

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria  
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research  
University Echahid Hamma Lakhdar, El Oued



Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of English Language

## **Translation and Interpreting: Lectures for Third-Year LMD Students**

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Academic Year 2025-2026

**List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

|          |                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| AIIC     | International Association of Conference Interpreters |
| Art.     | Article                                              |
| CC       | Continuous Assessment                                |
| ed.      | Edition                                              |
| EU       | European Union                                       |
| ISO      | International Organisation for Standardisation       |
| L1       | First Language                                       |
| L2       | Second Language                                      |
| LMD      | Licence – Master – Doctorate                         |
| No.      | Number                                               |
| OPI      | Over-the-Phone Interpreting                          |
| p.       | Page                                                 |
| Rev. ed. | Revised Edition                                      |
| SC       | Source Culture                                       |
| SL       | Source Language                                      |
| ST       | Source Text                                          |
| TC       | Target Culture                                       |
| TCS      | Translation by Cultural Substitution                 |
| TGW      | Translation by a More General Word                   |
| TI       | Translation by Illustration                          |
| TL       | Target Language                                      |
| TLW      | Translation Using a Loan Word                        |

|      |                                                      |
|------|------------------------------------------------------|
| TLWE | Translation by Loan Word Plus Explanation            |
| TN/L | Translation by a More Neutral / Less Expressive Word |
| TO   | Translation by Omission                              |
| TPRW | Translation by Paraphrase Using a Related Word       |
| TPUW | Translation by Paraphrase Using an Unrelated Word    |
| TSP  | Translation for Specific Purposes                    |
| TT   | Target Text                                          |
| UN   | United Nations                                       |

**List of Tables**

|                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Table 01:</b> Course Content in detail.....       | 6  |
| <b>Table 02:</b> Translation Approaches.....         | 63 |
| <b>Table 03:</b> Major Translation Theories.....     | 70 |
| <b>Table 04:</b> Common Problems in Translation..... | 74 |

**List of Figures**

|                                                                                |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Figure 01:</b> Course Outline and Key Concepts .....                        | 3  |
| <b>Figure 02.</b> Introduction to Interpreting:: Outline & Core Concepts ..... | 18 |
| <b>Figure 03.</b> The Communication Process by Laura Underwood.....            | 20 |
| <b>Figure 04:</b> Elements of Public Speaking.....                             | 22 |
| <b>Figure 05:</b> The Important Skills for Interpreting .....                  | 29 |
| <b>Figure 06:</b> Barriers & Problems of Interpreting .....                    | 38 |
| <b>Figure 07:</b> Types of Equivalence in Translation.....                     | 45 |
| <b>Figure 08:</b> Equivalence in Translation: A Comprehensive Guide.....       | 51 |
| <b>Figure 09:</b> Certification of Accuracy.....                               | 59 |
| <b>Figure 10:</b> Sworn Translation: A Comprehensive Guide.....                | 60 |
| <b>Figure 11:</b> Areas covered by the translation studies.....                | 62 |
| <b>Figure 12:</b> Theories and Approaches of Translation .....                 | 71 |
| <b>Figure 13:</b> Specialised Translation .....                                | 75 |

**Table of Contents**

|                                                                               |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| List of Acronyms and Abbreviations .....                                      | I   |
| List of Tables .....                                                          | III |
| List of Figures.....                                                          | IV  |
| Table of Contents .....                                                       | V   |
| General Introduction .....                                                    | 1   |
| I. Introduction to Interpreting .....                                         | 11  |
| • Definition of Interpreting .....                                            | 11  |
| • The difference between interpreting & translation.....                      | 12  |
| • Modes of Interpreting: Consecutive, Simultaneous and sight translation..... | 13  |
| • The Main Requirements to be an Interpreter.....                             | 15  |
| • Conference Interpreting. ....                                               | 16  |
| II. The Important Skills for Interpreting .....                               | 19  |
| III. Problems & Barriers of Interpreting.....                                 | 30  |
| IV. Equivalence in Translation; Levels of Equivalence.....                    | 39  |
| V. Sworn Translation .....                                                    | 52  |
| VI. Theories and Approaches of Translation .....                              | 61  |
| VII. Specialised Translation Arabic/ English .....                            | 72  |
| VIII. Translating Scientific Texts .....                                      | 76  |
| IX. Translating Literary Texts .....                                          | 81  |
| X. Translating Economic Texts.....                                            | 86  |

|                                              |     |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| XI. Translating Political Texts .....        | 92  |
| XII. Translating Legal Texts.....            | 96  |
| XIII. Supplementary Practical Exercises..... | 101 |
| XIV. List of References.....                 | 109 |

### General Introduction

Translation for 3rd year LMD Students has been particularly prepared and written by the author to fill in the gap in the curriculum of the third-year students of English language doing their BA at the University of El Oued. The list of courses given to those students makes it clear that the translation component in the third year is very weak and, as such, needs to be cemented and strengthened. This document contains translation lessons designed according to the syllabus of Translation.

The module "Translation" for third-year LMD students is one of the core components of the undergraduate English curriculum, designed to consolidate students' linguistic competence while introducing them to the theoretical and practical foundations of translation and interpreting. This course equips students with a theoretical and practical framework for the development of translation strategies and introduces them to a range of text types in which these strategies can be applied.

At this stage of learning, students of English are expected to move beyond basic language acquisition toward a more conscious, analytical, and professional use of language. This module responds to that need by positioning translation and interpreting as both academic disciplines and effective tools for improving overall English language proficiency.

Translation and interpreting play a central role in language learning, as they require a deep understanding of meaning, context, structure, and use across languages. Through this module, students develop their awareness of lexical choice, grammatical accuracy, stylistic variation, and discourse organisation in both English and Arabic. The act of translating longer texts and interpreting extended utterances trains learners to read

critically, listen attentively, think analytically, and reformulate ideas accurately and coherently. As such, the module significantly reinforces the four language skills (reading, listening, speaking, and writing) while also enhancing cognitive and communicative abilities.

The lectures introduce students to the fundamental concepts of interpreting, including its definition, modes, and distinction from written translation. By addressing conference interpreting and the essential skills required for effective interpreting, such as public speaking, note-taking and content analysis, the module equips students with practical strategies that are transferable to academic presentations, oral exams, and professional communication contexts.

In addition, the module explores key issues in translation studies, notably the concept of equivalence and its different levels, as well as sworn translation as a specialised professional practice. A major emphasis is placed on specialised translation, with practical application in translating scientific, literary, economic, political, and legal texts between Arabic and English. This exposure allows students to understand how language varies according to field, purpose, audience, and register, and prepares them to handle real-world texts that demand precision, cultural awareness, and terminological accuracy.

By integrating theory with practice, this module fosters learner autonomy, critical thinking, and methodological awareness. It enables students to perceive translation and interpreting not merely as mechanical transfers between languages, but as complex communicative processes that require informed decision-making and advanced language competence. Finally, this module contributes to students' academic

development, strengthens their mastery of English, and lays a solid foundation for future careers in translation, interpreting, teaching, and other language-related professions.

Note that each theoretical lesson in this polycopy is supplemented by a specific infographic diagram, generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The goal of the visual aids is to summarise complex concepts, emphasise significant differences, and give students a clear and organised overview of the lesson's main objectives and practical applications.

Dr.CHOUCHANI ABIDI Mohammed

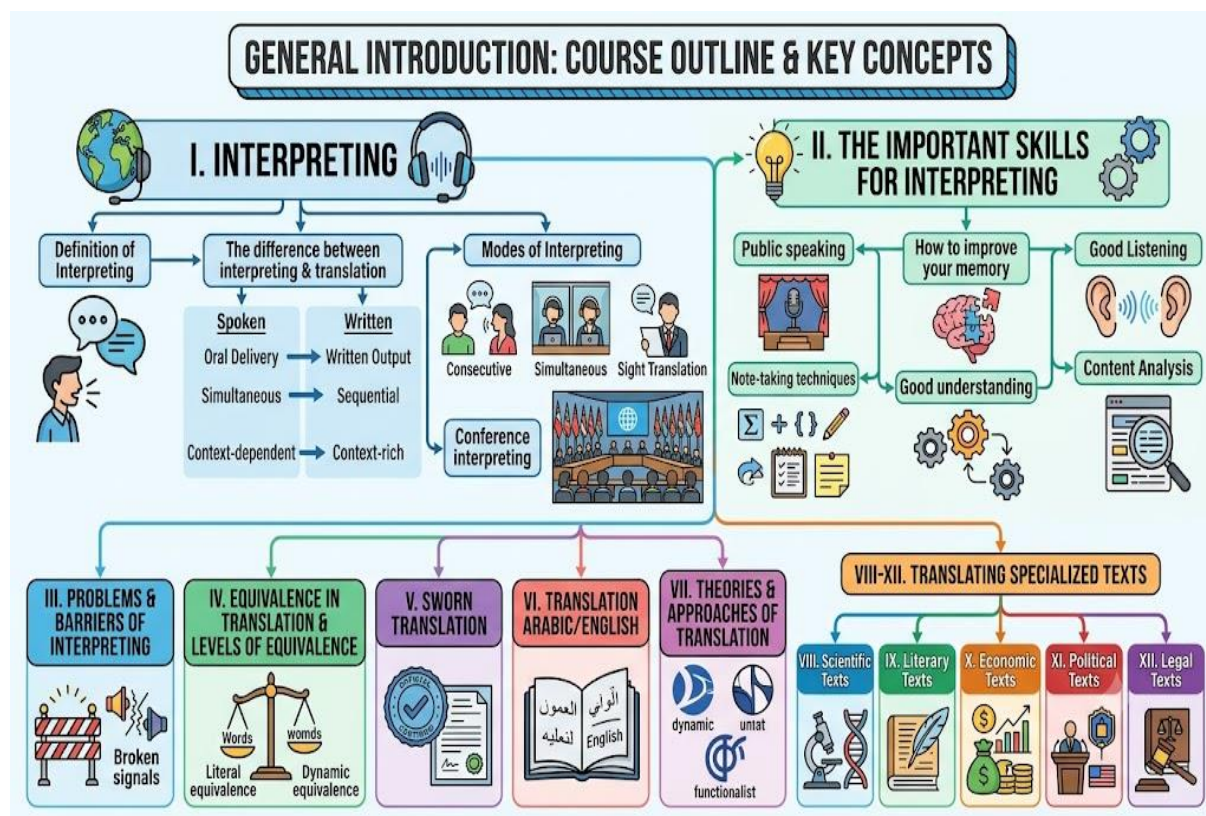


Figure 01: Course Outline <sup>2</sup> Key Concepts

### Diagrammatic Presentation of the Course

**Course Title:** Translation

**Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Year LMD Students

**Period:** Second Term

**Type:** Workshop Sessions

**Time Allotment:** One Session per Week

**Credits:** 02

**Assessment:** 100% CC

**Coefficient:** 02

#### **Course Description:**

This course provides advanced training in translation and interpreting, with a particular emphasis on the translation of extended texts and specialised discourse. It introduces students to the theoretical foundations of translation and interpreting while developing the practical skills required for handling a wide range of text types. The course integrates interpreting modes with written translation practice and focuses on issues of equivalence, accuracy, and functional appropriateness across Arabic and English. Through exposure to scientific, literary, economic, political, and legal texts, students are trained to apply relevant translation strategies and techniques in both academic and professional contexts.

#### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop the ability to comprehend, analyse, and reformulate longer utterances, including paragraphs and full texts, in both translation and interpreting contexts.
- Apply appropriate translation strategies and techniques when translating various specialised text types, such as legal, political, scientific, literary, and religious texts.

- Be familiar with essential interpreting skills, including public speaking, memory enhancement, note-taking, active listening, and content analysis.

**Table 01: Course Content in Details**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Title</b>                          | <b>Topics</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01          | Introduction to Interpreting          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of Interpreting</li> <li>- The difference between interpreting &amp; translation</li> <li>- Modes of Interpreting: Consecutive, Simultaneous and sight translation</li> <li>- Conference Interpreting.</li> </ul>       |
| 02          | The Important skills for interpreting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public speaking</li> <li>- How to improve your memory</li> <li>- Note-taking techniques</li> <li>- Good Listening</li> <li>- Good understanding</li> <li>- Content Analysis</li> </ul>                                             |
| 03          | Problems & Barriers of Interpreting   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction:</li> <li>- Types of Problems</li> <li>- Differences Between Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting</li> <li>- Challenges of Interpreting for Specialised Fields</li> <li>- Problems While Interpreting</li> </ul> |

|    |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to Overcome These Problems and Barriers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 04 | Equivalence in translation                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Definition of Equivalence</li> <li>Types of Equivalence</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 05 | Sworn Translation                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Definition of sworn translation</li> <li>Who are sworn translators?</li> <li>When is a sworn translation required?</li> <li>Which documents does a sworn translator usually translate?</li> <li>Conditions for admission to the profession of sworn translator–interpreter</li> <li>Duties of the sworn translator–interpreter</li> </ul> |
| 06 | Theories and Approaches of Translation     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to Translation Theory</li> <li>Linguistic Approaches</li> <li>Functional Approaches</li> <li>Communicative and Semantic Translation</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 07 | Specialised Translation<br>Arabic/ English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is specialised translation?</li> <li>Specialised vs general translation</li> <li>Domains of Specialised Translation</li> <li>Features of specialised language/Texts</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |

|    |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The translation Role in specialised Translation</li> <li>– Arabic-English Challenges in Specialised Translation</li> </ul>                 |
| 08 | Translating Scientific Texts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nature of scientific texts</li> <li>– Language features of scientific texts</li> <li>– Strategies and Techniques of Translation</li> </ul> |
| 09 | Translating Literary Texts   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nature of literary texts</li> <li>– Language features of scientific texts</li> <li>– Strategies and Techniques of Translation</li> </ul>   |
| 10 | Translating Economic Texts   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nature of economic texts</li> <li>– Language features of scientific texts</li> <li>– Strategies and Techniques of Translation</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | Translating Political Texts  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nature of political texts</li> <li>– Language features of scientific texts</li> <li>– Strategies and Techniques of Translation</li> </ul>  |
| 12 | Translating Legal Texts      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nature of legal texts</li> <li>– Language features of scientific texts</li> <li>– Strategies and Techniques of Translation</li> </ul>      |

### Reading Comprehension Guidelines

- Develop the power of your English and your competence in translation by starting with simple and very clear paragraphs and texts.
- Always read the text more than once to have a general idea about the whole text. You may do silent and loud reading. Both are useful for different ends. Underline the difficult words, expressions, and constructions to investigate them in more depth. Decode compound and complex sentences into kernels.
- After you read the text, start reflecting on it. Reading without thinking is like eating without digesting, as it goes.
- A second or third reading must be accompanied by note-taking. Note-taking is all that university study is about. It is also a very important skill for the consecutive and simultaneous interpreter.
- Notice that in your derivation of new words, many words change their meanings and become completely different words.
- Translators have to be very careful of the slight differences between words. These slight differences express important nuance of meaning.
- Understanding a text requires you to listen open-mindedly to what the writer is saying. Never let your biases and prejudices obstruct your understanding, even though you may not agree with the writer.
- Readers should be mindful of the tone of the topics they read.

- Ideas are expressed both directly and indirectly. Naturally, readers have no problem with ideas directly expressed. With indirect ideas, we have to be careful about implications and insinuations. We have to notice the special vocabulary items used by the writer and his descriptive phrases.
- Readers must develop the power of reading between the lines

(Al Ali,K.2019) (Text altered and revised)

### Introduction to Interpreting

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define interpreting and explain its scope and function.
- Distinguish clearly between interpreting and translation in terms of process, medium, and skills.
- Identify and describe the core skills required for effective interpreting.
- Differentiate between the main modes of interpreting, namely consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, and sight translation.
- Identify the principal requirements and competencies necessary to become a professional interpreter.
- Explain the nature, characteristics, and specific demands of conference interpreting.

#### 1. What is interpreting?

Interpreting is the *facilitation of spoken or signed language communication between users of different languages*. It enables real-time cross-linguistic communication. Unlike translation, which deals with written text, interpreting focuses on spoken or signed language, requiring immediate and dynamic language processing. This is the process where a person repeats what the speaker has said in a different language

It is the “*Rendering of a spoken or signed message into another spoken or signed language, preserving the register and meaning of the source language content*.” (Note: This definition is derived from ISO, 2014, p. 1.)

Interpreting involves ensuring that the original meaning, tone, and intent are preserved. This process demands a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as the cultural contexts in which they are used

### 2. The Difference Between Interpreting & Translation

Interpreting and translation are two closely related linguistic disciplines. Yet they are rarely performed by the same people. The difference in skills, training, aptitude and even language knowledge are so substantial that few people can do both successfully on a professional level.

On the surface, the difference between interpreting and translation is only the difference in the medium: the interpreter translates orally, while a translator interprets written text. Both interpreting and translation presuppose a certain love of language and deep knowledge of more than one language. While both interpreting and translation aim to bridge language gaps, they differ primarily in their mediums and processes:

- **Interpreting:** Involves real-time oral or signed language conversion, often performed on the spot without the aid of reference materials.
- **Translation:** Entails converting written text from one language to another, allowing for the use of dictionaries and other resources to ensure accuracy.

These distinctions highlight the immediacy and spontaneity required in interpreting compared to the deliberative nature of translation.

### 3. What interpreters are required to have?

Besides a solid mother tongue and excellent understanding of at least two or three other languages, interpreters also need to have many other skills and qualities, such as the ability to analyse a message quickly and communicate it well. They should also be

resilient, able to cope with pressure and stress and be endlessly curious - interpreters can be put in a meeting on any subject. Interpreters have to possess the following skills:

- Thorough knowledge of the general subject to be interpreted.
- Intimate familiarity with both cultures.
- Extensive vocabulary in both languages.
- Ability to express thoughts clearly and concisely in both languages.
- Excellent note-taking techniques for consecutive interpreting to record key information for accurate delivery.
- At least 2-3 years of booth experience for simultaneous interpreting.
- Active Listening: Fully concentrating on the speaker to accurately capture the message.
- Cultural Competence: Understanding cultural nuances to convey context appropriately.
- Emotional Resilience: Managing stress and maintaining composure during high-pressure situations.
- Ethical Judgment: Upholding confidentiality and impartiality in all interpreting scenarios.

These competencies ensure that interpreters can deliver messages faithfully and effectively.

#### **4. The Main Types (Modes) of Interpreting**

Interpreting takes on various forms depending on the context and needs of the present situation. Interpreting can be categorised into several modes; each suited to different contexts:

- In **simultaneous interpreting**, the interpreter listens and renders the message in the target language at the same time as the speaker is speaking, often with a slight delay of a few seconds. This mode is prevalent in conferences and large meetings, typically requiring specialised equipment.
- In **consecutive interpreting**, the interpreter speaks after the source-language speaker has stopped speaking. The interpreter listens to a segment of speech, takes notes, and then delivers the message in the target language during pauses. This method is common in medical consultations and legal proceedings.
- **Sight translation** is the oral rendition of a written text. The interpreter reads a written document in the source language and orally translates it into the target language on the spot. This is often used when documents need to be understood quickly.

Each mode demands specific techniques and is chosen based on the requirements of the communication setting.

There are other types of interpreting:

- **Escort Interpreting:** Another form of consecutive interpreting is often called escort interpreting. If you are hosting a delegation of visitors from another country, you may want to use an escort interpreter for meeting clients at the airport, tours and excursions. Escort interpreters generally translate informal conversations.
- **Over-the-Phone Interpreting:** Telephone interpreting (also called OPI or Over-the-Phone Interpretation) can be either simultaneous or consecutive. If the participants of a telephone call are content to hear only the voice of the

interpreter, telephone interpreting can be conducted in a simultaneous mode; otherwise, interpreting should be conducted consecutively.

