TRANSLATION AND CULTURE

Bhrigu Deka
Ph. D, Research Scholar
Department of Assamese,
Gauhati University, Assam, India

Abstract: Translation is a courier for the transmission of knowledge. It can also be called a kind of recreational activity. In present day, translation is recognized as a great artistic work and skill. We are going to study the main roles of translation in transferring cultural concepts between two or more language and some difficulties that translators face in this process. We know that translation plays an important role of crossing through different cultures and communication. Therefore, translation is one of the fundamental and essential ways in transferring culture, but there are some limitations also. It is a protection of cultural heritage and of the human civilization. It is not an intellectual property of a community or a tribe.

Keyword: Culture, translation, language.

1.INTRODUCTION: Different nations have different cultures. Then, What is culture? To put it simply, “Culture has been called “the way of the life for an entire society.” That are passed down from generation to generation. The simple definition implies that culture is the patterns of manners, customs, traditions, social habits, religions, norm of behavior, systems of belief and language of society. Culture plays a key role during the definition of a particular community or a given group of people. Cultural identity is used in reference to how people from a particular setting lead their lives. Culture also greatly influences how people communicate with each other. It also plays a significant role in intercultural communication. Language and culture closely related to each other.
2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY: Studying on language, culture and translation and the relationship between them are valuable issues due to the importance of human communication in the world. The variety of languages with different cultures and necessity of communications in human life caused translation to be a very effective factor in communicating, exchanging cultures, and knowledge. Thus, it seems that language and culture are closely related and it is essential to consider both in the process of translation. All translators who transfer natural meaning based on the cultural and religious norms of their society. In this study we discuss the translation barriers through transferring cultures among languages.

We also discuss that translation has an important role in globalization. Cultures especially pop culture leading expanding ethnic habits and customs or religious values. As languages and culture complimentary of each other, and cultural features of every region is different, translators not only should concentrate on how to convey the same meaning, but also attempts to show the dissimilarities between two cultural perspectives.

3. METHODOLOGY: In this paper, both descriptive and analytical methodology has been used. To put forward my views I have taken the help of a few references books, research papers, using internet also.

4. Culture and translation in meaning:

4.1 CULTURE: The English word ‘Culture’ is derived from the Latin term ‘Cult or cultus’ meaning cultivating or refining and worship. It means cultivating and refining a thing to such an extent that its end product evokes our admiration and respect. This is practically the same as ‘Sanskriti of the sanskriti language. The term ‘Sanskriti’ has been derived from the root ‘Kri (to do) of Sanskriti language. Three words came from this root ‘Kri,’ ‘Prakriti’ (basic matter), ‘Sanskriti’ (refined matter) and vikriti (modified). When ‘Prakriti’ or a raw materials is refined it becomes ‘Sanskriti’ and when broken or damaged it becomes ‘Vikriti’.

Culture may be defined as the whole way of life, an individual and especially a group live, think, feel and organize themselves, celebrate and share life. Peter Newmark defined culture as ‘the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular languages as its means of expression. Hane Vermeer (German Linguist and translation scholar) stated that ‘language is a part of culture’. The term of culture originally meant the cultivation of the soul or mind.
Culture is the sum total of the ways of living built up by a group and passed on from one generation to another. Culture is a way of life. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the language we speak in and the God you worship all are aspects of culture. In very simple terms, we can say that culture is the embodiment of the way in which we think and do things. It is also the things that we have inherited as members of society. All the achievements of human beings as members of social groups can be called culture. Art, music, literature, architecture, sculpture, philosophy, religion and science can been seen as aspects of culture. However, culture also includes the customs traditions, festivals, ways of living and one’s outlook on various issues of life.

4.2. TRANSLATION: Translation is the communication of the meaning source from one (source to another language (target language). So translation consists of language and culture. Larson claimed that ‘Translation is a complicated process. It is no longer to be a mere cross-linguistic activity but it significantly is cross-cultural communication. Translation is necessary for spread of information, knowledge and ideas. It is absolutely necessary for effective and empathetic communication between different cultures. Its therefore, is critical for social harmony and peace. Limitations in translation is one of the specific features of culture, not necessarily imposed from outside world. Behaviors which are acceptable will every from location to location.

5. What translation does exactly: We talked about the limitations of process but let’s add that translation not only transfers fundamental aspects and features of culture but also it transfers modern science, and foreign histories. Therefore, that a translator’s job is to eliminate and destroy boundaries is not always true. It crosses the borders to communicate cultures.

6. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURE AND TRANSLATION:

The relationship between culture and translation are related to each other and go hand in hand. It help bridge the gaps that different language might create.

In the early stages of translation theory, translation was defined as replacing a text in one language by another in a language, with the two texts having approximately the same meaning. The main emphasis was and the linguistic and the semantic aspects of translation, whether in the process of the product. The meaning in translation has always been problematic; what meaning is intended?
It is semantic or pragmatic or social? Finally all these types of meaning were thought relevant, and have been resumed under cultural aspects of translation. Nowadays translation is rarely envisaged without one talking into account the source culture and the target culture.

Can culture be translated? Can a text be translated in isolated of its culture? It is a linguistic fact recognized by every scholar that language is interwoven with the threads of culture, and it is difficult, probably impossible, to separate the two.

A translator is a cultural mediator, who may move from the source culture to the target culture choosing as much as he/she thinks appropriate to serve the aim of the translation. He/she translates the content and the style of the source text and introduces these into the target text. Translations necessary for the spread of information, knowledge and ideas.

7. HOW DO TRANSLATORS TRANSLATE?

Translators convert written materials from one language into another language. The goal of translator is to have people read the translation as if were the original written materials. Translators must read original language fluently. They usually translate into their native language.

8. The significant roles of translation in transferring culture:

8.1. MAKING CULTURE UNIVERSAL: Translation plays a vital role in making a culture universal and general. It acts as a bridge to communicate all kinds of languages specially those similar to each other considering their linguistic features and cultural customs in all parts of the world. So it links all units of the world in the global network. Moreover, translation presumes the existence of boundaries between different culture and the translator most probably is aware of these boundaries and the inevitability of crossing them. Without cultural similarities and universalities, there is no way for people of different cultures to communicate with each other and translation will be impossible. When the speaking the two languages which are to be translated equivalently, translators must convey the same referential, pragmatic and interlinked meanings. However, due to differences between two cultures, semantic, equivalence is limited to same.
9. **CONCLUSION**: From the above, we know that the translation is more closely related to culture factor in language, without the culture knowledge, it is difficult to translate the original into target language accurately. We may now get a clear idea of the relation between culture and translation. On the other hand, we also may master the approaches of semantic and pragmatic equivalence in translation. It is true that these two aspects can open our eyes to a new perspective of understanding culture and translation.

**Reference**:


