

Translation

What is translation?

Translation is replacing a text in one language by another text in another language.

A text is a linguistic unit higher than a sentence and consists of one sentence or more.

Rank Scale

Text (largest unit)

sentence

clause

phrase

word

morpheme (smallest unit)

Types of texts

Texts can be divided into two main types as far as translation is concerned:

1. **Informative texts** which aim at conveying information. For these texts, content is more important than form like scientific and legal writings.
2. **Creative texts** which do not depend so much on the information they convey as on their aesthetic effect such as literary writings and above all poetry

Three types of translation may be recognized:

Interlingual translation: two different languages are involved.

Intralingual translation: a text in one variety of the language is reworded into another in the same language.

Intersemiotic translation: a text is replaced by non-linguistic signs. For example, a poem is translated into a dance, a novel into a film.

Source language (ST) is the language from which a text is translated

Target language (TL) is the language into which a text is translated

The basis of Translation

Equivalence is the basis of translation and meaning is the basis of equivalence

The TT is said to be equivalent to the ST in meaning. Both of them must express the same meaning.

Attention!!!

In translation, we **transfer** **(translate)** the meaning of the ST and **choose** the grammatical forms which suit this meaning in the TL. In other words, the meaning must be translated and not the grammatical structure

To illustrate this rule, consider the following examples:

Ali came from school 'begins with a subject'

is rendered into:

جاء علي من المدرسة

'begins with a verb'

Life is beautiful
is translated into:

الحياة جميلة

Life (with zero article)
الحياة (with definite article)
dropping 'is'

I understand now فهمت الآن

I understood yesterday فهمت بالأمس

إذا تكلمت بصوت عال فهمتك

If you speak up, I will understand
you

فهمت takes three different forms
when translated into English