### **5. The main requirements to be an interpreter:**

Aspiring interpreters should meet several key requirements. In all cases, the interpreter must quickly and carefully convey the meaning, tone, and intent of the original message into the target language. Interpreting requires the followings:

- Excellent language proficiency (Source and target languages): a deep understanding of both languages is essential.
- Expert knowledge of the subject matter is equally as important as interpreting experience.
- Specialised Training: Formal education or certification in interpreting techniques and ethics.
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated with language evolutions and industry-specific terminology.
- Professionalism: Adhering to ethical standards, including confidentiality and impartiality.
- The ability to quickly analyze and transfer messages between languages, and adherence to professional ethics and standards of practice.
- Interpreters must have extraordinary listening abilities.
- Interpreters must possess excellent public speaking skills,
- Cultural Awareness: Interpreters must possess an intellectual capacity to instantly transform idioms, colloquialisms and other culturally specific references into parallel statements the target audience will understand.

These requirements ensure that interpreters are equipped to handle the complexities of cross-linguistic communication.

### **6. What is Conference Interpreting?**

Conference interpreting is a specialised field where interpreters facilitate multilingual communication in conferences, seminars, and international meetings. It is carried out at multilingual meetings between, for example, representatives of national governments, international organisations or non-governmental organisations, to name but a few.

Conference interpretation is a separate specialisation of language interpretation. Professional conference interpreters provide interpretation (sometimes incorrectly called “translation”) services at international conferences.

Nowadays, it predominantly involves simultaneous interpreting, requiring interpreters to work in soundproof booths, listening to the speaker through headphones and delivering the interpretation in real-time via microphones. This setting demands exceptional language proficiency, quick thinking, and the ability to convey complex ideas accurately.

Interpreters who specialise in conference interpretation usually have a Master’s degree in conference interpretation. The best conference interpreters are members of AIIC – the International Association of Conference Interpreters.

### **7. Where does an interpreter work?**

Interpreters are employed in a multitude of settings, depending on the industry and the specific needs of their clients. Some common workplaces for interpreters include:

#### **1. Legal and Court Settings**

- Courtrooms, law offices, police stations, and detention centers.
- Providing interpretation for defendants, witnesses, and legal professionals.
- Requires accuracy and familiarity with legal terminology.

#### **2. Medical (Healthcare) Facilities:**

- Hospitals, clinics, and mental health centers.
- Assisting patients and medical professionals with language barriers.
- Requires knowledge of medical terminology and confidentiality.

#### **3. Business and Corporate Environments**

- Meetings, negotiations, and corporate training sessions.
- Ensuring smooth communication in international business dealings.

#### **4. Educational Institutions**

- Schools, universities, and training programs.
- Supporting students, parents, and staff who speak different languages.

#### **5. Media and Entertainment**

- Live television broadcasts, interviews, and press conferences.
- Sign language interpretation for public events and performances.

#### **6. Tourism and Hospitality**

- Working with travel agencies, hotels, and tour companies.
- Assisting tourists with language barriers during travel.

## 7. Community and Social Services

- Non-profit organisations, social work agencies, and shelters.
- Helping marginalised communities access essential services.

## 8. Conference Settings

- International conferences, summits, and diplomatic meetings.
- UN agencies, EU institutions, and corporate events.
- Often involves simultaneous interpreting in booths.

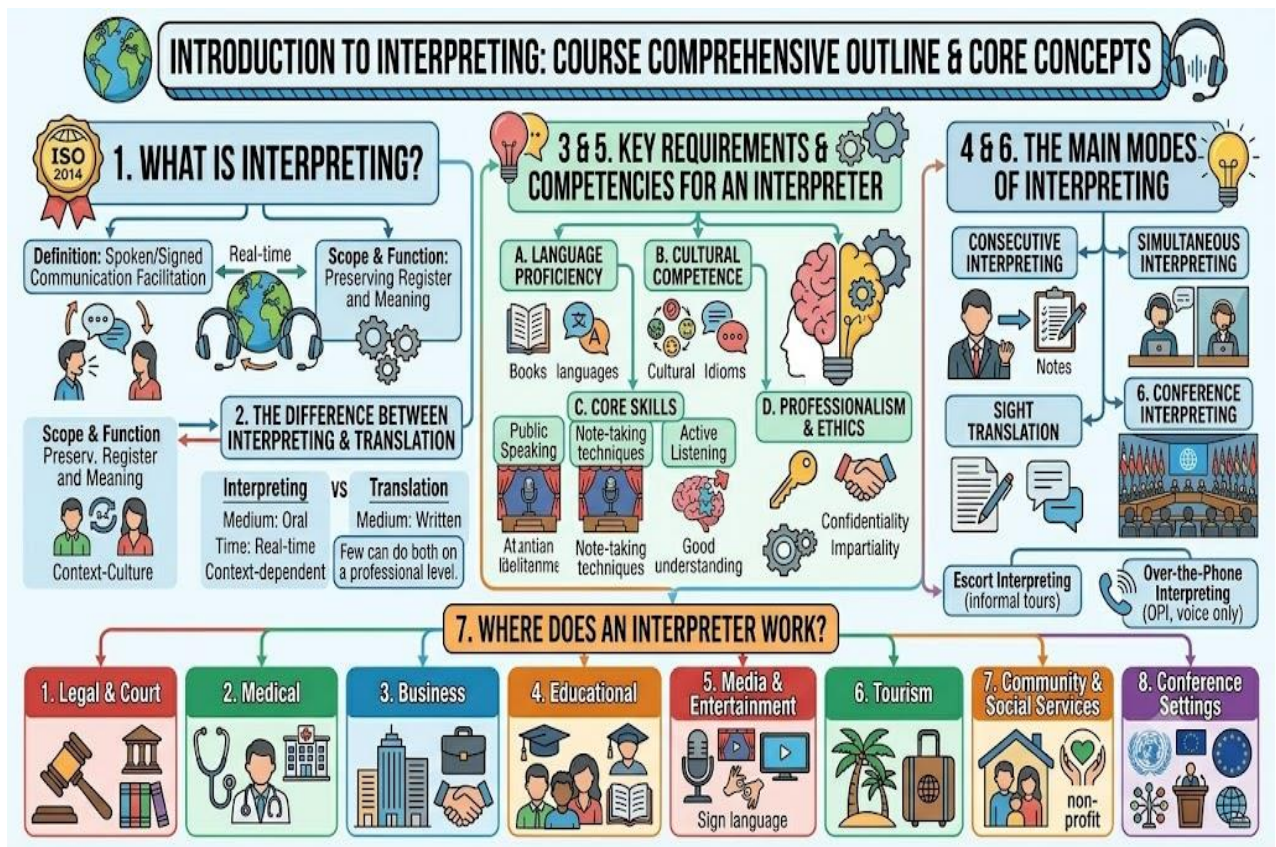


Figure 02: Introduction to Interpreting Outline & Core Concepts

### THE IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR INTERPRETING

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify the main skills needed for effective interpreting.
- Explain why interpreting is a complex communication process.
- Describe the importance of public speaking, good listening and content analysis in interpreting.

#### **Introduction:**

Communication is a complex and dynamic process that involves the transmission of meaning between participants through spoken or nonverbal messages. This process includes a series of interconnected steps- such as message production, transmission, reception, and interpretation- that must function effectively to ensure successful understanding. In oral communication, especially in multilingual contexts, meaning is not merely transferred but actively constructed by participants involved.

Within this framework, interpreting represents one of the most demanding forms of communication, as the interpreter operates simultaneously as a listener, analyser, and speaker. To ensure accuracy, coherence, and fidelity to the original message, interpreters must master a set of skills that support each stage of the communication process. (see figure). These skills include effective public speaking, attentive and analytical listening, a deep understanding of the message, and the ability to analyse content rapidly and accurately. Together, these competencies enable interpreters to facilitate clear and reliable communication across languages and cultures.

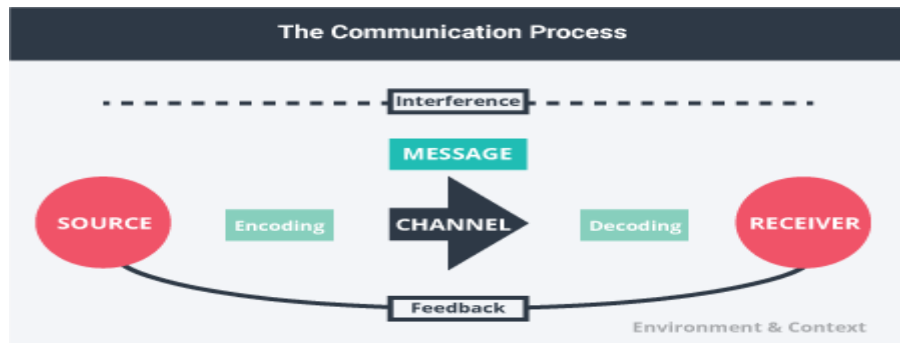


**Figure 03: The Communication Process by Laura Underwood**

Source: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/professionalcomms/chapter/1-2-elements-in-communication/>

### Public Speaking

Public speaking is a mode of communication in which people express their ideas or arguments to an audience, often to persuade or entertain others. This is an important skill because it allows speakers to form connections with their audience, which may help them influence or motivate an audience's decisions or actions. Understanding the benefits of public speaking can help you further develop your communication skills for your career. Public Speaking is an invaluable skill that empowers individuals to communicate effectively in front of an audience. Whether addressing a small gathering or a large crowd, mastering this art opens doors to numerous personal, professional, and societal benefits.

**To be a great interpreter, you need to be a great public speaker.**

#### 1.1 Benefits of Public Speaking for Interpreters

At its core, Public Speaking is about conveying a message with clarity, confidence, and impact. It involves organising thoughts coherently, engaging the audience through

effective body language and vocal delivery, and adapting to various communication settings. Developing this skill enhances overall communication abilities. It improves verbal and non-verbal skills, enabling individuals to express ideas clearly and persuasively. Moreover, it fosters active listening skills, as speakers must understand and respond to audience feedback.

