

Theories of Translation MA 2024-2025

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Linguistics	General linguistics	What language is and how it functions
	Descriptive linguistics	The description of a certain dialect or text.
	Contrastive linguistics	Comparing two languages or texts.
	Applied linguistics	Language teaching and applications of linguistics

Medium

	Medium form	Medium substance	Performer	addressee
spoken language	Phonology	Phonic substance	speaker	hearer
written language	Graphology	Graphic substance	Writer	Reader

Style	Variety of language	relationship between the performer and the addressee
Register	Variety of language	In relation to the wider social role of the performer .
Mode	Variety of language	The medium employed (spoken/written)
Dialect	Variety of language	The performer's characteristics in a geographical dimension .
Idiolect	Variety of language	the personal linguistic features of the performer

Translation

➤ Replacing a SL text by a TL one on the basis of equivalence between both texts.

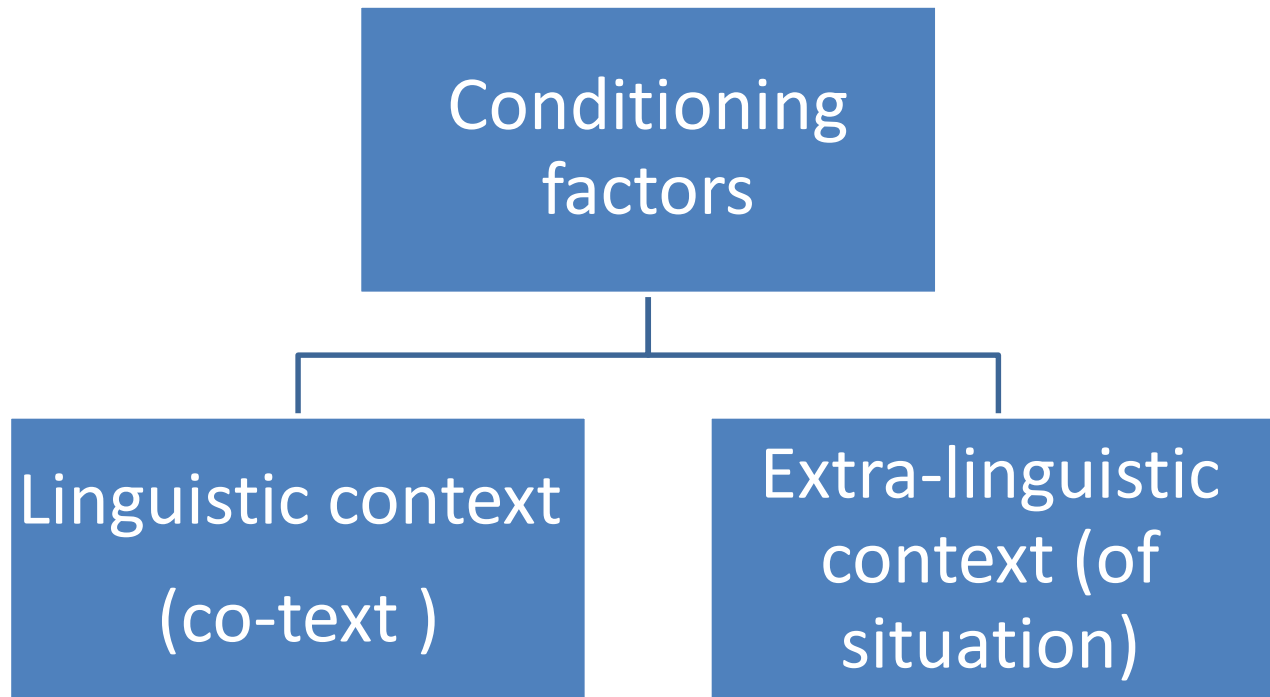
- Textual equivalence

“Any TL text or portion of text which is observed to be the equivalent of a given SL text or portion of text”

Formal correspondence

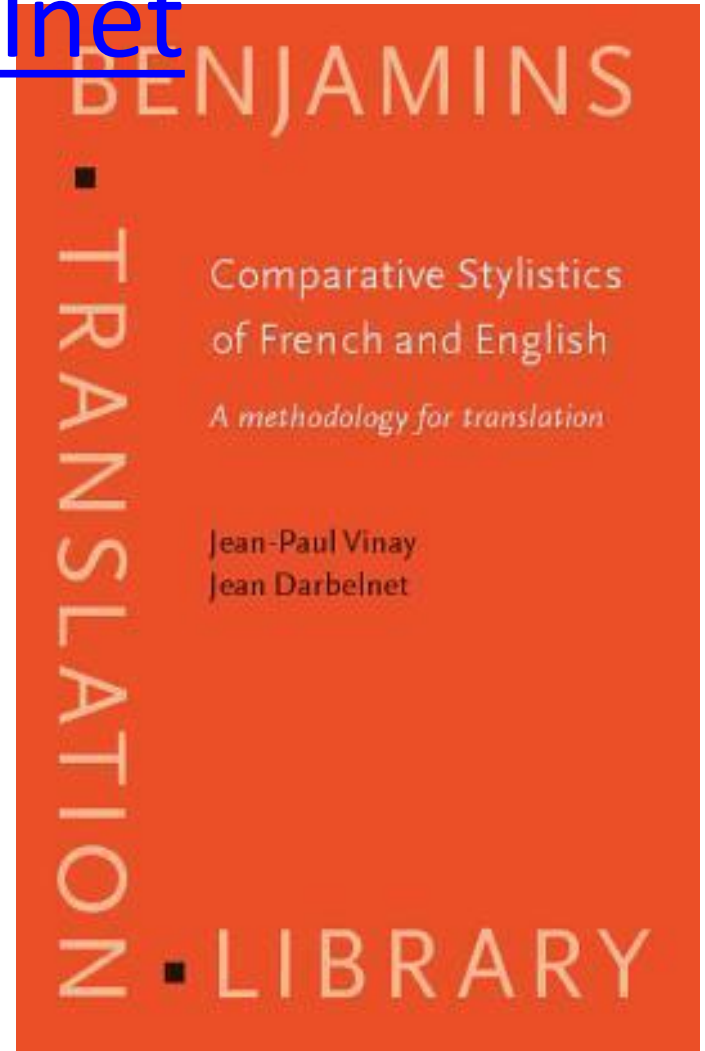
“Any TL category "unit, class , element of structure " which can be said to occupy , as nearly as possible , the same **place in the **economy** of the TL as the given SL category occupies in the SL”**

Equivalence is affected by conditioning factors



The main concern of translation theory is to determine appropriate translation methods for the widest possible range of texts or text categories

French linguists : Jean-Paul Vinay, Jean Darbelnet



In this model, Vinay and Darbelnet performed a comparative stylistic analysis of French and English, taking into account texts in both languages. They observe differences between the languages and identify different translation “strategies” and “procedures”. *Strategy*, in this respect, means a comprehensive plan of the translator [e.g. ‘*literal*’ & ‘*semantic*’ methods for ST and ‘*free*’ & ‘*communicative*’ methods for TT].

