needed global attention in real time. Every news related to it be with regards to the development of vaccinations or the observation of new variants needed quick and effective communication. Translation played a huge role in mitigating this demand. Standardized terminology was much needed for eradicating miscommunication in this regard. To help with this situation the UN came up with a terminology databank related to the theme of COVID-19. There are many more theme-related terminology databanks with translations in multiple languages.

The Process of Developing Terminology

The process of developing terminology starts with the identification of the need for new or revised terms. Revision of existing terms is generally done when there are changes made to them for classification, or re-definition or abbreviation. For example, when there are changes made in an existing law then the names of laws also need to be changed, the linguistic elements might also change in their definition. After the identification of such a need, the terms are explicitly defined specifying their meaning and scope within the context of the field. In case of translation terminology development, equivalent terms are searched for or developed, ensuring that the corresponding terms match in meanings to the best of possibility. The developed terminology may be reviewed by experts and other stakeholders to ensure accuracy and suitability. Developed terms are often organized and stored in termbases, which are digital repositories or glossaries of specialized vocabulary. There are many glossaries that are also theme-wise curated. It makes the translation process easier. It also helps interpreters to prepare for a theme-specific meaning.

Developed terminologies add to the translation quality, as there is not much deviation of meanings in specialized texts. In fields where different systems or technologies are used, terminology development can help ensure interoperability and communication between them. The produced termbases also ease knowledge management by providing a structured way to organize and access information. It also reduces the time to search for information related to a specific theme.

For research paper writing we have standard format, e.g. MLA, Chicago etc. Hence, we are able to understand the references properly. Languages are dynamic and so is the terminology. Terminology also develops. Earlier we did not have the word 'selfie'. Now we need not explain it. Its meaning is understood at the global level. We need standardization of terms to understand a subject at global level with uniformity. For example, e.g., ok, etc. We need not explain them. All understand and use these terms in the same way. Thus, standardization is essential to establish proper communication within a group of experts in the same field. As we are unable to express each and everything in a source language exactly in the target language, we have to develop some terminology. Some ways to develop them are as under:

Terminology development has two characteristics-natural development process and planned development process. Natural development process includes terminologies developed due to original writing and planned development process includes terminology making through language planning. Also, edifice of terminology rests on the foundation of ideologies. Neo-composition is needed for the use of those technical words, where proper synonyms are not already available in languages and whose adoption or adaptation is possible, accessible and useful. This method is very useful and practical to determine the synonyms of conceptual words. Hence, this technique has been adopted in the formation and development of vocabulary. This method of formation of new words proves useful in determining the synonyms of words which are close in meaning. For example, on this basis, Hindi equivalents for 'maintenance', 'reservation', 'preservation' and 'conservation' have been created.

Most of the prefixes and suffixes attached to the word or root express various meanings or connotations. They are helpful in understanding the meaning of a newly coined word. Words are also formed by conjunctions. The conjunctions of words can be seen at the level of word with word, word with prefix and also with the suffix of the word.

Government of India established the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) in 1961. It has approved the following principles for evolution of terminology. They are as under:

1. International terms should be adopted in their current English forms as far as possible. They may be translated into Hindi and other Indian languages keeping in mind the genius of concerned language. Some examples are as under:
 - (i) Name of elements and compounds, for example, Oxygen, Nitrous oxide etc.
 - (ii) Constants e.g. π , g, etc.
 - (iii) Units of measures, weight and physical quantities, for example, Newton, Calorie, Volt etc.
 - (iv) Binomial Nomenclature in such sciences as – Zoology, Botany etc.
 - (v) Proper names-based terms - Braille, Marxism, Ampere etc.
 - (vi) Symbols, Numerals, Signs and formulae used in mathematics and in other sciences, for example, log, sign etc. Letters used in mathematical operation should be in Roman or Greek alphabets.
 - (vii) Words which have gained practically world-wide usage, for example, petrol, radar, neutron etc.
2. Only letters of Roman and Greek alphabets should be used in trigonometrical relations, for example, Sin A, Cos B etc.
3. In geometrical figures letters of Indian scripts may be used for example क, ख, etc.
4. Conceptual terms should generally be translated.

5. Words from English, French, Portuguese etc. widely used in Indian languages should be retained, for example, police, restaurant, ticket etc.
6. Roman script symbols will remain in international form. Abbreviations maybe written in Devanagari and standard form.
7. Simplicity, precision of meaning and easy intelligibility should be borne in mind in choosing Hindi equivalents. Progressiveness maybe adopted.
8. As mentioned in the Constitution of India, Article 351, Terms may be selected 'expressing composite culture of India'. They should be primarily from Sanskrit roots or from other Indian languages.
9. Indigenous terms for certain technical words of common use in our languages should be retained. For example, तार for telegram, डाक for post etc.
10. Newly adopted terms should be correctly rendered with the use of 'हल' (hal) sign wherever necessary.
11. If there are no compiling reasons, the international terms adopted in Hindi should be used in Masculine gender.
12. Use of अनुस्वार (anuswar) may be preferred in place of पंचमवर्ण (Pancham warn) but in words like 'patent' etc., the transliteration should be लेन्स, पेटेन्ट and not लैस, पेटेंट or पेटेन्ट.
13. In case of compound words, complex forms of combination may be avoided, hyphen maybe placed between the two terms to enable the uses for an easier and quicker grasp of the word structure of the new terms.
14. Keeping in view simplicity, utility and precision requirements for technical terminology; hybrid form of technical terminologies, for example, गारंटीत for guaranteed, क्लासिकी for classical etc. are normal and natural linguistic phenomena. Such forms may be adopted in practice.
15. Transliteration of international terms into Devanagari script should be nearest in its Standard English pronunciation. They may be modified as prevalent amongst the educated lot of India.