Public speaking is a great way of building personal development on many levels, since improving communication skills is helpful in almost every area of life. Whether your goal is to engage in political debate, make a career as a motivational speaker or gain confidence in front of an audience, public speaking can help you meet your goal.

Through public speaking, you can:

- Increase self-confidence
- Improve communication skills
- Enhance persuasion ability
- Get greater social influence
- Have greater control over emotions and body language

### 1.2 Basic Elements of Public Speaking

Getting your message across requires more than just good ideas. It involves three essential components: the message itself, your communication skills, and your presence or sense of purpose.

- **Message:** The content of what you say must be clear, coherent, and meaningful. A strong message is well-organised, tailored to the audience, and supported by credible evidence. If your audience cannot follow or relate to your content, they will tune out—even if your delivery is polished.

- **Skill:** Communication involves both verbal and nonverbal elements. Your voice, gestures, eye contact, pacing, and use of space all contribute to how your message is received. These skills can be practised, refined, and adapted to fit different contexts.
- **Presence:** Audiences respond when speakers are engaged and invested in what they are saying. Passion, curiosity, urgency, or care can help draw people in. When your message matters to you, it is more likely to matter to others.

Together, these components support not only public speaking, but everyday communication—meetings, interviews, collaborative work, and conversations that matter.

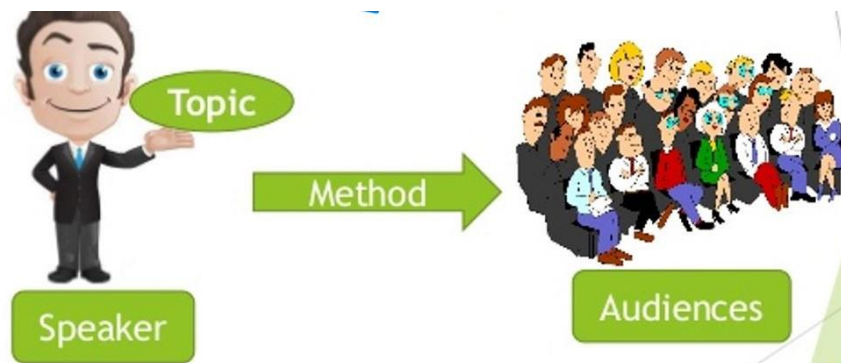


**Figure 04: Elements of Public Speaking**

### 1.3 Ten steps to build your confidence:

- Know your audience
- Do not procrastinate
- Select an appropriate topic
- Prepare
- Be organised

- Know the introduction and conclusion
- Make practice real
- Breathe
- Channel nervous energy
- Visualise success.

Storytelling and using humour can make you a great public speaker, but they will make you a poor interpreter. As an interpreter, it isn't your job to be funny or a storyteller. It's your job to relay the messages of someone else who is a great public speaker.

### **Good Listening and understanding**

Listening is very crucial, and it has to happen with understanding in just one stage, because there is no time to listen again to understand any vague parts.

### **The Role of Listening in Interpreting**

The first step in the quality of interpreting relates to listening and analysing the source language speech, so that one can transfer the message as accurately as possible. Having a high level of focus, listening skills, and powerful short-term memory are the main factors to conduct interpreting perfectly.

Listening is particularly important in simultaneous interpreting, where the interpreter has to concurrently listen and speak during a large portion of the time.

### **Techniques for Improving Listening**

Techniques for improving listening include:

- Improving language knowledge,
- Ear adaptation – the interpreter trying to find his/her “comfortable ear”,

- Schedule for daily practice,
- Creating an image of the message,
- Comprehensive listening,
- And intensive listening.

### **Techniques for improving listening**

- Improving language knowledge,
- Ear adaptation – the interpreter trying to find his/her “comfortable ear”,
- Schedule for daily practice,
- Creating an image of the message,
- Comprehensive listening,
- and intensive listening.

### **Understanding for a Good Interpreter**

To understand a word is to interpret it correctly, the correct interpretation being the one that correlates it with the right referent. Language learning involves more than just learning what various terms apply to. We also learn the community's criteria of application.

The interpreters must have a thorough mastery of the target language, as well as a very good passive understanding of the source language or languages with which they work. Among conference interpreters, the usual practice is to obtain background materials from the conference organiser before the meeting and study the materials to gain a basic understanding of the subject and the specialised vocabulary. A translator or

interpreter who works regularly for a particular organization or client will soon become familiar with the subject and its jargon.

Understanding requires mainly language guessing and predicting skills.

- Speed of presentation in L1 is very important: interpreters have to train for the highest speed possible.
- Dialects and individual particularities of articulation (including defective ones) are another area for training.
- The capability for good linguistic guessing, predicting and anticipating elements in sequence can be trained by introducing unfinished sentences in both languages (L1 and L2). This training is also especially important to develop the interpreter's ability to "edit" unfinished or cut phrases produced by some people in their spontaneous speech.

### **Content Analysis**

Content Analysis is clear when we are talking about translation, because the translator can handle it while he/she starts the process of translation. It can also be seen when we talk about consecutive interpreting, because the interpreter has time to take notes and think about them thoroughly to analyse them for better interpretation.

But for simultaneous interpreting, the content analysis is a mental process that will be done intellectually, but it needs training and practice. The consecutive interpreter, who has different skills, can analyse the content to be interpreted easily whenever he/she improves his /her skills mentioned above.

### The ten steps of content analysis (Cons/ Interpreting – Translating)

- Copy and read through the transcript - make brief notes in the margin when interesting or relevant information is found
- Go through the notes and list the different types of information found
- Read through the list and categorise each item in a way that offers a description of what it is about
- Identify whether or not the categories can be linked in any way and list them as major categories (or themes) and/or minor categories (or themes)
- Compare and contrast the various major and minor categories
- If there is more than one transcript, repeat the first five stages for each transcript
- When you have done the above with all of the transcripts, collect all of the categories or themes and examine each in detail and consider if it fits and its relevance
- Once all the transcript data is categorised into minor and major categories/themes, review to ensure that the information is categorised as it should be.
- Review all of the categories and ascertain whether some categories can be merged or if some need to be sub-categorised
- Return to the original transcripts and ensure that all the information that needs to be categorised has been so.

### **Interpreter Skills and Competencies**

#### **Linguistic Competence**

The interpreter's linguistic competence includes the ability to comprehend the source language and apply this knowledge to render the message as accurately as possible in the target language.

The interpreter shall:

- Have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of his/her working languages and the required range of language registers
- Have knowledge of subject areas and relevant terminology

#### **Interpreting Competence**

The interpreter's interpreting competence comprises the ability to interpret a message from one language to another in the applicable mode. It includes the ability to assess and comprehend the original message and render it in the target language without omissions, additions or distortions. It also includes the knowledge/awareness of the interpreter's own role in the interpreting encounter. The interpreter shall:

- Have active listening skills and strive to improve them through self-training
- Have good memory retention skills
- Be able to take notes during the interpretation assignment to ensure accuracy of the information given
- Be able to mentally transpose and verbalise into the target language

#### **Interpersonal skills**

The Interpreter shall:

- Have strong communication skills

- Be polite, respectful and tactful
- Be able to relate well to people.
- Have good judgment

The Interpreter:

- Must be punctual
- Must be able to work with limited supervision
- Must be able to remain neutral before, during and after every interpretation assignment
- Must be organised
- Must be assertive in his/her work without being overconfident
- Must be able to cope with stress during and after the assignment
- Must be a dedicated professional

### **Research and Technical Competences**

The interpreter's research competence includes the ability to efficiently acquire the additional linguistic and specialised knowledge necessary to interpret in specialised cases. Research competence also requires experience in the use of research tools and the ability to develop suitable strategies for the efficient use of the information sources available. "The skills and competencies described above shall be demonstrated through the following:"

- Interpreting training/education by a recognised academic institution.
- Successful completion of a language proficiency test
- Documented experience in the field.

Interpreting is more than knowing two languages: it is a demanding skill that combines listening, understanding, analysis, and speaking. An effective interpreter has to listen carefully, understand the message quickly, analyse its meaning, and deliver it clearly to the audience. Public speaking helps interpreters communicate confidently, while good listening and understanding ensure accuracy. Content analysis allows interpreters to identify key ideas and meaning, even under time pressure. Developing these skills through training and practice is essential for becoming a competent and professional interpreter.