Procedure, on the other hand, is a specific technique used by the translator at a limited case in a text [e.g. the use of ‘*transposition*’ or procedure in changing one part of speech for another – noun into verb & verb into adverb]

Translators must preserve the **tone** of the text they translate.

In order to do this, they must **separate the elements which constitute the tone** with respect to a whole range of stylistic characteristics which we call the **levels of language**.

The system of **tonality** is one of **oppositions**. A certain term is administrative in tone because, by an association of memory, we can oppose it to a general language term indicating the same thing, for example: ‘**deceased**/dead’;

Our second distinction recognizes **aesthetic** in contrast to **functional** concerns. Starting from familiar language which represents the lower limit of what is accepted usage, expression can be progressively refined to reach by stages the levels of written, literary, and poetic language.

**Unit of thought, lexicological unit,
and unit of translation.#**

the unit of translation is the
predominant element of thought
within such a segment of the
utterance.

There may be **superposition of ideas** within the same unit., but, whether seen as a single lexical item in a dictionary or from the point of view of the morpho-syntactic structure in which the word might occur, the two ideas cannot be separated. They are superimposed.

It is what Bally refers to as an **accumulation of meanings**. In such cases the translation may be able to retain only one **signified**, preferably that which in the context has priority. (bank)

the unit of translation as the smallest segment of the utterance whose signs are linked in such a way that they should not be translated individually.

Given that translators have to be concerned more with semantics than structure, it is obviously preferable to have a unit whose definition originates in a distinction of meaning rather than in syntactic functions.

Functional units, i.e. units whose elements have the same syntactic function

Semantic units, i.e. units of meaning

Dialectic units, i.e. expressing a reasoning

Prosodic units, i.e. units whose elements have the same intonation

Simple units

These units correspond to a single word

Il gagne cinq mille dollars. He earns five thousand dollars

Diluted units

These units extend over several words which together form a lexicological unit, because the whole group of words expresses a single idea.

He went ذهاب-----

Fractional units

These units consist of only a fraction of a word, which means that the speaker is therefore still aware of the constituent elements of the word.

In English **word stress** can reveal the difference between **single and multiple units**, e.g. 'black 'bird vs. 'black-bird.

Unified groups, in contrast to one-word units, refer to **highly coherent units of two or more words such as idioms**.

Affinity groups are **units whose elements are more difficult to detect and in which the cohesion between the words is less evident**. We identify five separate types.

Phrases of Intensity

focused around a noun: a severe winter

focused around an adjective, a past participle, or a verb: seriously injured

Verbal phrases

In these cases a verb followed by a noun corresponds, in principle, to a simple verb of the same family as the noun: to take a walk.

The translation of a word usually depends upon its context. A unit of translation provides a limited context; it forms a syntactic unit where one element determines the translation of the other.

The three planes of external stylistics

The lexicon

The first **plane** is occupied by the **signs** considered in their own right, i.e. disregarding the messages in which they normally appear.

Syntactic structures

Units of translation can also be arranged on a **horizontal** plane, i.e. in the sequence of the **syntactic structure of the utterance**, so as to emphasise the idea of an ordered entity.

The initial steps they take can be characterised as follows:

- to identify the units of translation;
- to examine the SL text; this consists of evaluating the descriptive, affective, and intellectual content of the units of translation;
- to reconstitute the situation which gave rise to the message;
- to weigh up and evaluate the stylistic effects, etc.

Two strategies and Seven Procedures:

Vinay and Darbelnet illustrate two translation strategies: (1) *direct translation* and (2) *oblique translation* (i.e. indirect), which evoke the division between “*literal*” and “*free*” translation methods. The two strategies include seven procedures.

Direct translation strategy covers the following procedures:

a. **Borrowing (الاقتراض)**: it is a procedure in which ***the SL word is transferred directly to the TL one***. English, for example, uses many words from different languages such as Arabic: (astrolabe : الإسطرلاب , alcohol : الكحول , cotton : قطن , alchemy : الكيمياء , algebra : الجبر , coffin: المقبرة... etc.). Such words are used ***to fill a semantic gap in the TL*** (i.e. English) and

sometimes to add local flavor to it like Japanese words (sushi : أكلة السوشي, kimono : الزي الياباني للنساء ... etc.). In addition, ***terms of inventions are used broadly as loan words***; in some technical fields there is much borrowing of terms (laser, radar, Facebook, twitter, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, ...etc.).

a. Calque (المحاكاة) /*Kalk*/ another term for loan translation: it is a form of literal translation of words from one language to another. it represents a “**special type of borrowing where the SL expression is transferred in a literal translation and applied to TL**” with morphological changes (i.e. films : أفلام not فيلمز).

*It is to be noted that both “borrowing” and “calque” procedures are entirely merged into the TL with some semantic changes, which may converted them into “**false friends**” (i.e. **the same expression used by different languages but denotes different senses**)*

Word	Description
Hose	a flexible tube for conveying liquid or gas (English)
<i>Hose</i>	<i>female stockings (German)</i>
Fork	spiked instrument for eating (English)
<i>Fork</i>	<i>Spiked instrument for shoveling thing on a form (German)</i>
Embarrassed	To feel a shamed in a social situation (English)
<i>Embarazda</i>	<i>Which means pregnant (Spanish)</i>

Arabic ST:

على المنضدة

English TT:

On the table

- **Literal Translation (الترجمة الحرفية):** this procedure is the most common one between languages of the same source and culture. For example:

Translators, in this respect, may conduct such a procedure after examining that the meaning is wholly kept in the TL. Vinay and Darbelnet point out that *the translator may assess literal translation as “unacceptable”; since it gives a different meaning, has no meaning, or is impossible for structural or pragmatic reasons.*

Assuming that literal translation is not possible, Vinay and Darbelnet suggest to use the strategy of “*oblique*” (i.e. indirect) translation which has four procedures:

a. Transposition (الإبدال): this kind of procedure involves a **change of one part of speech in the SL for another in the TL without making a difference in meaning**. It may be “**obligatory**” (e.g. in French ‘dès son lever’ = upon her rising, would be rendered into English ‘as soon as she got up’) or “**optional**” (e.g. in English ‘before he comes back’ could be translated into Arabic ‘قبل عودته’). *Vinay and Darbelnet regard a transposition as the most common structural change employed by translators.* Verb ➔ Noun: They have pioneered. ➔ كانوا رواداً.

- Adverb ➔ **Verb**: He will be back. ➔ سيعود.
- Adjective + Noun ➔ **Verb + Adverb (double transposition)**:

a. Modulation (التطويع): it refers to “**a variation through a change of view point**” (Newmark, 1988: 88). *It occurs when the translator reproduces the message of the original text in the TL text in harmony with the present criteria of the TL, since the SL and TL may seem dissimilar in terms of perspective.*

Vinay and Darbelnet give much importance to modulation as **“the touchstone of a good translator, whereas a transposition simply shows a very good command of the TL”** (Munday, 2016: 90). Modulation at the level of message is subdivided into:

- Particular ⇔ general, e.g.:

He gave a pint of blood. → He gave a little blood.

أعطى قليلاً من الدم.

