Equivalency in Translation

Noila Ergashova Shuhrat qizi, Bahoroy Shermatova
Student of the faculty of English philology and translation studies
Samarkand Satate Institute of Foreign Languages

A B S T R A C T

This abstract explores the complex concept of equivalence in translation, highlighting its multifaceted nature and the challenges it presents. Equivalence refers to the goal of achieving a similar meaning and effect in the target language as the source text, despite inherent linguistic and cultural differences. The abstract delves into various theories and approaches to equivalence, examining the limitations of achieving perfect equivalence and discussing the importance of context, communicative purpose, and cultural sensitivity in translation. It also briefly touches on the role of technology in facilitating equivalence through machine translation and the ongoing debate regarding the balance between literalness and naturalness in achieving communicative equivalence. This exploration sheds light on the ongoing challenges and evolving approaches to achieving equivalence in the translation process. This paper analyzes the notion of equivalency and its types depending on the context, as well as, search for ways and techniques to translate the equivalency contextually.

A R T I C L E I N F O

Article history:
Received 11 Sep 2024
Received in revised form
15 Sep 2024
Accepted 30 Oct 2024

Keywords: cultural nuances, dynamic, pragmatic, grammatical, semantic, structural equivalence, transliteration, calque, paraphrasing, cultural equivalence.

Introduction

The concept of equivalence has been of particular concern to translation scholars since it has been inextricably linked with both definitional and practical aspects of translating. Becoming an essential feature of translation theories in the 1960s and 1970s, equivalence was meant to indicate that source text and target text share some kind of “sameness”. The question was as to the kind and degree of sameness which gave birth to different kinds of equivalence. In what follows, an attempt will be made to critically analyze the equivalence paradigm as was conceptualized by the following the European and Uzbek scholars and translators in the field, namely, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), Komissarov, Jakobson (1959), Nida and Taber (1969), Catford (1965), A.V. Fedorov, House (1997), Koller (1979), A. D. Schweitzer, Newmark (1981), Baker (1992), and finally, Pym (2010), while Uzbek translators, such as Qudrat Musayev, Omon Mo’minov, G’aybulla Salomov somehow contributed address the influential issues of translation aspects.

Equivalence in translation is a fundamental principle that aims to ensure that the meaning and the intent of the source text are preserved in the target language. This involves more than just word-for-word translation, it requires the translator to consider the context, tone, style and the cultural references of the original text in order to accurately convey its message.

Translator’s task is to make this equivalence as complete as possible, to achieve the reduction of losses to a minimum, but to demand a “one hundred percent” coincide of the meanings expressed in the original text and the translated text would be absolutely unrealistic [1, 24 p.]. V. Komissarov declared it: “The equivalence of individual words in the original and in translation presupposes the maximum possible similarity not only of the subject-logical, but also the connotative meaning of the correlated words, reflecting the nature of the speakers' perception of the information contained in the word. Its emotional, stylistic and imaginative components play the greatest role" [2, 112p.].

The equivalence is a translation process that allows the same meanings as the original text to be expressed, with different words or expressions. For example: "Un tiens vaut mieux que deux tu l'auras" – " A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush" – " Uzoqdagi bug'doydan yaqindagi somon yaxshi"- no word of birds in French language, at all. But here the equivalence occurred.

From the contrary point, the notion of equivalency is very connected to the notion of adequacy. Some believes they are different while some argues they are completely interchangeable. Komissarov thinks that adequate translation has a broad meaning is regarded as a good translation. Equivalence, on the other hand, is semantic similarity of the SL and TL and other speech units. A translation is considered adequate if it is completed to the extent required to communicate the meaning and uphold TL norms. In contrast, an equivalent translation is one that consistently corresponds regardless of the context. Therefore, it can be that an equivalent translation might not be adequate and that an adequate translation cannot be equivalent. In other words, if the final text version corresponds to the initial one, it is equivalence and if translation matches to the communicative situation and conditions, it is considered adequacy. In translation, the semantic and pragmatic equivalence are regarded as appropriate components of the definition of an adequate translation.

