

## PROBLEMS OF DEFINING CONTEXTUAL MEANING IN TRANSLATION

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A language is way to see and understand the world. It is the vehicle of our ideas, thoughts and perspectives of our world. However, since human being is essentially a social animal we perpetually interact with our environment. This interaction with environment is a factor of time and space. When and where we are interacting determines what actually we are meaning. For example, 'March' is an act as well as month. The meaning depends on when, where and how.

<u>Translation</u> is understood as an act of carrying the meaning of a text from one language to another. This process involves interpretation of meaning of the source text and producing the same meaning in another language [1,pp. 125-143].

The context influences the meaning of a phrase or sentence. It is linked to the environment in which the communication takes place. In translation, the context is very important: one word may mean a different thing depending the context in which it is used. To translate we need to understand the text. A good understanding is the key to an efficient translation. A sentence or a text is composed of words and phrases, but it requires thought, comparing the sentences around it to fully understand its meaning [2,pp.98]

While seeking the context of a text there may be two categories of factors that may influence the meaning of the text- linguistic context or the situational context[3,pp.65-68]

<u>Linguistic</u> context cites the linguistic factors influencing the meaning of the text. Any word in the text is not present in isolation but interacts with other words in the text and with the whole text at large. This interaction among words determines their meaning rather than its isolated meaning. For example, see the use of word 'press' in these sentences. A). press my shirt. B). I work in a press. C). press the button.

Situational context refers to the factors of situation and circumstances influencing the meaning of a text. These factors are little harder to be recognized than linguistic ones. The situational factors may pertain to the facial expressions, gestures and stances at micro level and the social, political, economical milieu and the culture at large. Conventions and the whole value system differ from one culture and society to another. What is 'right' and what is 'wrong' differs. Ideologies may also be a factor to refer to the context.



Context plays an imperative role in successful <u>translation</u>, particularly for business and professional needs. Without context, a translator would be required to undertake laborious research to determine the original content author's meaning and intention. The language of the original text is called 'source language', the language into which the text is translated is called 'target language' (the corresponding Uzbek term is "tarjima qilinayotgan til").

Besides purely linguistic difficulties, translation involves a great number of problems caused by numerous extralinguistic factors. The content of any text is based upon extralinguistic reality, the text itself reflects the cultural background of the author and of the whole people speaking the language, it also reflects the history of the people, their habits and traditions, a peculiar national way of thinking, etc. All these things should necessarily be taken into consideration in order to translate the text adequately. One must know much more than the lexical meaning of the words to translate the following:

"What will you have?" he asked me. I looked at him doubtfully. Prohibition was in force and to all appearance the ship was bone-dry [4,p. 145].

First of all it is necessary to know that the formula "What will you have?" has a conventional meaning of an invitation to choose some liquor. Besides one should know what "Prohibition" is meant here (the eighteenth amendment to the US Constitution) not to translate it as "man qilish". Only in this case there may appear a correct version:

"Ichishga nima xohlaysiz? so'radi u. Unga shubha bilan qaradim. Taqiq o'z kuchida edi. Butun boshli kemada bir tomchi ham spirtli ichimlik yo'q edi.

It is also most essential to remember that nations speaking different languages have different experience, and things naturally known to one nation are quite unknown to another. Translators need not only to master the language(s) they work with but also be aware of the culture and peculiarities that go with it. For a successful localization of any text, however, it is very important to be aware of the context, in which the text is situated.

In conclusion, it is important to recognise that in all languages, one word may have multiple meanings and so the use of translation apps or none-expert translation services are likely to fall short on recognising the context of individual words. Translation is not simply rendering one word from a source language into its target counterpart. It's not even about turning a whole text from English into Uzbek, for example. Translation is about presenting the idea of the written text with all its nuances, tone, evaluation, humor, etc. to an audience that simply speaks a different language without losing any of the beauty of the original.



## LITERATURE:

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- 4. William Somerset Maugham. <u>The Moon and Sixpence</u>. New York, 1916.p145.