- Effect ⇔ cause, e.g.:

Ali is a quit stranger, I haven't seen him
for a long time.

عليّ شخص غريب، إذ لم أعد أراه منذ زمن.

- **Whole ⇔ Part, e.g.:**

He shut the door in my face. → He shut the door in my nose. أغلق الباب على أنفي.

- **Part ⇔ another part, e.g.:**

He cleared his throat. → He cleared his voice.

- **Reversal of terms, e.g.:**

You can receive it. → I'll send it to you.

- **Negation of opposite, e.g.:**

It doesn't seem impossible. → It is possible.

- **Active ⇔ passive, e.g.:**

The police arrested the thief. → The thief has been arrested.

- **Rethinking of intervals and limits in space and time, e.g.:**

No parking between signs. → Limit of parking. (i.e. in space).

See you in a week. → We will see each other in seven days from today. (i.e. in time).

a. **Equivalence (التكافؤ):** it is used, as Vinay and Darbelnet state, to refer to **languages that use different stylistic or cultural means to describe the same situation**. Equivalence is specifically significant in rendering idioms and proverbs (i.e. how to convey the effect of the message not the image itself). For example: “*between the devil and the sea*” could be translated into Arabic as “*بين المطرقة والسندان*”.

a.Adaptation (التكييف): it is the **freest** form of translation which is used mainly for plays and poetry. In this respect, the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten. *This procedure is used when a situation in the SL doesn't exist in the target culture (e.g. perfume : بخور).*

Direct translation procedures

Borrowing: (alcohol : الكحول)

Calque:

(every situation has its saying : لكل
(مقام مقال)

Literal translation: (supreme
hand : اليد العليا)

Oblique (indirect) translation procedures

Modulation: (lend me your ears :
(أعزني سمعك)

Transposition:

(there was a knock at the door :
(قَرع علينا الباب)

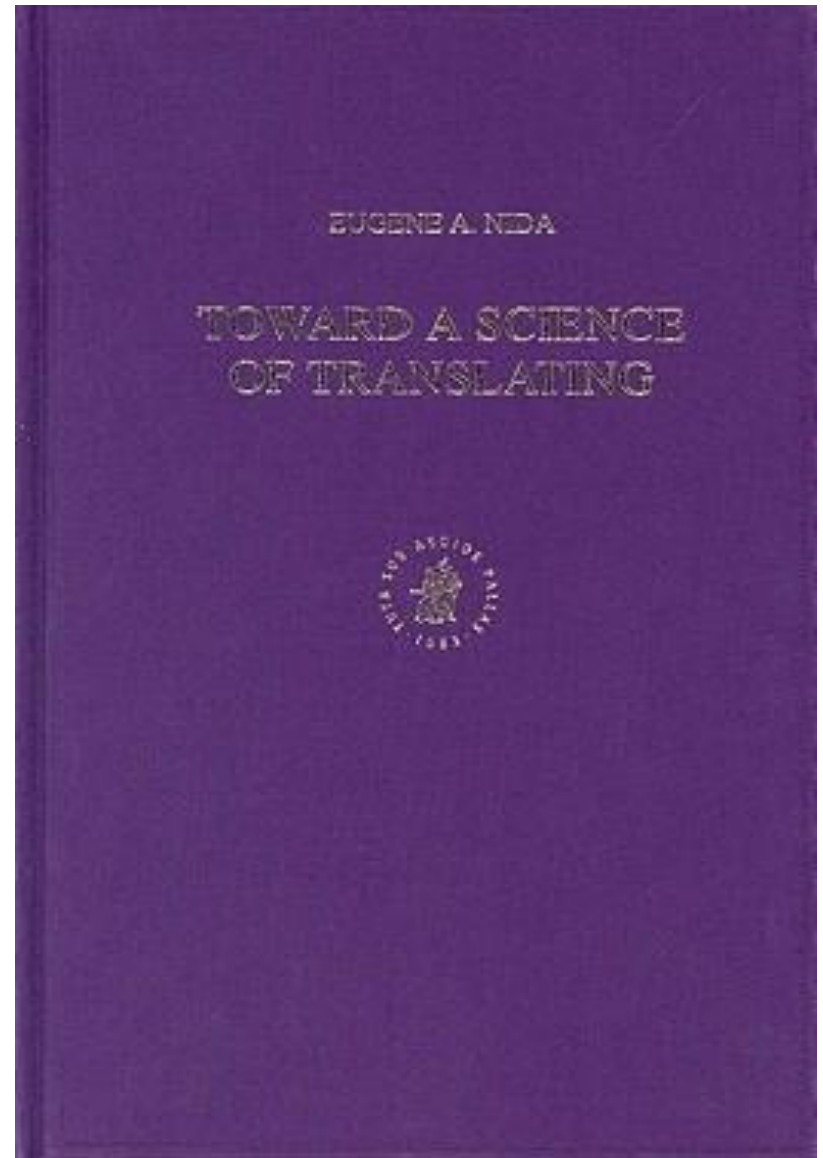
Equivalence:

(May your teeth not be broken : لا
(فُض فوك)

Adaptation: (perfume : بخور)

Nida and his contribution in translation studies

American linguist : E. Nida



Nida incorporates key features of *Chomsky's* model into his 'science' of translation

Formal & Dynamic equivalence

Nida and Taber's dynamic equivalence approach recognizes that a translation should not merely replicate the source text but should also take into account the **dynamic interplay between language and culture.**

It acknowledges that achieving an equivalent impact and effect in the target culture is often more important than maintaining a strict verbal resemblance to the source text. This approach encourages translators to make thoughtful choices that prioritize meaningful communication over literal translation.

Eugene Nida and Charles Taber, in their work on translation theory, emphasized the concept of **"dynamic equivalence"** as an approach to translation. One of the key principles of dynamic equivalence is **the priority of "contextual consistency" over "verbal consistency."**

1.Contextual Consistency

Nida and Taber argued that the primary goal of translation should be to **faithfully convey the meaning and message of the source text within the context of the target culture and audience.** This means that the translator should ensure that the translation **makes sense in the new cultural and linguistic context.** The translation should be **relevant and meaningful** to the **target** readers .

* - Example:* If a metaphor or idiom in the source text **doesn't have an equivalent in the target language**, the translator may choose to **replace** it with a **culturally relevant metaphor** or expression to maintain **contextual consistency** .

Verbal Consistency

* Verbal consistency, on the other hand, refers to **maintaining a one-to-one correspondence between words and phrases in the source text and the translation**. In other words, it focuses on replicating the surface structure of the original text as closely as possible .

The idea behind prioritizing contextual consistency is that the primary purpose of translation is effective communication. Nida and Taber believed that rigidly adhering to verbal consistency could lead to translations that are awkward, incomprehensible, or culturally inappropriate for the target audience.

By contrast, by emphasizing contextual consistency, the translator has the flexibility to adapt the translation to the target culture's norms, conventions, and linguistic patterns .

Eugene Nida and Charles Taber, in their dynamic equivalence approach to translation theory, introduced several other priorities and principles that guide the translation process. These include :

**** .1 Relevance to the Target Audience:**** The translation should be relevant and meaningful to the target audience. This means that the translator must consider the cultural, social, and linguistic context of the target readers to ensure that the translation resonates with them .

