



Communicative Space of Translation through the Prism of Translator's Linguo-Mental Personality

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Abstract

Prevailing in modern linguistics, communicative, anthropocentric approach tends to increase interest in living language considered as open and functional knowledge system that operates in real communication, tends to shape growing interest in contacts with other languages and linguistic worldviews thereof, conception of linguistic personality, whether in linguistics or in adjacent or neighboring disciplines, e.g. translation theory, crossdisciplinary studies of speech production phenomenon inter alia, in terms of cross-cultural communication per se and professional scientific communication in particular. The aim of this article is to analyze some specificities of translator's linguo-mental personality viewed through individual's linguistic capacity, embodying systemic representation of language with its functioning in processes of perception of scientific text in the source language and its generation in the target language basing on communicative and pragmatic parameters of mediated communication, such as complex system of the sender's communicative intention, his pragmatic and cognitive orientation towards the addressee; presuppositions and implications, the translation norm, etc. The article forms part of our research study of the conception of translator's linguo-mental personality as a separate conception of translator (mediator) within the general theory of translation.

Materials and methods. For our research purposes, comparison was undertaken in what regards linguistic personalities of RUDN university Ph.D. students from different countries with the same specialty in Medicine taking the programme "Translator in the field of professional activities" and RUDN university Ph.D. students with different mother-tongue backgrounds that have certain level of English language proficiency (n. 84). The questionnaire method, the method of interpretational experiment, analysis of oral and written translation of scientific texts, along with the translation method were applied in the study.

Conclusion. The undertaken research broadens the understanding of translator's linguo-mental personality as a concept that has its essential features characterized by multilayered nature preconditioned by the phenomenon of multidimensionality of the process of translation, dynamics of the latter, and specific conditions and determinants of cross-cultural crosslinguistic communication. It amplifies potential of analysis of different types of translator's activities within a wide spectrum of real situations and contributes to approximation, to a certain extent, of the training of specialists in interpreting and translation to the practical requirements as to professional communication. The practical value of this study can be relevant for translation studies, intercultural communication and discourse researches, language teaching.

Keywords: *translation; translator's linguo-mental personality; cross-linguistic cross-cultural communication; scientific discourse; interdisciplinarity.*

1. Introduction

Growing need for analysis and scientific generalization of results of cross-disciplinary researches at the next abstraction level, along with reconceptualization and re-examination of the existing notions of the theory of translation form the modern cognitive communicative paradigm perspective, shape significant interest in further study of the process of translation, its conceptual base, developing separate theoretical concept of translator as essential part thereof, in particular, as well as practical aspects of translation activity, in general, including training of translators.

2. Discussion

In practice, increasing and broadening exercise of translation activity, in the broadest sense, by nonprofessional translators (first of all, experts, specialists, scientists, students, Ph.D. students) in most cases gestures toward the necessity to emphasize the focus on framing the problem of translation, first of all, in terms of the idea that adequate understanding of the essence of translation,



its guiding principles, and its norms is indispensable for effectiveness of mediated cross-cultural cross-linguistic communication, international cooperation per se, and scientific collaboration.

In the light of studies of humanistic status of the process of translation, E. Notina's concept of translator's linguo-mental personality (TLMP) [1], characterized, inter alia, by complex multilayer structure and dynamism, has formed fruitful base for our research. Within translation, translator's or mediator's personality may be viewed as linguistic personality in the paradigm of real communication which acquires certain specificity within a given communicative space. Moreover, the latter determines, to a great extent, both translation requirements and criteria for evaluation of its quality.

Cognitive-communicative perspective on the study of the phenomenon of translator's personality, translator's linguo-mental characteristics and qualities may throw further light on potential responses to the challenges internal to the long-standing problem of a more complete description of translation per se, its key concepts (equivalence, adequacy, translatability, etc.), and, through the practical aspect lens, including, to efficient training of Ph.D. students in what concerns using translation (on the basis of their skills and abilities) as a source of new scientific information that may be subject to further cognitive processing and reshaping oriented mainly towards obtaining new knowledge and implementing it in scientific cooperation within corresponding area of expertise.

"The process of translation can scarcely be adequately described disregarding that it is carried out not by an idealized construct, but by a person whose orientation as to values and psychological orientation inevitably influences the final result" [2:2012, 8].

In the process of translation it is the translator who has the key role or position, for, being a subject of specific textual translation activity which comes formed by translator's perceiving and interpreting the source text (ST) and generating the target text (TT), the translator coordinates textual activities of the translation act participants, the latter belonging to different linguo-cultural communities.

In the context of translation, complex structure of translator's linguo-mental personality comes preconditioned by the requirements that apply to knowledge, skills and abilities of the translator [3,4,5].

3. Materials and methods

For our research purposes, comparison was undertaken in what regards linguistic personalities of RUDN university Ph.D. students from different countries with the same specialty in Medicine taking the programme "Translator in the field of professional activities" and RUDN university Ph.D. students with different mother-tongue backgrounds who have certain level of English language proficiency (n. 84) and are taking the "Academic writing" course.