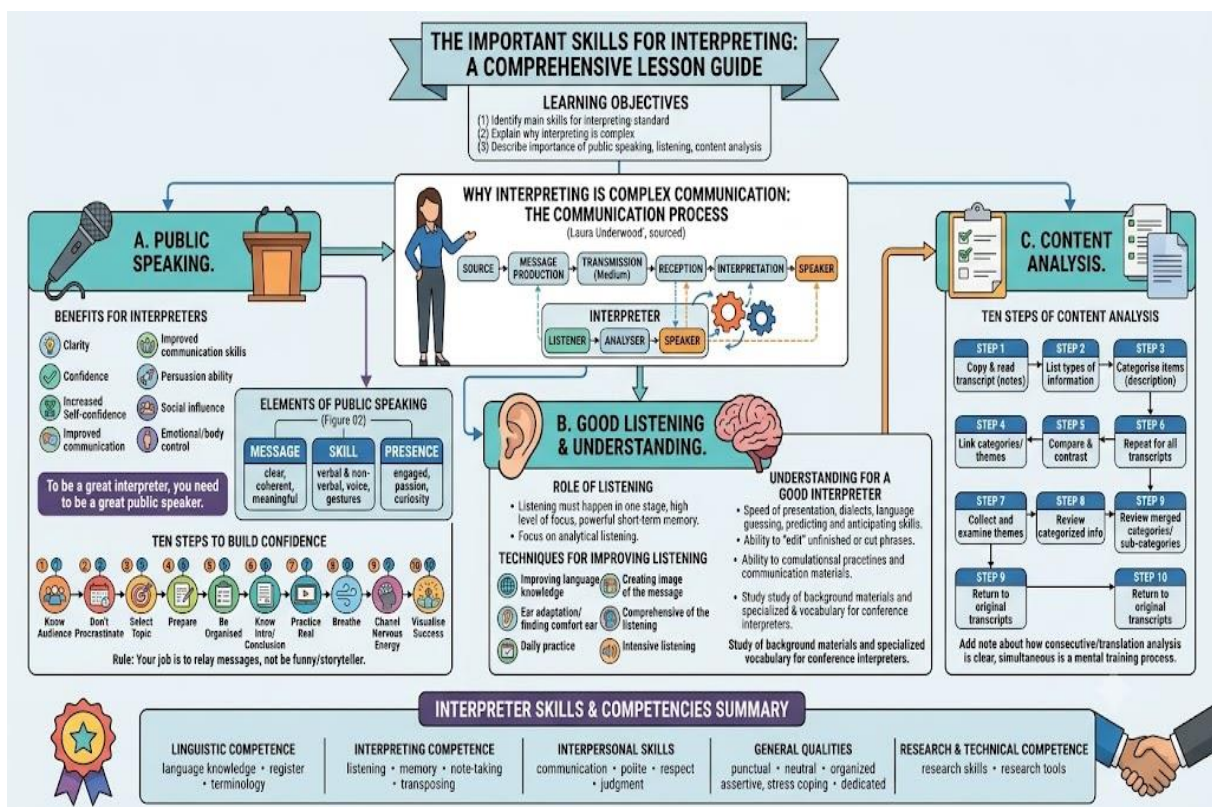


**Figure 05: The Important Skills for Interpreting**

### **Barriers & Problems of Interpreting**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand the common challenges faced by interpreters.
- Learn how different factors affect the quality of interpretation.
- Explore real-world examples of interpreting problems and their solutions.

#### **Introduction:**

Interpreting is a crucial skill in bridging communication gaps across different languages and cultures. However, interpreters often face numerous challenges that can impact the accuracy and effectiveness of their work. These challenges range from physical and technical problems to cultural and linguistic barriers. This lesson aims to explore the most common problems encountered during interpretation, provide real-world examples, and highlight the importance of preparation and experience in overcoming these difficulties. By understanding these barriers, interpreters can develop strategies to enhance their skills and improve communication outcomes. This lesson provides an in-depth understanding of the barriers interpreters face, along with practical examples and references for further study.

#### **1. Physical Problems**

Interpreting often takes place in environments that are physically challenging, such as noisy locations, crowded conference halls, or poor audio setups. Physical discomfort, such as fatigue from long hours of interpreting, can also hinder performance. For

example, an interpreter working in a factory setting might struggle to hear the speaker due to loud machinery, leading to potential misinterpretation of safety instructions.

### **2. Language (Communication) Problems**

Miscommunication can arise due to differences in dialects, accents, or levels of fluency. Some words or expressions may not have direct equivalents in the target language, leading to ambiguity. For example, a legal interpreter struggling to convey complex legal jargon from English to another language where legal systems differ significantly.

### **3. Cultural Challenges**

Cultural differences can create misunderstandings, as gestures, idioms, or humour may not translate well. Some concepts may be offensive or inappropriate in another culture. For example, an interpreter at a business meeting in Japan might struggle to interpret humour used by an American executive, as jokes may not carry the same meaning in Japanese culture.

### **4. Lost While Interpreting**

An interpreter may lose track of the conversation due to complex discussions, multiple speakers, or fast speech. This can result in missing key information or providing incomplete translations. For example, in a fast-paced medical conference, an interpreter might struggle to keep up with rapid exchanges between doctors, potentially omitting important medical details.

### **5. Being Bilingual Doesn't Make Someone an Interpreter**

Fluency in two languages does not automatically qualify someone as an interpreter. Interpretation requires specialised skills such as quick thinking, memory retention, and familiarity with industry-specific terminology. For example, a bilingual individual might struggle in a courtroom setting where legal terminology and precise phrasing are crucial.

### **6. Technical Problems**

Interpreters often rely on technology, such as microphones, headsets, and video conferencing tools. Technical failures can disrupt interpretation and lead to misunderstandings. For example, a remote interpreter experiencing poor internet connectivity during a virtual international business meeting may cause delays and confusion.

### **7. Ill-Prepared Interpreters**

Preparation is essential for interpreters to understand the subject matter, terminology, and context. Without adequate preparation, interpreters may struggle to deliver accurate translations. For example, an interpreter at a scientific conference who has not reviewed technical documents beforehand may misinterpret complex terms, affecting the credibility of the interpretation.

### 8. First Experience

New interpreters often face anxiety and inexperience-related challenges, such as difficulty managing stress, keeping up with speakers, or handling unexpected situations. For example, a first-time court interpreter might freeze under pressure, leading to long pauses and incorrect interpretations.

### 9. Legal and Institutional Challenges

- **Regulations and Certification Requirements:** Some countries require professional certification for interpreters, while others do not, leading to inconsistencies in quality. A court interpreter might not be legally recognised in one country but required to pass rigorous exams in another.

### 3. Non-Verbal Communication in Interpreting

- Gestures, facial expressions, and body language carry meaning and can vary across cultures. Nodding can mean agreement in one culture but simply acknowledgement in another.

### 4. Differences Between Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting

- Challenges unique to each type and when each method is most effective. Simultaneous interpreting requires split-second processing, making it more stressful than consecutive interpreting.

### 5. Challenges of Interpreting for Specialised Fields

- **Medical, legal, and technical interpreting** require deep subject knowledge. A medical interpreter without prior training may struggle to accurately translate complex diagnoses and procedures.

### 9. Problems While Interpreting

Several situational factors can hinder an interpreter's performance:

- **Location & Time:** Interpreting in a noisy, crowded, or poorly lit area can affect concentration and clarity.
- **Number & Roles of People Involved:** Large meetings with multiple speakers can make it difficult to manage conversations.
- **Operations Performed by Participants:** Interpreting in an environment with frequent interruptions can disrupt the flow.
- **Physical Conditions of Speech:** Unclear pronunciation, mumbling, or strong accents can create challenges.
- **Background Noise:** Loud environments can make it hard to hear and interpret accurately.
- **Time Constraints:** Limited time to interpret can lead to rushed and inaccurate translations.
- **Individual Language & Social Problems:** Some speakers may use slang, informal language, or cultural references that are difficult to translate.

An interpreter in a hospital emergency room may struggle due to multiple medical staff speaking at once, fast speech, and the urgency of the situation.

### How to Overcome These Problems and Barriers

#### **1. Addressing Physical Problems**

- Ensure a comfortable working environment with minimal noise and distractions.
- Use high-quality audio equipment to improve clarity.
- Take breaks during long interpreting sessions to prevent fatigue.

#### **2. Overcoming Language (Communication) Problems**

- Continuously improve language skills and stay updated with new terms and expressions.
- Clarify ambiguous terms when necessary to avoid misunderstandings.
- Use paraphrasing techniques when direct translations are not available.

#### **3. Handling Cultural Challenges**

- Learn about the cultural background of the languages involved.
- Be aware of gestures and expressions that may carry different meanings in other cultures.
- Adapt communication styles to match cultural expectations.

#### **4. Avoiding Getting Lost While Interpreting**

- Improve note-taking techniques to retain information.
- Request clarification when needed.
- Develop strong memory and concentration skills through training and practice.

### **5. Training for Professional Interpretation**

- Gain professional certification or training in interpreting.
- Develop specialised vocabulary and industry knowledge.
- Engage in real-world practice to gain experience.

### **6. Tackling Technical Problems**

- Test equipment before starting an interpretation session.
- Have backup devices and internet connections ready.
- Use reliable and professional-grade interpreting software.

### **7. Being Well-Prepared**

- Study prep materials provided before an event.
- Conduct additional research on technical topics.
- Familiarize oneself with the speakers and their background.

### **8. Gaining Experience**

- Start with smaller interpretation tasks before handling large-scale events.
- Seek mentorship and feedback from experienced interpreters.
- Practice interpreting in different settings to gain confidence.

### **9. Managing Problems While Interpreting**

- Choose optimal locations for interpreting with minimal disruptions.
- Develop strategies for handling multiple speakers effectively.

- Improve listening and speech clarity through practice.
- Manage time effectively to provide accurate interpretations under time constraints.

### **10. Managing Psychological & Emotional Stress**

- Practice stress management techniques, such as mindfulness and breathing exercises.
- Develop emotional resilience to handle challenging situations.
- Seek peer support and mentorship from experienced interpreters.

### **11. Ethical Considerations**

- Follow professional ethics guidelines, including confidentiality, neutrality, and accuracy.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and maintain professionalism at all times.
- Seek guidance from professional organisations when facing ethical dilemmas.

### **12. Adapting to AI and Machine Translation**

- Learn how to work with AI-based translation tools as supplementary aids and maintain human accuracy and cultural sensitivity that AI lacks.
- Stay updated on new interpreting technologies and their best applications.

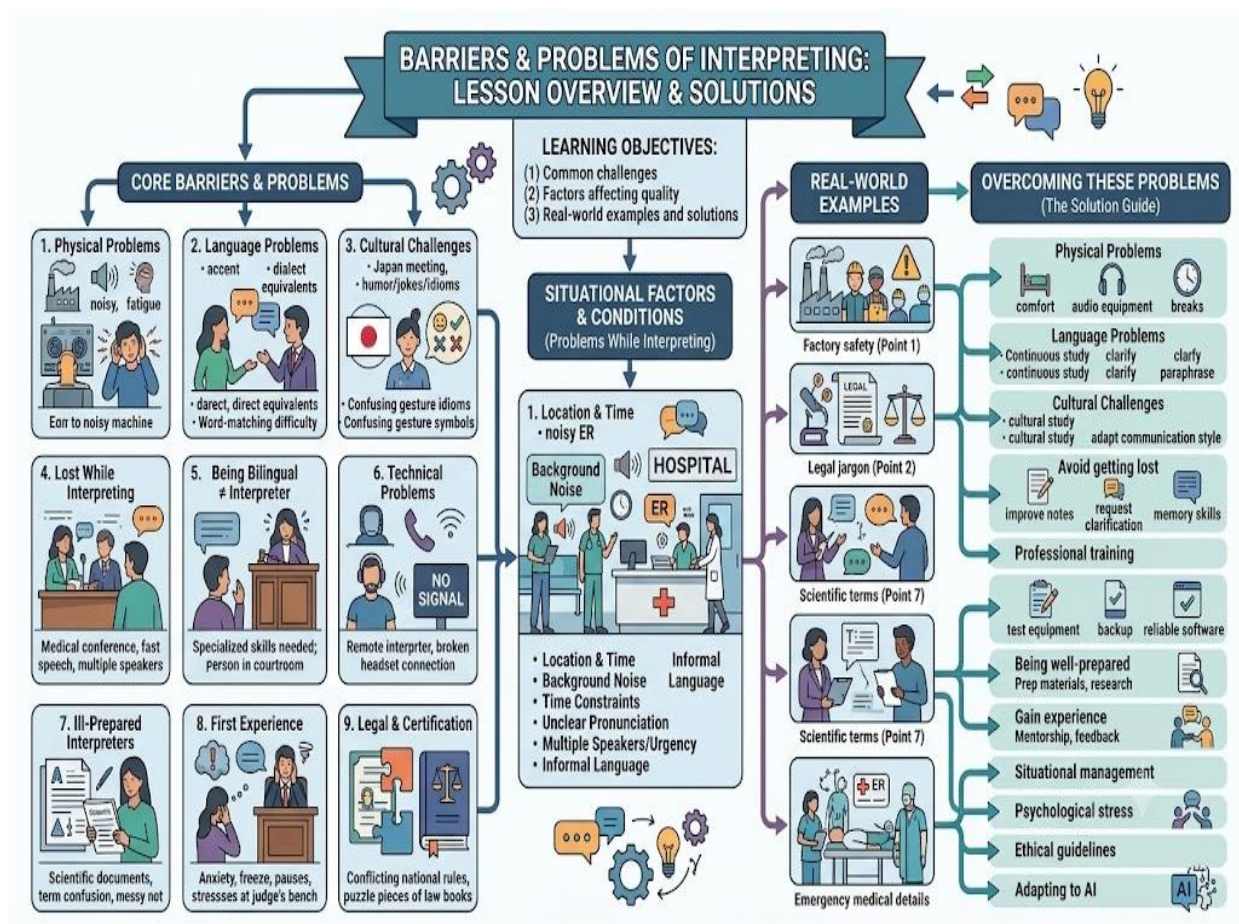


Figure 06: Barriers & Problems of Interpreting

## **Equivalence in Translation**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain the concept of equivalence and its central role in translation theory.
- Be familiar with major theoretical perspectives on equivalence as proposed by key scholars such as Vinay and Darbelnet, Jakobson, Nida and Taber, Catford, House, Koller, Newmark, Baker, and Pym.

### **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 (henceforth ST) and target text (henceforth TT) 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 analyse the equivalence paradigm as was conceptualized by the following scholars in the field, namely, Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), Jacobson (1959), Nida and Taber (1969), Catford (1965), House (1997), Koller (1979), Newmark (1981), Baker (1992), and finally, Pym (2010).

Equivalence can be said to be the central issue or the key concept in translation. The theory of equivalence was interpreted by some of the most innovative theorists in the field of translation —Vinay and Darbelnet, Jacobson, Nida and Taber, Catford, House, and finally Baker. These theorists have studied equivalence in relation to the

translation process, using different approaches, and have provided fruitful ideas for further study on this topic. Scholars who are in favour of a linguistic approach to translation and who seem to forget that translation in itself is not merely a matter of linguistics.

In fact, when a message is transferred from the SL to TL, the translator is also dealing with two different cultures at the same time. This particular aspect seems to have been taken into consideration by the second group of theorists who regard translation equivalence as being essentially a transfer of the message from the SC to the TC and a pragmatic/semantic or functionally oriented approach to translation.

Finally, there are other translation scholars who seem to stand in the middle, such as Baker, for instance, who claims that equivalence is used 'for the sake of convenience—because most translators are used to it rather than because it has any theoretical status' (quoted in Kenny, 1998:77).

### Definition of Equivalence

Equivalence in translation refers to the degree of similarity between a source text (ST) and its translated version (target text, TT). It ensures that the message, meaning, and intent of the ST are preserved in the TT while considering linguistic, cultural, and contextual differences. Equivalence does not necessarily mean word-for-word accuracy but rather seeks to achieve a balance between fidelity to the original and naturalness in the target language (TL). For example:

- **Literal Equivalence:**

1. *Hello!* → **مرحبا!** (Same structure, same meaning)
2. *Good morning!* → **صباح الخير!**

- **Dynamic Equivalence** (Adapting idioms and expressions to convey the intended meaning naturally):

3. *It's raining cats and dogs.* → إنها تمطر بغزارة. (It is raining heavily)

4. *Break a leg!* → حظاً موفقاً! (Literally means "good luck," as used in Arabic)

Translational equivalence is the similarity between a word (or expression) in one language and its translation in another. This similarity results from overlapping ranges of reference. A translation equivalent is a corresponding word or expression in another language. That doesn't mean that concepts don't exist equally in two different languages or cultures – they do. When a word or phrase means the same thing in both languages, we call that an equivalence.

This requires a deep understanding of both cultures, not just the language. You can speak both languages fluently, but if you don't understand the idiom and culture behind them, your translations will be, in a word, terrible. A literal translation is a useless translation – you have to understand the meaning behind the words. Equivalence is a powerful tool in the service of that goal, but it only works when you have a deep, comprehensive understanding of the process.

### 1. Historical Context of Equivalence in Translation Theories

Equivalence became a central concept in translation studies in the 1960s and 1970s, when scholars sought to define translation as a structured discipline rather than a subjective art. This period saw the development of systematic translation models

focusing on linguistic, functional, and cultural aspects of equivalence. Key developments include:

- **1950s–1960s:** Early linguistic approaches to translation emphasised formal equivalence, where the ST and TT maintain structural similarity.
- **1964:** Eugene Nida introduced the distinction between *formal equivalence* (literal translation) and *dynamic equivalence* (meaning-based translation), shifting the focus to reader response.
- **1970s:** Theorists like Koller (1979) expanded equivalence into multiple categories, such as denotative and connotative equivalence, integrating cultural and pragmatic factors.
- **1980s–1990s:** A shift towards discourse and functional theories (e.g., House and Baker) emphasised text-type norms and communicative functions.
- **2000s–present:** Equivalence is now seen as a flexible tool rather than a rigid rule, with scholars like Pym (2010) arguing that it is used for practical purposes rather than theoretical necessity.

### 3. Key Scholars and Their Contributions

#### 1. Vinay & Darbelnet (1958):

- Identified *direct* (literal) and *oblique* (free) translation strategies.
- Introduced concepts like *borrowing*, *calque*, and *adaptation* to explain equivalence in cultural translation.

#### 2. Roman Jakobson (1959):

- Proposed three types of translation:

- *Intralingual* (within the same language).
- *Interlingual* (between languages).
- *Intersemiotic* (between sign systems, e.g., text to image).
- Argued that "absolute equivalence" is impossible due to linguistic and cultural differences.

### 3. Eugene Nida & Charles Taber (1969):

- Distinguished between *formal equivalence* (word-for-word) and *dynamic equivalence* (sense-for-sense).
- Emphasised the importance of *naturalness* and *reader response* in translation.

### 4. John Catford (1965):

- Introduced *translation shifts* (changes in grammatical structure).
- Focused on linguistic equivalence and how translations deal with structural differences.

### 5. Juliane House (1997):

- Developed the *Translation Quality Assessment* model, distinguishing *overt* (explicit cultural references) and *covert* (adapted to TL norms) translations.

### 6. Werner Koller (1979):

- Defined five types of equivalence: *denotative*, *connotative*, *text-normative*, *pragmatic*, and *formal*.
- Highlighted the role of context and function in determining equivalence.

### 7. Peter Newmark (1981):

- Differentiated *semantic* (ST-focused) and *communicative* (reader-focused) translation.
- Advocated for a balanced approach depending on the text type.

### 8. Mona Baker (1992):

- Focused on *equivalence at different linguistic levels* (word, grammar, text, and pragmatics).
- Identified translation challenges such as non-equivalence and strategies to overcome them (e.g., paraphrasing, cultural substitution).

### 9. Anthony Pym (2010):

- Criticized strict equivalence theories, arguing that equivalence is a practical tool rather than a theoretical requirement.
- Advocated for *skopos theory*, where the translation's purpose determines the approach.

## Types of Equivalence

Many translation theories are based on two opposing ways of translating. For example, Nida distinguishes between formal and dynamic equivalence, Newmark between semantic and communicative translation, Catford between formal correspondence and textual equivalence, House between overt and covert translation and Pym between natural and directional equivalence. These bipolar views of equivalence soon faded away, and more attractive translation paradigms came to the forefront. Contrary to linguistic-oriented approaches to translation which assume that the source text occupies a supreme position and that it is considered to be of crucial importance in determining not only the translation process but also the extent to which

it has been successful, *target-oriented approaches* view the source text as the point of departure for the translation process and mostly focus on the cultural, historical, and socio-political factors surrounding translation, thus looking at it as a culture-bound phenomenon. Despite its shortcomings, it should be stressed that equivalence is still one of the pivotal definitional axes of translation since it functions as a reminder of the central problems a translator encounters during the translation process.

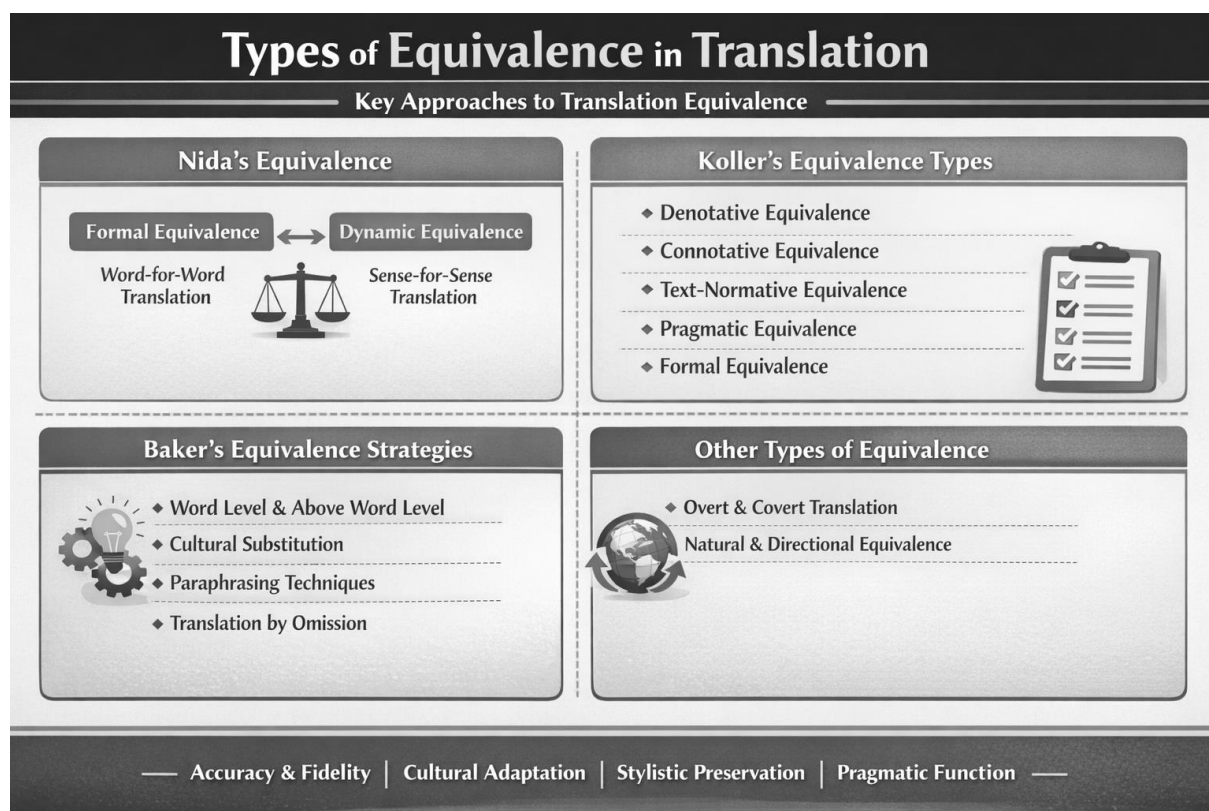


Figure 07: Types of Equivalence in Translation

### 1. Formal & Dynamic Equivalence

Nida distinguishes two types of equivalence, each of which has its own problems, rules and methods of translation.

**Formal equivalence** focuses attention on the **message** itself both in **content and form**. A translation following formal equivalence is put to the test on cultural standards. The method of formal-equivalence translating is called “gloss translation”. This way of

translating allows the TL reader to identify himself with the SL reader. It enables the TL reader to understand and appreciate the cultural codes and the way of thinking of a SL native speaker. According to Nida, such a translation demands footnotes and commentaries. At the same time, Nida constrains the translator's latitude by stating that background information and interesting cultural information should not be added to the TT but should be mentioned in footnotes and commentaries. The translator may add to the text only what is linguistically implicit in the ST.

In formal equivalence, the translator focuses on the message itself, that is, its form and content, as there should be a close similarity between the ST and the TT message (Nida, 1964).

**Dynamic Equivalence** is the one which observes the principle of the "identical effect". Dynamic translating is intended to create on the TT readers a similar effect of that made by the ST on the SL readers. Nida mentioned that this type is based on "the principle of equivalent effect," in which "the relationship between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptor and the message." (Nida, 1964: 159)

Nida, however, stresses that for dynamic equivalence to be possible, the translator should have "purposes generally similar to, or at least compatible with those of the original author". "Holy Kiss" could be translated into other languages as "a hearty handshake all around". "White as snow" could be translated for people who have no experience with snow as "white as egret feathers".

## 2. Koller Classifications

Koller (1979) distinguished between **five types** of equivalence:

1- **'Denotative equivalence'** refers to the case where the ST and the TT have the same denotations, that is, conveying the same extra-linguistic facts;

2- **'Connotative equivalence,'** also referred to as 'stylistic equivalence,' is related to the lexical choices between near synonyms;

3- **'Text normative'** refers to text types, i.e., the description and analysis of a variety of texts behaving differently;

4- **'Pragmatic equivalence,'** also called **'communicative equivalence,'** is oriented towards the receptor of the text, who should receive the same effect that the original text produces on its readers;

5- **'Formal equivalence,'** may also be referred to as **'expressive equivalence,'** is related to the word-for-word rendering of forms, aesthetic and stylistic features of the ST.

### **3. Bakers Typologies**

The comparison of texts in different languages inevitably involves a theory of equivalence (Leonardi 2000). Baker (1992) also believes that the choice of a suitable equivalent in a given context depends on a wide variety of factors, such as linguistic and extralinguistic. She also mentioned that non-equivalence often poses difficulties for the translator in the translation of terminologies.

Baker distinguishes between:

1- **Equivalence that can appear at the word level and above the word level,** when translating from one language into another.

After dealing with the difficulties implied in the lack of equivalence at the word level, Baker (1992, p.26-42) proposes the following classification of strategies to solve non-equivalence at the word level.

- A. Translation by a more general word (TGW)
- B. Translation by a more neutral/ less expressive word (TN/L)
- C. Translation by cultural substitution (TCS)
- D. Translation using a loan word (TLW)
- E. Translation by paraphrase using a related word (TPRW)
- F. Translation by paraphrase using unrelated words (TPUW)
- G. Translation by omission (TO)
- H. Translation by illustration (TI)
- I. Translation by loan word plus explanation (TLWE)

2- **Grammatical equivalence**, when referring to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages.

3- **Textual equivalence**, when referring to the equivalence between a SL text and a TL text in terms of information and cohesion.

4- **Pragmatic equivalence**, when referring to implications and strategies of avoidance during the translation process.

Baker believes that the role of the translator is to recreate the author's intention in another culture in such a way that enables the TT reader to understand it clearly.

### Importance of Equivalence in Translation

- **Ensures Accuracy:** Maintains the meaning and impact of the ST.

- **Cultural Adaptation:** Facilitates communication between linguistic and cultural groups.
- **Preserves Stylistic Features:** Crucial in literary, legal, and technical translations.
- **Case Study:** Analyse a famous mistranslation and discuss its impact.

### Applying Different Equivalence Strategies in Translation

#### A. Formal Equivalence (Word-for-Word Translation)

- **English:** "The ball is in your court."
- **Arabic (حرفيًا):** الكرة في ملعبك
- **Analysis:** This translation maintains both **form and content**, making it a **formal equivalence**. However, it also works well in Arabic as it retains a logical meaning.
- **English:** "Blood is thicker than water."
- **Arabic (حرفيًا):** الدم أكثر كثافة من الماء ( This does not convey the intended meaning.)
- **Arabic (Dynamic Equivalent):** الأقارب أولى من الغريب (Culturally appropriate)

#### B. Dynamic Equivalence (Meaning-Based Translation)

- **English:** "It's raining cats and dogs."
- **Arabic (حرفيًا):** تمطر قططًا وكلابًا (Doesn't make sense in Arabic.)
- **Arabic (دلالي):** تمطر بغزارة (Equivalent effect in Arabic.)
- **English:** "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."
- **Arabic:** لا تضع كل البيض في سلة واحدة (Works, but slightly literal.)
- **Arabic (More Natural Equivalent):** لا تضع كل رهاناتك في خيار واحد

#### C. Pragmatic Equivalence (Cultural Adaptation)

- **English:** "Merry Christmas!"
- **Arabic (Literal):** عيد ميلاد سعيد ( Incorrect in Islamic cultures.)
- **Arabic (Cultural Adaptation):** إكل عام وأنتم بخير (More culturally acceptable.)
- **English (McDonald's Slogan):** "I'm lovin' it."
- **Arabic (Adapted):** أنا أحبه (Too literal, unnatural.)
- **Arabic (Culturally Equivalent):** استمتع بالطعم (More natural and engaging.)

#### D. Baker's Equivalence Strategies in Action

- **Translation by More General Word:**
  - **ST:** "Laptop"
  - **TT:** كمبيوتر محمول (A broader term that generalizes meaning.)
- **Translation by Cultural Substitution:**
  - **ST:** "He gave me a high-five."
  - **TT:** صافحني بحرارة (Since "high-five" is not a common cultural reference in Arabic.)
- **Translation by Paraphrase (Unrelated Words):**
  - **ST:** "It's a double-edged sword."
  - **TT:** سلاح ذو حدين (Same meaning, different words.)

The translator becomes de-coder of SL text and a re-coder of TL text, and  
between decoding and recoding falls the shadow.