Main types and levels of equivalence

All translations can be classified into certain types of equivalence which differ as to the volume and character of the information retained in each. Each subsequent type of equivalence retains the part of the original contents which includes the information preserved in the previous types. Nida argued that there are two different types of equivalence, namely formal equivalence which in the second edition by Nida and Taber (1982) is referred to as formal correspondence and dynamic equivalence. Formal correspondence "focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content", unlike dynamic equivalence which is based upon "the principle of equivalent effect". In the second edition (1982) or their work, the two theorists provide a more detailed explanation of each type of equivalence.

Formal correspondence consists of a TL item which represents the closest equivalent of a SL word or phrase. In this type of translation, the message in the target culture is constantly compared with that of the source culture to determine the accuracy and correctness.

Dynamic equivalence is defined as a translation principle according to which a translator seeks to translate the meaning of the original in such a way that the TL wording will trigger the same impact on the TT audience as the original wording did upon the ST audience. Dynamic translating is supposed to create on the readers of a given translated text the same effect made by the source text on the source language readers. For example: "white as snow" could be translated for people who have no experience with snow as "white as egret feathers".

Grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. In fact, different grammatical structures in the SL and TL may cause remarkable changes in the way the information or message is carried across. These changes may induce the translator either to add or to omit information in the TT because of the lack of particular grammatical devices in the TL itself. Amongst these grammatical devices which might cause problems in translation Baker focuses on number, tense and aspects, voice, person and gender.

Textual equivalence, when referring to the equivalence between a SL text and a TL text in terms of information and cohesion. Texture is a very important feature in translation since it provides useful guidelines for the comprehension and analysis of the ST which can help the translator in his or her attempt to produce a cohesive and coherent text for the TT audience in a specific context. It is up to the translator to decide whether or not to maintain the cohesive ties as well as the coherence of the SL text.

Pragmatic equivalence, when referring to implicatures and strategies of avoidance during the translation process. The translator needs to work out implied meanings in translation in order to get the ST message across. The role of the translator is to recreate the author's intention in another culture in such a way that enables the TC reader to understand it clearly.

It is noted that an equivalent translation requires the preservation of such characteristic parameters as semantic, structural, functional, communicative, pragmatic and genre. Depending on the text and conditions, methods of translation, the degree of their actual implementation will change [3, 95 p.]. Komissarov also distinguishes between two types of equivalence. The first is a potentially achievable equivalence, which is understood as the maximum commonality of the content of two multilingual texts. The second is translation, practical equivalence, which is the real semantic closeness of the original and translation texts.

1) Formal equivalent: similar linguistic forms express a common meaning in two languages, the difference in means of expression is due only to the structural difference of language systems (presence / absence article, formation of temporary forms).

2) Semantic equivalent: the same meanings in two languages are expressed in different ways (comparable to the level of description of the situation in V. N. Komissarov);

3) Situational equivalent: even the elementary meanings expressed by linguistic forms are different, but the statement describes the same situation. Differences in particular values are leveled out in a specific context.

Along with these types there are also equivalent levels of translation. According to Komissarov, there are 5 levels of equivalence: pragmatic, lexical, grammatical and structural levels. Firstly, every text should be equivalent to the source text pragmatically. The target text should have the same impact upon the receptor as the source text has. Semantic identity is describing the same situation, using similar lexical meaning of the units. For example: Every mother loves her children. – Har bir ona o'z farzandlarini yaxshi ko'radi. I will write you every week. – Я буду писать тебе каждую неделю. Structural similarity supposes the closest possible formal equivalence between the ST and the TT.

Translation techniques to achieve equivalence

To achieve translation equivalence, translators use a variety of techniques to ensure that the meaning, style, tone and cultural nuances of the source text are accurately conveyed in the target language. There are certain ways used to solve problems of equivalence.

1. Literal translation involves translating the source text word-for-word without considering idiomatic expressions or cultural differences.

It can also be useful as a strategy when the translator is unsure of the best way to express a particular concept in the target language. For example: "the bowl is on the table- kosa stolning ustida turibdi".

2. Transliteration. It involves converting the sounds of words or characters from one language script to another. It is commonly used for proper nouns, names or technical terms that do not have direct equivalents in the target language: Korea-Koreya. When transliterating, it is best to use the version which most closely approximates the source language word. Thus, the forms "ruble", "kopek", "tsar" are preferable to alternatives "rouble", "kopeck", "czar".

3. Calque: Calque encompasses borrowing words or phrases from the source language and translating them directly into the target language. Also, the ultimate translation should make sense and if it is idiom, one should avoid awkward or unnatural sounding translation. Example: "Skyscraper" translated as "Wolkenkratzer" in German, which literally means "cloud scratcher"- "osmono'par".

4. Paraphrasing is expressing the meaning of the source text in different words or phrases while maintaining the original idea. It is usually used when direct translation is not possible due to linguistic or cultural differences. For example: "Lost in translation" paraphrased as "Misunderstood during the process of translating" to convey the same meaning in a different form.

5. Reduction involves condensing or omitting words or information in the target language while preserving the essential meaning of the source text. It is commonly in use of when translating from one language with more complex and confusing expression to one with a preference for clarity and simplicity. As an example: "He was as brave as Achilles – U juda mard va jasur".

6. Cultural Equivalence includes replacing culturally-specific elements in the source text with equivalent

elements from the target culture. For instance: “American Dream” translated as “Sueño Mexicano”- “Meksika orzusi” (from English to Spanish) to reflect cultural differences. “Haru no hana va Sakura des- Spring flowers are cherry blossoms- o’rik guli bahor guli hisoblanadi”.

Conclusion

The pursuit of equivalence in translation remains a complex and multifaceted endeavor, demanding a nuanced understanding of language, culture, and the dynamics of communication. While perfect equivalence may be an elusive ideal, striving for it remains a fundamental goal in the translation process. This pursuit necessitates a constant consideration of context, communicative purpose, and cultural sensitivity, ensuring that the translated text not only conveys the meaning of the source text but also resonates with the target audience. The evolving landscape of translation, influenced by technological advancements and the growing awareness of cultural nuances, presents both challenges and opportunities. As technology continues to play a greater role in translation, understanding the limits of machine translation and the importance of human judgment will be crucial in ensuring communicative equivalence. Ultimately, the quest for equivalence in translation is a continuous journey, requiring ongoing research, critical thinking, and a commitment to bridging linguistic and cultural divides. Context is crucial in this situation. It occasionally occurs that a particular lexical selection or syntactic construction functions flawlessly in one context but not in another. It is imperative to bear in mind that identifying the ideal equivalency can be challenging, if not unfeasible, due to cultural, social, or even differences pertaining to a reality gap. That's why, in order to ensure that they're providing the best translation possible, a professional translator must thoroughly and accurately research words in both the source and target texts, as well as their usage.

REFERENCES

1. Бархударов Л. Язык и перевода: Вопросы общей и частной теории перевода. – М.: Международные отношения, 1975. – 240 с.
2. Комиссаров В. Теория перевода. – Москва: Альянс, 1990. – 253 с.
3. Vinogradov V. Introduction to translation studies (general and lexical issues). M.: Publishing House of the Institute of General Secondary Education RAO, 2001. – 224 p.
4. https://internationaljournals.com
5. https://www.eurasiareview.com
6. Nuritdinova, P., & Shermatova, B. (2024). THE IMPACT OF CHATGPT ON THE TRANSLATION INDUSTRY. Ta'limning zamonaviy transformatsiyasi, 4(2), 345-347.
7. SHERMATOVA, B., ALIMOVA, S., & SHOKHRUKH, O. Simultaneous Translation and Its Issues. International Journal of Innovations in Engineering Research and Technology, 7(09), 37-39.