**** .Clear Communication:**** **Clarity**
in communication is essential. The
translation should be clear and
easily understandable to the target
audience, avoiding ambiguity or
confusion .

Naturalness:** The translated text should sound natural in the target language. It should read as if it were originally written in that language, using idiomatic expressions and linguistic conventions that are familiar to the target readers .

**** .4 Functional Equivalence:**** This principle focuses on ensuring that the translation serves the **same communicative function** as the source text. It may involve adapting the text to fit the target culture's communication norms.

**** .Cultural Adaptation:**** The translator should be sensitive to cultural differences and adapt the translation to align with the cultural norms and values of the target audience. This includes addressing issues like humor, taboos, and cultural references .

**** .6Reader Response:**** Nida and Taber recognized that readers' responses and interpretations play a crucial role in translation. Translators should consider how the target audience is likely to interpret and respond to the translation .

**** .Pragmatic Considerations:****

Translators should take into account the pragmatic aspects of language, such as the intended speech acts (e.g., requests, offers) and the communicative intentions of the source text .

These priorities reflect the dynamic nature of translation, where the goal is not merely to transfer words from one language to another but to convey the intended message in a way that is meaningful, culturally appropriate, and effective for the target audience. Nida and Taber's dynamic equivalence approach emphasizes the importance of balancing these priorities to achieve successful translation outcomes.

Eugene Nida proposed a
three-step process for
translation that includes
**analysis, transfer, and
restructuring.**

**** .1 Analysis:**** In the first step, analysis, the translator thoroughly examines the source text (ST) to understand its content, structure, and linguistic features. This involves breaking down the ST into its constituent parts, such as sentences, paragraphs, and clauses.

The goal is to grasp the meaning, context, and style of the ST. Key aspects of analysis include identifying the main message, cultural references, idiomatic expressions.

kernel sentences

Chomsky introduced the notion of **kernel sentences** as part of his transformational-generative grammar theory, which aimed to explain how humans generate an infinite variety of sentences from a finite set of rules. Transformations are the rules that manipulate kernel sentences to create more complex sentences, including questions, passives, and negations.

Kernel sentences and transformational grammar have had a notable impact on translation theories, particularly in the development of machine translation and the understanding of linguistic equivalence across languages.

- During the analysis of the ST, translators must consider both referential and connotative meanings to provide a **comprehensive understanding of the text.**
- This dual analysis allows translators to make informed decisions about word choices, tone, and style in the target language. It ensures that the translation not only conveys the factual information accurately but also captures the intended emotional and cultural aspects of the original text .

Referential meaning refers to the literal, denotative, or dictionary meaning of words and phrases in the source text. It is the straightforward, objective meaning of the language used.

By taking into account referential and connotative meanings, translators can produce translations that are not only linguistically correct but also culturally and emotionally resonant with the target audience, thus achieving dynamic equivalence in the translation process, as advocated by Nida and Taber.

Example: In the sentence "The cat is on the table," the referential meaning includes the facts that there is a cat, it is positioned on a table, and the relationship between the two .

Connotative meaning refers to the additional, subjective, or implied meanings and associations that words or phrases may carry beyond their literal definitions. These associations can include emotional, cultural, or social implications.

Importance: Recognizing **connotative meaning is crucial** for capturing the tone, mood, and nuances of the ST. It helps in conveying the subtleties, emotions, and cultural references that might not be immediately apparent in the referential meaning.

Example: Consider the word "**home**." While its referential meaning is a place where one lives, it also carries connotations of comfort, security, and emotional attachment .

- **Transfer**: The second step involves taking the **insights gained** from the analysis of the ST and conveying its meaning into the target language (TL). The translator selects **appropriate TL equivalents** for the various components of the ST while considering the **linguistic and cultural differences** between the two languages.
- This step requires making **choices** about **vocabulary, sentence structure**, and overall expression to faithfully represent the ST's meaning in the TL .

Restructuring: In the third step, restructuring, the translator may need to reorganize elements of the translation to ensure it **flows naturally and effectively in the TL**. This includes addressing differences in grammar, syntax, and cultural norms that may require modifications to the translation. The goal is to create a translation that not only conveys the same meaning as the ST but also reads **fluently and naturally in the TL**.

Eugene Nida and Charles Taber, in their approach to translation theory, emphasize the importance of considering **both referential and connotative** meaning during the analysis of the source text (ST). These two aspects of meaning play a crucial role in understanding and translating a text accurately and effectively .

Catford's approach to translation

- Applying a more linguistic-based approach to translation, Catford's approach to translation equivalence (1965) took another direction from that of Nida and Taber. Influenced by the linguistic work of **Firth and Halliday**.
- He refined Halliday's grammatical 'rank-scale' approach to develop the hypothesis that equivalence in translation depends upon the availability of formal correspondence between linguistic items at different structural levels and ranks, particularly **at the sentence level**.

Catford's main contribution

- in the field of translation theory is the introduction of the concepts of **Translation shifts** .
- Translation shifts are **the departures from formal correspondence in search of equivalence.**

- The main translation shifts of two main kinds: 1. Category Shifts. 2. Level Shifts.
- Category Shifts are usually divided into:

a- Structure-shift: e.g.

The boy went to school (SPC)

ذهب الولد إلى المدرسة (PSC).

blue car (MH)

سيارة زرقاء (HM)

The structure of the English sentence is (S.P.C.), whereas the structure of the Arabic equivalent sentence is (P.S.C.).

As for the nominal group “blue cars”, its structure in English is (MH), that is the modifier preceded the head; whereas in the case of its Arabic equivalent, the order is the opposite.

b. Class-Shift: i.e. the equivalent TL item is a member of a different class compared with that of the SL item:

e.g.: green cars (M. i.e. modifier).

سيارات خضراء (Q i.e. qualifier).

In spite of the fact the both items “green” in English and "خضراء" in Arabic are members of the grammatical class “adjective” , yet the English one operates as modifier in the nominal group structure; whereas the Arabic one operates as qualifier in the nominal group structure.

- This is why it is considered to be a case of (class-Shift)

C.Unit-Shift: refers to shifts at the grammatical ranks; i.e. the translation equivalent of an SL item at a certain grammatical rank happens to be an TL item at a different rank. e.g.

ذهب الشاب إلى البيت The young man went home.

The English lexical item 'home' which is at the word rank has its translation equivalent at a different grammatical rank, that of the group. This is a case of unit-shift.

d. **Intra-system** shifts: i.e. shifts in such grammatical systems as number, article, etc.

e.g.: John and Ali went out.

خرج جون وعلي

They will be back before midnight.

سيعودان قبل منتصف الليل

The equivalent of Arabic dual in English is the plural. When it is the case that a singular in one language is given a plural equivalent in another language or vice versa, for instance, one may call such shifts intra-system shifts.

The same is applicable to other systems such as the article. For instance.

English (SL) man is weak.

الإنسان ضعيف Arabic (TL)

Rank -Shift

The operation of a unit in the structure of another unit at the same rank . For example:

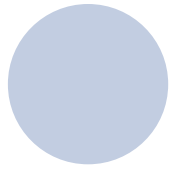
He met Suzan **at the party**

S V O **A**

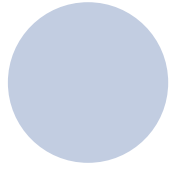
The girl **at the party** is Suzan

S (MH**Q**) V Cs

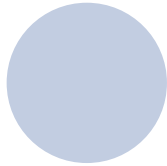
Rank scale



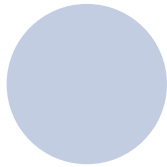
sentence



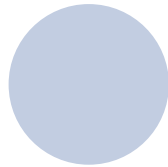
Clause



phrase



word



morpheme

Zero
equivalence

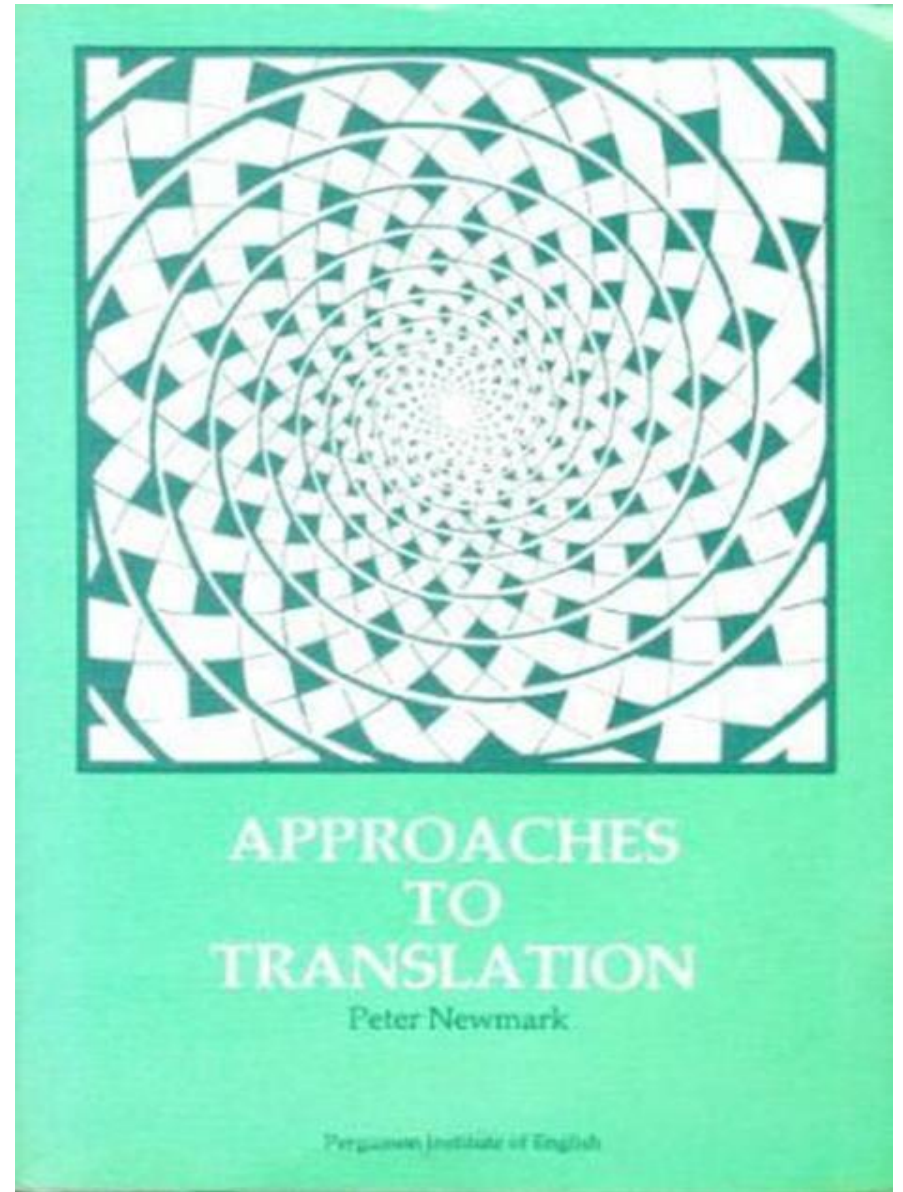
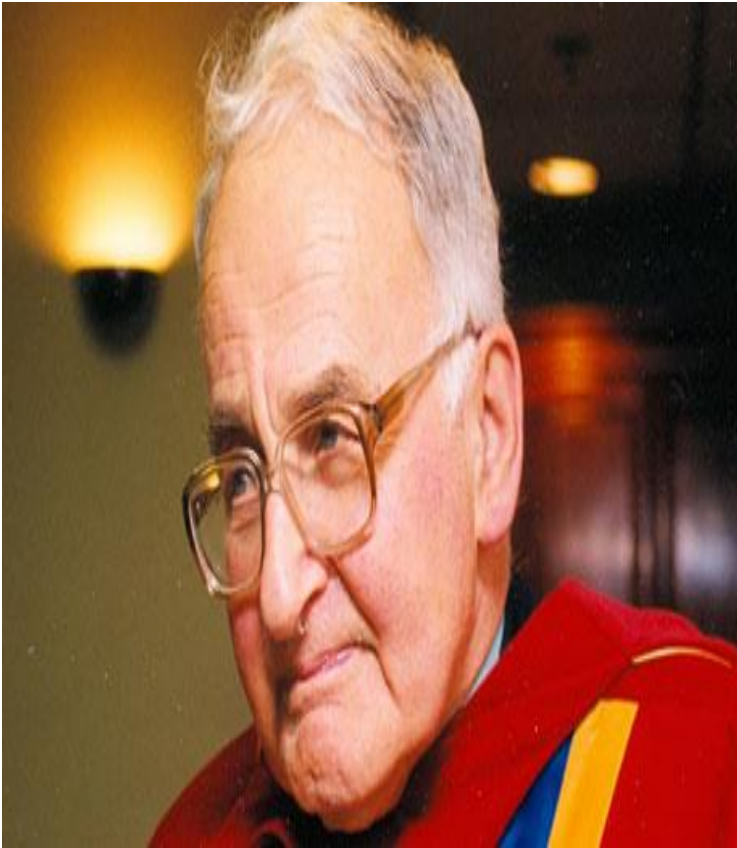
The absence
of of the
corresponding
TL term

It exists in the
TL
ذهب الى المدرسة
He went to
school

Nill
equivalence

It does not
exist in the TL
I have a book
لدي كتاب

Peter Newmark



Text analysis

```
graph LR; A[Text analysis] --- B[The intention of a text]; A --- C[The intention of the translator]; A --- D[The reader and the setting of the text .]; A --- E[The quality of the writing and the authority of the text];
```

The intention of a text

The intention of the
translator

The reader and the setting
of the text .

The quality of the writing
and the authority of the
text

Translation Strategies

Translation strategy is *the translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task.*

Loss of meaning

```
graph LR; A[Loss of meaning] --- B[Culture-specific items]; A --- C[Different linguistic systems]; A --- D[Different styles]; A --- E[Different theories of meaning];
```

Culture-specific
items

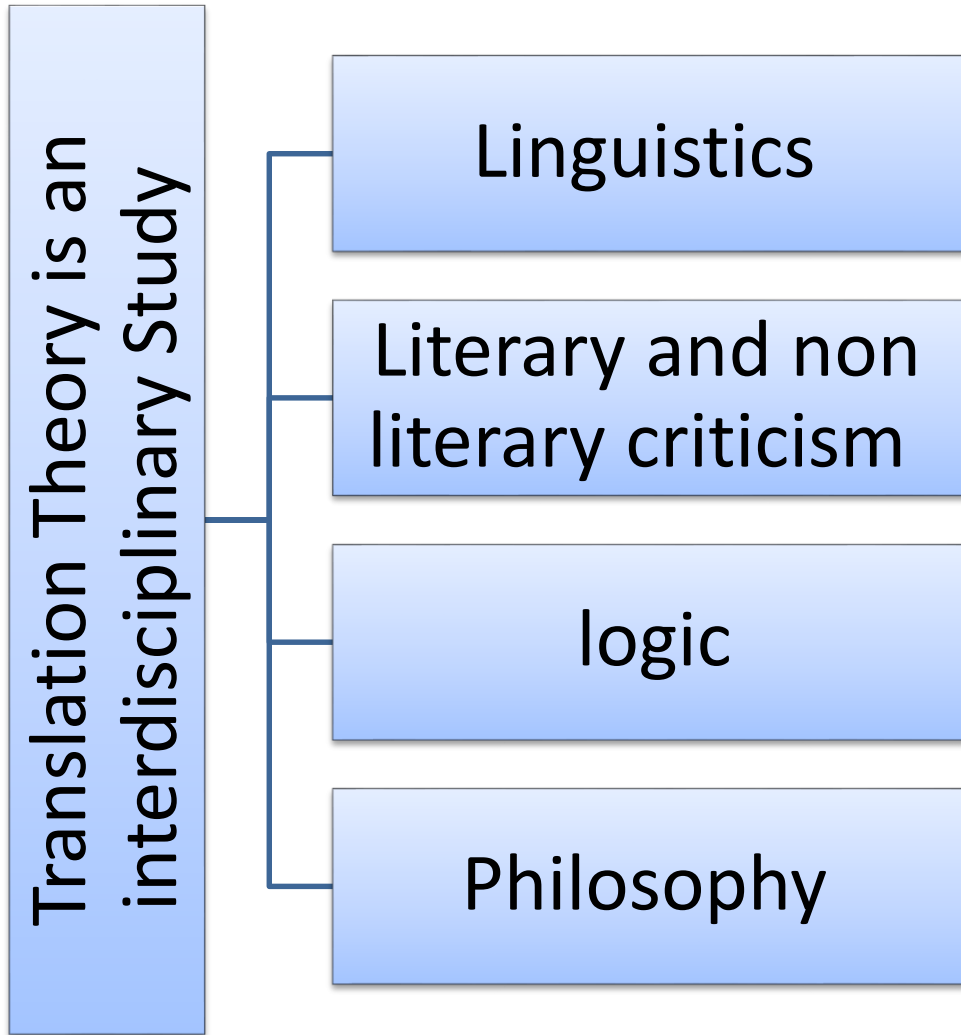
Different linguistic
systems

Different styles

Different theories
of meaning

ated by Unlicensed Version
 Variables affecting in Selecting a translation method





Global strategies are those dealing with *whole texts*. They refer to general principles and modes of action.

Local strategies those dealing with text *segments*

translation methods relate to *whole texts*,

translation procedures are used for sentences and the *smaller units* of language

TL emphasis
Adaptation
Free translation
Idiomatic translation
Communicative translation