Under the 'Pan India terms' scheme, the commission has published subject wise compiled all India glossaries. CBSE board has standard terminology. They publish books in Hindi, English, Urdu etc. using a standard terminology for the benefit of the mass. Keeping in view the convenience and the nature of Indian languages on the basis of coordination opinion, coordination of word-acquisition a new word-formation can be done. We do the following for word formation:

- a. First of all, we try to find a running synonym in Hindi for an English word, for example, पानी (Pani) for water, कुत्ता (kutta) for dog etc.
- b. In case of non-availability of running synonym in Hindi for an English word, we try to find a nearest synonym, for example, पत्नी (patni), रसोईघर (rasoighar) etc.
- c. Sometimes we don't find an exact or nearest meaning expressing synonym in Hindi for an English word. In such a situation we consider a suitable word from our tradition to determine as synonym to an English word. For example, आकाशवाणी (aakashvani) for all India radio, वायुयान (vayuyan) for aeroplane etc.

- d. If we don't have an exact synonym in Hindi nearest meaning expressing synonym or a traditional word for an English word in such a situation we have to form a new word, for example:

Acceleration – त्वरण

Parliament – संसद

president – अध्यक्ष

- e. In case of non- applicability of either of the above situation, we borrow a word from other language in Hindi. We do this as under:

i. Adoption: In this, an English word is accepted as it is, for example, school– स्कूल.

ii. Adaptation: In this, we accept an English word by modifying it according to genius of Hindi language, for example:

engine – इंजिन

pantaloon – पतलून

- f. In case of lack of words in the classical tradition for the concepts or objects, we create new words from prefix, suffix and root words following Sanskrit grammar rules. For example, law + full = vidhi+vat.

Professor Malik Mohamed has highlighted these aspects in the introduction of 'Glossary of Pan Indian terms of physics' (published by CSTT, 1987). According to him, these aspects are:

1. International terms are acceptable to all.
2. Most of the Sanskrit words as do not convey very divergent meaning in various languages are also accepted for pan-Indian use.
3. Terms of Perso-Arabic origin are already current in and acceptable to most of the Indian languages.
4. Words which have acquired derogatory sense in any language are rejected outright.
5. If a particular word is not acceptable to an individual language because it is considered impossible to replace an already widely current regional word, that language is left free to retain its term, as an exception.

Dr. Raghuvir, a renowned lexicographer, was a strong supporter of sanskritising the Indian vocabulary. He accepted transparency in the words of Hindi as compared to any other language of the world. He was of the opinion that Sanskrit language was an infinite source of word formation. He argued that with the help of its 520 words, 80 suffixes and 20 prefixes, millions of words can be derived in Hindi. He also believed that with their proper use, a systematic composition of technical terms can be made. He created new suffixes wherever necessary. For example, from धातु (dhaatu) word he made the suffix 'aatu'. On this basis, he coined a word मिश्रातु (mishratu = alloy). He made a suffix आति (aati) from वाति (Vati) for the names of gases. On this basis he created the word भूयाति (bhuyati – Nitrogen), शिथिराति (Shithirati – Neon) etc.

Lexicographer Dr. Raghuvir contributed immensely in terminology-development in the field of developing technical terms in Hindi at the individual level. He created new words for almost every technical term and renovated the old ones on the basis of Sanskrit grammar rules and using the fertility of words. By the time of his death, he had created five lakh technical words related to various fields like logic, statistics, law etc.

Work done by Professor TK Gujjar, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Maharashtra Kosh Mandal, Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology of the Central Government etc. are indicative of practical coordination place. The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology curated a list of subject-specific based terminology in English and their equivalents in many Indian and foreign languages. It is a compilation of words that could be accepted for all-India use. It was sent to all the state Text-book boards of the country with a request to send this list to scholars in their linguistic area who were expert in the subject and well- acquainted with the scientific and technical terms used in their particular regional language. Experts have to compile the synonyms of technical words written in English in their languages and send them to the commission. Thus, these are standard synonyms in themselves.

Conclusion

National Translation Mission, Central Translation Bureau, Universities and private institutions are offering translation course and translation training. Official language wing in various departments of Government of India and state governments plays a pivotal role in the field of translation and contribute a lot for the development of translation and terminology in different languages. Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India have been doing commendable job for the development of translation and terminology.

We can conclude that there is a wide scope in the field of translation. Government and private organizations have been doing commendable job to develop translation and terminology. Even at personal level, experts in India and abroad have been preparing dictionaries and glossaries to bring out and make the knowledge treasure available in different languages. A lot has been done to develop and improve Machine Translation. They have been very useful. Still work is going on for their improvement. Now even interpretation facility is available with the use of software. By using them we are able to know the specification of a pictorial object. Thus, technology has become handy to remove language barrier.

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