Analyzing specificities of engagement of linguistic consciousness into the cognitive processes within mediated scientific communication, we focus on semantic, pragmatic or conceptual mismatches between the source language (SL) and target language (TL) with regard to the transfer of cognitive information in translation of scientific texts and discourse, paying special attention to the way in which cognitive and linguistic structures of the source and the target languages intercorrelate in translation, underlying strategy of Ph.D. decision making as to their verbalization in a given context.

It is particularly important to note that effectiveness and yet particular complexity of translation analysis is preconditioned by the fact that the scope of such a complex comparative analysis embraces contact of two non-cognate languages (the Russian language and the English language).

The scope of the analysis just referred to above comprises explication of the semantic structure of a lexical unit of the SL determining linguistic and extralinguistic features thereof at denotative, significative and connotative levels, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, finding in the TT those common concepts, which are considered by the translator as matching the linguistic sign as a marker of a given cognitive structure and chosen as a translation variant.

The scope of the analysis also embraces complex comparison of situations in which the sign mentioned above is used, defining specificities of interpretation of the sign in a given discourse, inter alia, on the basis of conceptual representations of the communicants in a particular field of knowledge.

4. Results

At the very beginning of their first year of study, Ph.D. students taking the "Academic writing" course, as our study has shown, have literal translation as inherent and necessary stage of their translation process, when tight time limits are to be observed (93% of cases, including students with mother-tongue languages other than the Russian language).

In practice, offering false comfort of mechanical substitution, literal translation, as our survey made by use of questionnaire has shown, excludes or eliminates comprehension as essential component at the stage when the translator processes the ST, generating and structuralizing the TT's



sense. In many cases, literal translation does not depend on the level of professional competence in respective field of knowledge and expresses the strive to reflect in the TT the original text's specificities as to the form, rather than the contents, the strive to get the form of the original text precisely and faithfully reflected in the TL.

What's most interesting for our purposes is that, in most cases, central to students' struggles with the challenge of translating scientific texts in a limited time period is failure to invoke corresponding norms of translation, to resort to respective instruments and tools comprised by the concept of translation strategy.

The questionnaire has shown that in translation Ph.D. students (98% of cases) tend to focus on formal correspondence and mere external form of the SL text's message, what excludes immediate link to the referential situation implicitly present in the text as a relevant integral part of its sense continuum, and translator's special knowledge in this area of expertise.

Example: «Because AUCs are not routinely determined in clinical practice, the 2009 consensus guidelines recommended trough ***monitoring and maintaining trough concentrations*** between 15 and 20 mg/L as a surrogate marker of the AUC:MIC (target 400 mg*hr/L) for ease of *managing therapy* and simplifying dose adjustments and monitoring.

(*Pharmacotherapy*.2020;40(4):363–367)

Translation variant: «Поскольку АИС обычно не обнаруживаются в клинической практике, консенсусные рекомендации от 2009 года рекомендовали ***минимальный мониторинг и поддержание минимальных концентраций*** между значениям 15 и 20 мг/л в качестве суррогатного маркера (АИС:МИС) (целевое значение 400 мг/л) для обеспечения *управления проведением* терапии и упрощения коррекции дозы, а также сделать мониторинг более простым и доступным».

As regards this example, literal translation impedes dynamic cumulative analysis of the message evolving throughout scientific medical article's text, burdens its comprehension in the TL, for the translation does not take account of corresponding subject knowledge, does not refer to already existing scientific special texts, i.e. it fails to establish intertextual links in the TT.

In this example, word-for-word translation is the cause of breach of the sense structure of the sentence and the text as a whole that leads to ST's blurred sense: «минимальный мониторинг» instead of «мониторинг минимальных значений, точек» (***trough*** - "minimum point, the low point in the concentrations"; "***monitoring and maintaining trough concentrations***").

The overall effect is lack of comprehension of the referential situation throughout the process of translation and breach of the sense structure of the scientific text and intertextuality manifestation failure in the TL, i.e. in the Russian language.

Furthermore, the literal translation just referred to is out of accordance with the usage in the TL. Translator's focus here is on finding immediate correspondence with respect to each lexical unit of the original in translation from the English language into the Russian language disregarding the norm and the usage in the TL: "*управления проведения* терапии", "управление лечением" (Рус.) vs. "managing therapy" (Engl.).

Hence, issues of turning aside from the SL text and misapplying the method of addition, as well as issues of literal reproduction come up, the latter being inconsistent with both the norm and usage in what regards medical discourse.

5. Conclusion

The undertaken research broadens the understanding of translator's linguo-mental personality as a concept that has its essential features characterized by multilayered nature preconditioned by the phenomenon of multidimensionality of the process of translation, dynamics of the latter, and specific conditions and determinants of cross-cultural crosslinguistic scientific communication. It amplifies potential of analysis of different types of translator's activities within a wide spectrum of real situations and contributes to approximation, to a certain extent, of the training of specialists in interpreting and translation to the practical requirements regarding professional communication.

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