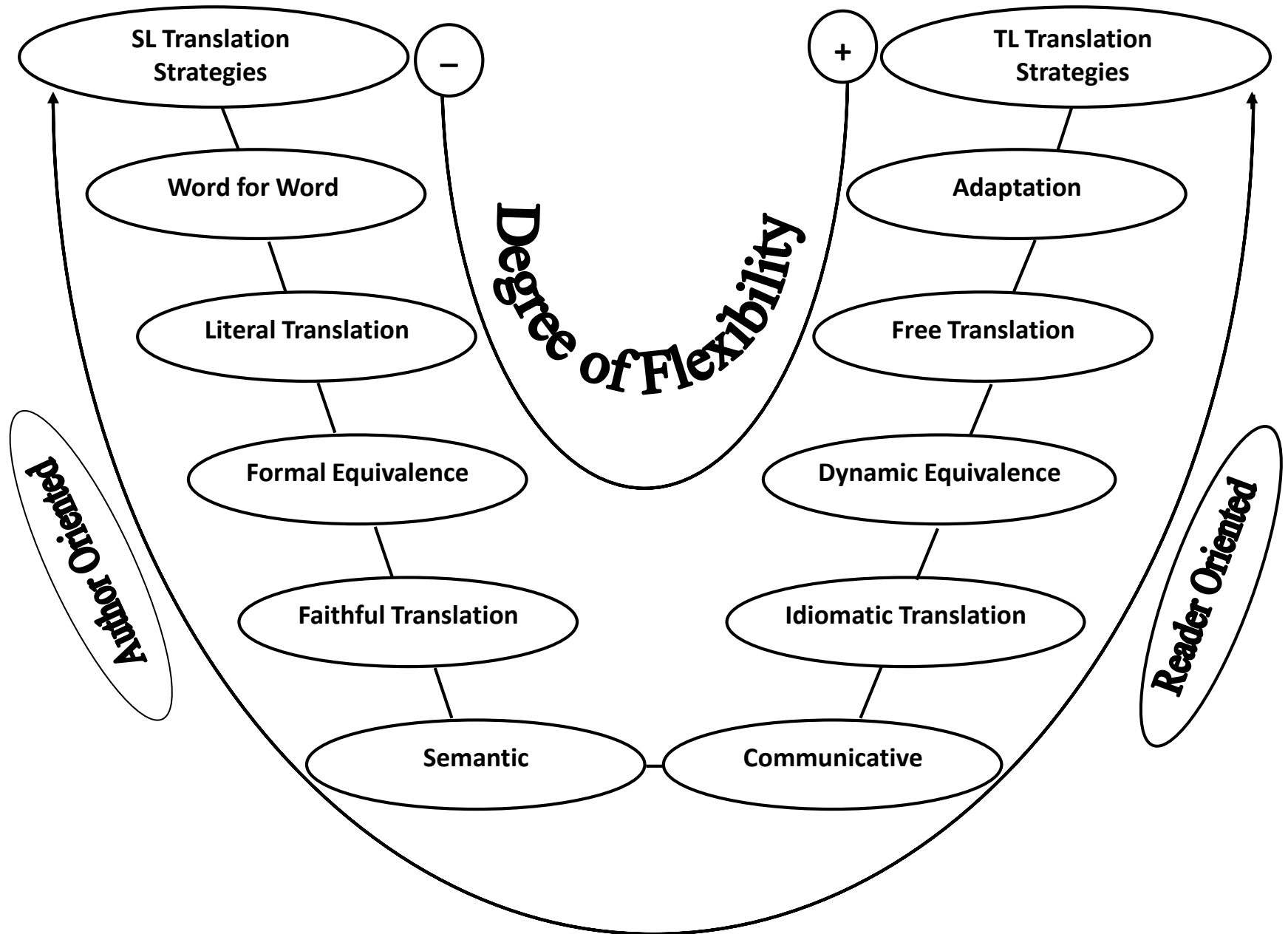
SL emphasis

Word-for-word translation

Literal translation

Faithful translation

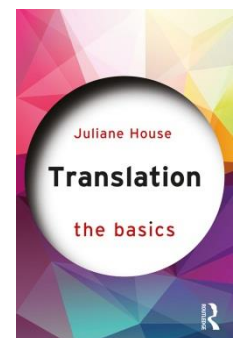
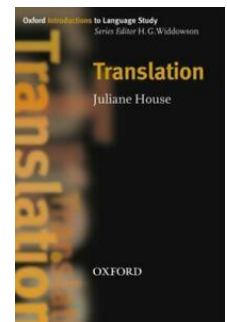
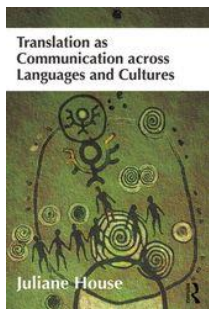
Semantic translation



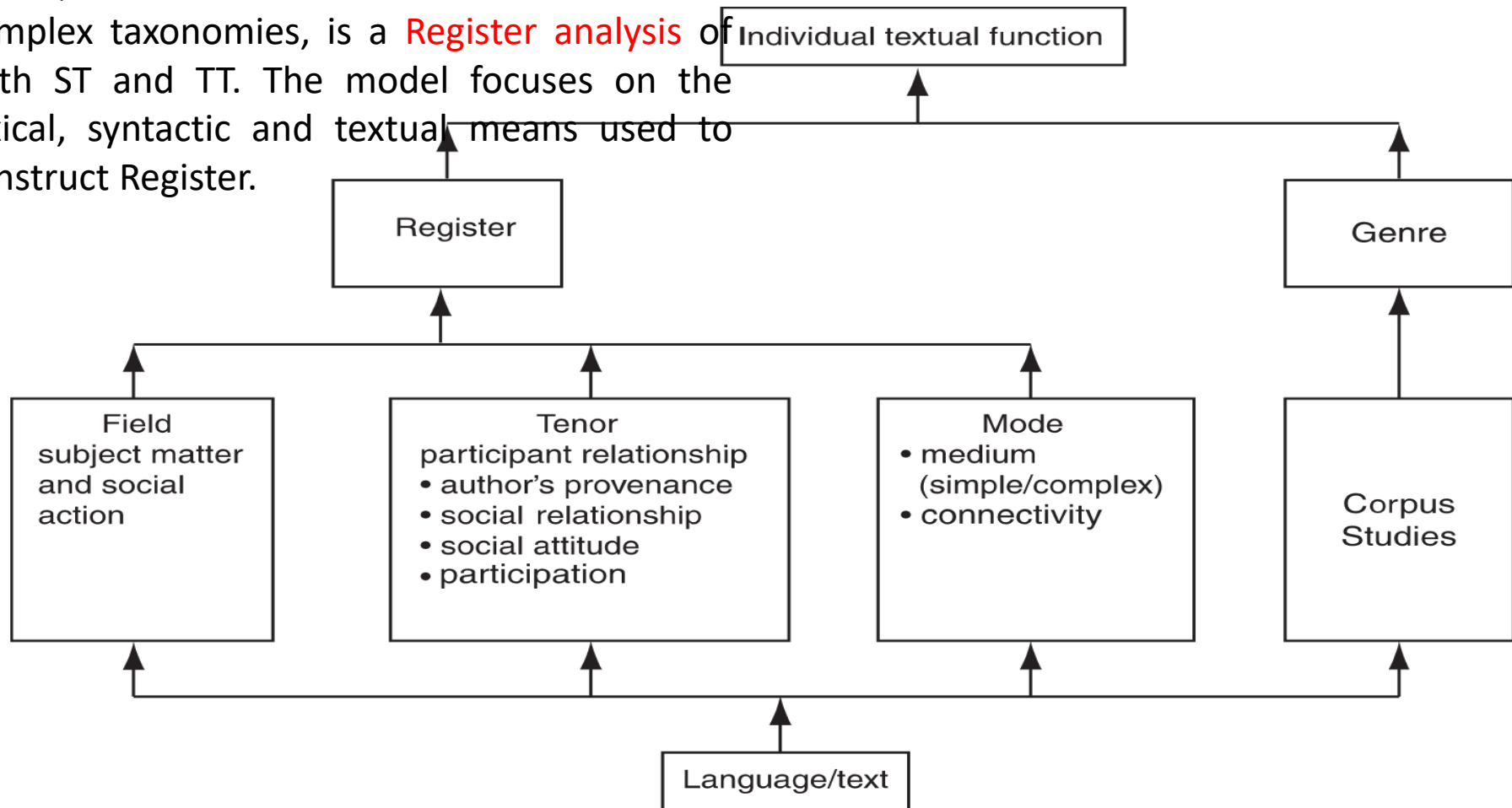
JULIANE HOUSE'S MODEL of translation quality.

House based her model on comparative ST-TT analysis to make an assessment of the quality of the translation, highlighting ' **mismatches**' or '**errors**'(House,1997:159). This model has been criticized .

House's later models incorporate some of her earlier categories into an openly **Hallidayan Register analysis of Field, Tenor and Mode**. Her model makes a systematic comparison of the textual '**profile**' of the ST and of the TT. This comparison is shown in Figure (2).



The most **central point** in this comparative model, which draws various and sometimes complex taxonomies, is a **Register analysis** of both ST and TT. The model focuses on the lexical, syntactic and textual means used to construct Register.



A revised scheme for analyzing and comparing original and translated texts (House, 2015: 127)

Field : (subject matter) what the text is about

Lexical means : formal–colloquial

Syntactic means : Types of sentences used in SL
(simple- complex)

Textual means eg. argumentative

Tenor

Author's temporal, geographical and social provenance
accents used in the narration of the text .

Author's personal (emotional and intellectual) stance
The author evaluation of characters and events .

Lexical means

Characters tend to use informal language with high degree of politeness :

eg. عيني , اعمو , الله , يخليك

the use of 'عيني', a token typically used at the beginning of an argumentation in a dialogue.

Syntactic means

Direct address of readers creates involvement and intimacy.

Textual means The novel is characterized by the extensive use of explicit connectors such as , و , اما , ف

ex. Informal style level: conversational, intimate style characterizing the type of talk occurring in a family.

Syntactic means

Simplicity of clauses, coordination rather than subordination, simplicity of noun phrases.

Medium: simple or complex

(flashback, monologue dialogue, colloquial and standard language.

Participation

Complex: monologue with some extended dialogic parts.

Syntactic means

Presence of rhetorical, addressee-directed utterance.

Textual means

Heavy use of direct speech designed to increase listeners'/readers' involvement in the novel.

Genre

ex. A novel ,short story , play,

Statement of Function

Ex. The text tells a story! Written for ----
Or gives information The ideational and an
interpersonal functional component

On Tenor, the author's personal stance as well as
the particular social role relationship and social
attitude evident in the text strongly mark the
interpersonal functional component

OVERT vs COVERT Translations by House

OVERT translation as the one in which the addressees of the translated text are quite “*overtly*” not being directly addressed’. In other words, the TT does not pretend to be (and is not represented as being) an original and **is clearly not directed at the TT audience**. Such is the case with the translation after the event of a Second World War **political speech by Winston Churchill**. The ST speech was tied to a particular source culture, time and historical context; all these factors are different for the TT.

For House **a covert translation** 'is a translation which enjoys the status of an original source text in the target culture' House (1997: 69; 2015: 56). Both ST and TT address their respective receivers directly. The **function of a covert translation** is 'to recreate, reproduce or represent the original function of ST discourse world in the translated text ' without taking the TT reader into the discourse world of the ST(2015: 67)

- Reveals itself as a translation
- Leaves “traces” of the source
- Source culture-oriented
- Common in literary, legal, and most technical translation

Overt

- Hides that it is a translation
- Removes traces of the source
- Target culture-oriented
- Localization and transcreation

Covert

Method Of translation	overt	No need for cultural filter	+
		Cultural filter is needed	-
	covert	cultural filter is un justified	-
		cultural filter is justified	+

❖ Linguistic Levels of Shifts: Hatim identifies several linguistic levels at which shifts can occur during translation:

- Hatim expands upon his concept of "shifts" in translation, which he introduced in earlier works. He discusses how shifts occur at various linguistic levels (lexical, grammatical, syntactic) when moving from the source text to the target text. These shifts are crucial for understanding the challenges of translation.

Linguistic Level: At this level, shifts involve changes in lexical items or vocabulary choices. For example, a translator may replace a word in the source language with a different word in the target language if a direct translation is not possible or if the target word conveys the intended meaning more effectively.

3. Contextual Cohesion: emphasizes that translated texts should maintain cohesion within their new communicative context.

➤ Translators are encouraged to consider the cultural, situational, and social factors that influence the interpretation of a text.

5. Pragmatic Considerations:

Hatim highlights the significance of pragmatics in translation, discussing how context and speaker intentions play a crucial role in producing accurate and effective translations.

Grammatical Level: Shifts at the grammatical level involve changes in grammatical structures. This includes alterations in verb tense, mood, voice, and agreement between subject and verb. Translators may make these shifts to ensure that the translated text follows the grammatical rules and conventions of the target language.

Syntactic Level: Syntactic shifts involve changes in sentence structure and word order. These shifts are necessary to maintain the fluency and naturalness of the target language. For instance, a sentence structured differently in the source text may need to be rearranged in the target text for clarity and readability.

Cultural Level: Cultural shifts pertain to differences in cultural references, norms, and expressions. Translators often need to replace cultural references from the source culture with those that are more familiar or relevant to the target culture. This ensures that the target audience can relate to and understand the text.

Class Shifts: Class shifts refer to changes in the grammatical class or part of speech of words. For example, a noun in the source text may need to be translated as a verb in the target text to convey the same meaning.

Unit Shifts: Unit shifts involve changes in the length or complexity of linguistic units, such as phrases or clauses. Translators may need to expand or condense units to fit the target language.

3. Purpose of Shifts: Hatim argues that shifts in translation are not **errors but strategic choices** made by the translator to ensure that the translated text **is contextually appropriate and effective in the target language**. Translators must consider the **constraints and possibilities of the target language while making these shifts**.

4. **Shift Analysis:** Hatim's approach involves analyzing these shifts systematically to understand how translation choices are made. By identifying and categorizing shifts, translators and scholars can gain insights into the challenges and strategies involved in the translation process.

In summary, Basel Hatim's concept of translation shifts is a comprehensive framework for understanding the dynamic and strategic nature of translation. It recognizes that translation involves more than a direct word-for-word replacement and highlights the need for thoughtful adjustments at various linguistic and cultural levels to produce accurate and contextually appropriate target texts.

Basel Hatim's concepts of "**stable**" and "**dynamic**" elements in translation are fundamental to his discourse-centered approach to translation studies. These concepts help translators and scholars understand how to navigate **the challenges of transferring meaning from a source text (ST) to a target text (TT) while considering both linguistic and contextual factors.** Here's a detailed account of these concepts:

1. Stable Elements:

Linguistic Universals:* Stable elements are linguistic features that tend to remain consistent across languages, often referred to as linguistic universals. These elements are more likely to stay unchanged during translation. Examples include basic grammatical rules and syntactic structures that are common to many languages.

Content: Content-related elements, such as factual information, are generally considered stable. Translators aim to convey the same information and ideas present in the source text accurately in the target text.

Core Meaning: The core meaning of a message, concept, or idea is also considered stable. Translators strive to preserve the essential meaning and message of the source text, even if they need to adapt the linguistic forms.

General Style: Some aspects of the overall writing style, such as clarity and coherence, are often viewed as stable elements. Maintaining the intended style ensures that the translated text remains faithful to the communicative intent of the source text.

Dynamic Elements:

Linguistic Variation: Dynamic elements encompass linguistic features that vary significantly between languages. This includes differences in vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, wordplay, and cultural references. Translators must address these variations by making dynamic choices to ensure the target text is contextually relevant and understandable.

Cultural elements, including customs, norms, and references, are inherently dynamic. Translators need to adapt these cultural shades to make them relevant and relatable to the target audience. This often involves replacing culture-specific references with equivalent ones in the target culture.

Pragmatic Considerations: Pragmatic aspects, such as politeness levels, speech acts, and contextual implicatures, can vary significantly between languages. Translators must adjust these elements to maintain effective communication in the target language and culture.

Rhetorical Devices: Stylistic and rhetorical devices, such as metaphors, similes, and figurative language, are dynamic elements. Translators may need to use different rhetorical devices in the target language to achieve similar persuasive or expressive effects.

Balancing Stable and Dynamic Elements:

Translators face the challenge of balancing stable and dynamic elements to produce a text that is both linguistically accurate and contextually appropriate. This requires making strategic choices while considering the linguistic and cultural constraints of both the source and target languages.

- The extent to which translators prioritize stable or dynamic elements can vary depending on the purpose of the translation. For formal or technical texts, stability may be prioritized, while creative or literary texts may require more dynamic adaptation.

In summary, Basel Hatim's concepts of stable and dynamic elements in translation highlight the need for translators to recognize the balance between linguistic universals and language-specific variations, as well as the cultural and pragmatic factors that shape translation choices.

Successful translation involves skilfully managing these elements to convey the essence and intent of the source text within the context of the target language and culture.

More 'stable' STs may require a 'fairly literal approach', while with more dynamic STs 'the translator is faced with more interesting challenges and literal translation may no longer be an option'