Jakobson

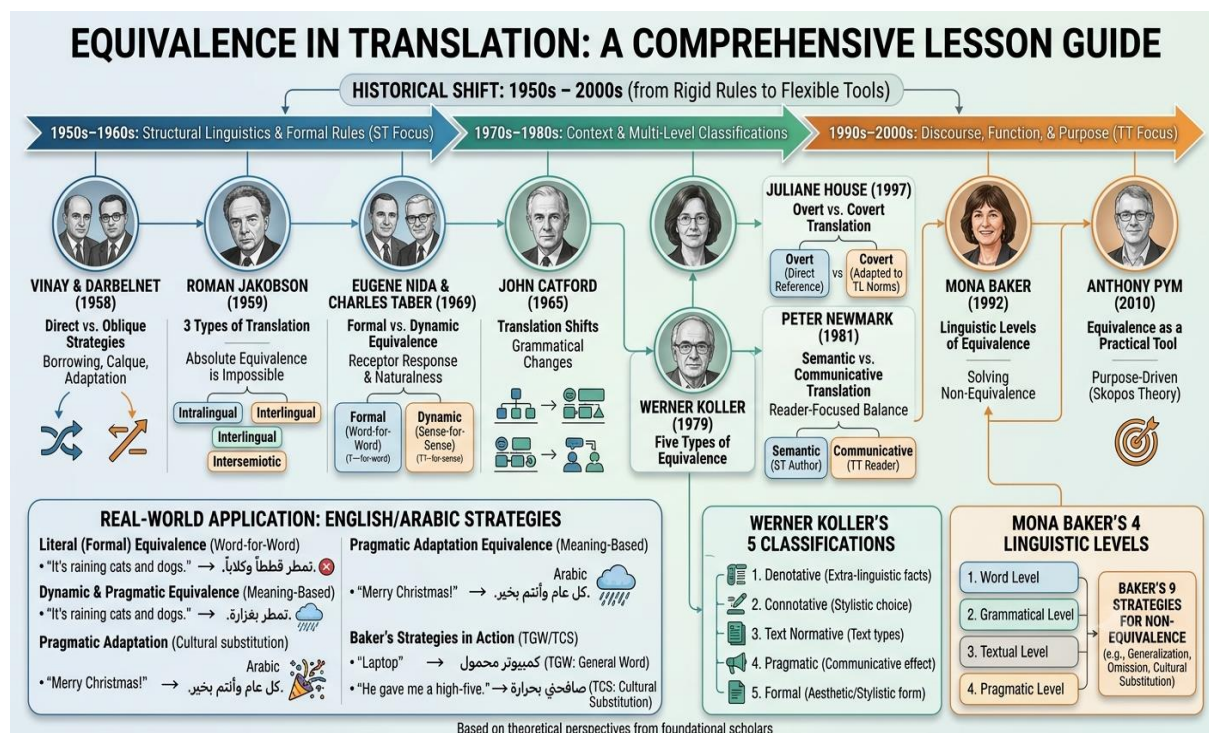


Figure 08: Equivalence in Translation: A Comprehensive Guide

### Sworn Translation

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define sworn translation and distinguish it from ordinary translation.
- Identify the types of documents and contexts requiring sworn translations.
- Explain the roles, responsibilities, and legal authority of sworn translators.
- Describe the formal requirements, ethical standards, and regulatory framework governing sworn translation.

### Introduction

You need to contact a sworn translator when you have to submit an official or certified translation of an education document, register statement, certificate, court judgment, notarial instrument or any other documents to foreign or Estonian authorities. As of 1 January 2015, only sworn translators make official translations from the Estonian language into foreign languages in Estonia. Until 2020, notaries also issued translations from foreign languages into Estonian alongside sworn translators, but as of 1 January 2020, the exclusive competence to make all official translations transferred to sworn translators.

### What is a Sworn Translation?

A **sworn translation** (also called a **public, legal, official** or **certified** translation) of a document is endorsed by the signature and seal of a **Sworn Translator** who is authorised by the Foreign Office to translate official documents. These translations are regarded as having formal status by the authorities.

A sworn translation is a translation of a document endorsed by the signature and seal of a sworn translator authorised by the Foreign Office. These translations hold formal status in legal and official matters.

### **Certified translations**

Certified or official translations are defined as “translations that meet the requirements to serve as legally valid documents in a target country” (Mayoral-Asensio 2003: 1, emphasis in original). For this purpose, “the translation [...] must include a statement signed by the translator certifying accuracy and fidelity to the source text and taking full responsibility for their rendering” (Vigier, Klein & Festinger 2013: 28).

### **Who are sworn translators?**

A sworn translator is someone who is authorised by the Foreign Office to translate official documents. Accredited translators and interpreters are known by different official names according to the country. For example, in Spain, where Spanish is the language in question, the official denomination is *sworn translator-interpreter* (*traductor-intérprete jurado*), although it's more common to use the title *sworn translator* (*traductor jurado*).

The name and details of a sworn interpreter are registered in the Office of Language Interpretation in Madrid and in the regional office of the District Council. By signing and sealing, the translator assumes responsibility for the document.

**A sworn translation is different from a normal translation** insofar as it is signed and sealed by a sworn translator and is therefore regarded as having official and formal

status by the authorities. Furthermore, sworn translations can only be provided in hard copies, given that they need to be signed and stamped by the translator. However, the original documents can be passed on in any form (email, fax, etc.). Although sworn translations can be made on stamped paper, this is not a requirement of the Foreign Office, and these days it is hardly used. In addition, it can be accompanied by additional documents, such as the Hague Apostille.

Each sworn translation needs to carry a certificate whose signature and seal have been registered by the Foreign Office through the District Council of the region in which the translator works.

### The Format of a Sworn Translation

Sworn translations ought to contain the signature and seal of a sworn translator:

- **Signature:** Mr / Mrs (name and surname), Sworn Interpreter of (language), certifies that the present document is a faithful and complete translation into (destination language) of a document originally written in (language of the original). In (location), on (date).
- **Seal:** Name, the heading “sworn interpreter of...” or “sworn translator-interpreter of...” followed by the designated language, address, telephone number and, if applicable, fax...

### **Sworn translators are competent to:**

- Translate documents
- Make certified copies or printouts of documents they translate
- Advise clients and arrange the authentication of documents to be translated or translations with an apostille
- Translate laws and international agreements

### **When is a sworn translation required?**

A document that is written in a foreign language and presented to official bodies (e.g. administrative bodies, a university, a court, a notary) is normally accompanied by an exact Sworn Translation of the original text. In this case, a sworn translator is required.

On the other hand, a sworn translation can be used to guarantee the accuracy of the information translated, given that a sworn translator takes responsibility for the translation with his/her signature and seal.

Sworn translations require a lot of knowledge in linguistics, terminology and legislation. These translations follow a specific ethical code and precise rules. They use and follow a quality charter for the page formatting of translated text. Recognised as “expert translators-interpreters”, the translators who handle sworn translations become judicial experts as well, working either in translation agencies or as independents.

### Which documents does a sworn translator usually translate?

Many institutions require a sworn translation when dealing with documents in a foreign language. For example, when validating a foreign university degree in the Ministry of Education, a sworn translation is required. Another time when sworn translations are needed is when studying abroad, where it is necessary to present an academic record, which should be certified by a sworn translator. In the case of marrying abroad, a sworn translation of the birth certificate of the foreign spouse(s) is usually required. In the world of business, there are many cases in which a sworn translation is needed, for example, when a company has commercial relations abroad, it is commonplace to require a sworn translation of the **certificate of incorporation**, **statutes**, and **other internal documents**.

### Legal texts governing the profession of sworn translator–interpreter

- **Order No. 95-13 of 11 March 1995**, establishing the regulation of the profession of sworn translator–interpreter, published in the Official Gazette No. 17 of 29 March 1995, p. 25.
- **Executive Decree No. 95-436 of 18 December 1995**, laying down the conditions for access to the profession of sworn translator–interpreter, the rules governing its practice, the disciplinary regime, and the regulations for the organisation of the profession and the functioning of its bodies.
- **Executive Decree No. 96-292 of 2 September 1996**, providing for the organisation of the accounting system of sworn translators–interpreters and

determining the modalities for the payment of fees for their services, published in the Official Gazette No. 51 of 4 September 1996.

### **Conditions for admission to the profession of sworn translator–interpreter in Algeria**

Admission to the profession of sworn translator–interpreter is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions (Art. 9):

- Holding Algerian nationality;
- Being at least twenty-five (25) years of age;
- Enjoying full civil and political rights, and not having been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanour involving moral turpitude;
- Holding a diploma in translation from an Institute of Translation or an equivalent qualification;
- Having professional experience in the field of sworn translation–interpretation for a minimum period of five (5) years within a translation service of a judicial authority, an administration, a public or private body or institution, an organisation, an official sworn translation office, or a foreign translation office;
- Having a professional premises;
- Successfully passing the competitive examination for the practice of the profession of sworn translator–interpreter.

### Duties of the sworn translator–interpreter

- He/she carries out written or oral translation from one language into any other language (Art. 3).
- He/she is the sole person authorised to certify and authenticate the translation of any document or instrument, whatever its nature (Art. 5).
- Within the limits of his/her competences and statutory powers, and when so requested, he/she may perform interpretation services customarily required at meetings, seminars, symposia, or conferences (Art. 5).

A sworn translation is a certified version of a document that is considered equivalent to the original source document. Also known as a “certified translation,” it holds the same legal value as an official document in the eyes of the Justice Department and foreign administrative authorities once completed. A sworn translator is an individual authorised by the Foreign Office to translate official documents. In different countries, accredited translators and interpreters may use various official titles. Sworn translations can be requested for several types of documents, including civil acts, scholarly work, legal texts, administrative records, employment documents, sales agreements, transportation papers, and even technical documents. You should contact a sworn translator when you need to submit an official or certified translation of educational documents, registration statements or certificates, court judgments, notarial instruments, or any other documents required by foreign or national authorities. A sworn translation not only demands the skills of an expert translator, but it also requires extensive

knowledge of linguistics, terminology, and legislation. These translations adhere to a specific ethical code and follow precise rules.

I

### Certification of Accuracy

Re: Translation *reference to source document name and number*

I, **FIRST NAME LAST NAME**, hereby attest that I am a translator certified by the American Translators Association for *source* into *target language*, that I have translated the attached document, and that to the best of my knowledge, ability, and belief this translation is a true, accurate, and complete translation of the original *source language* document that was provided to me.



**SIGNATURE FIRST NAME LAST NAME**, CT

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Certification credentials may be verified online at [www.atanet.org/verify](http://www.atanet.org/verify).

**Figure 09: Certification of Accuracy**

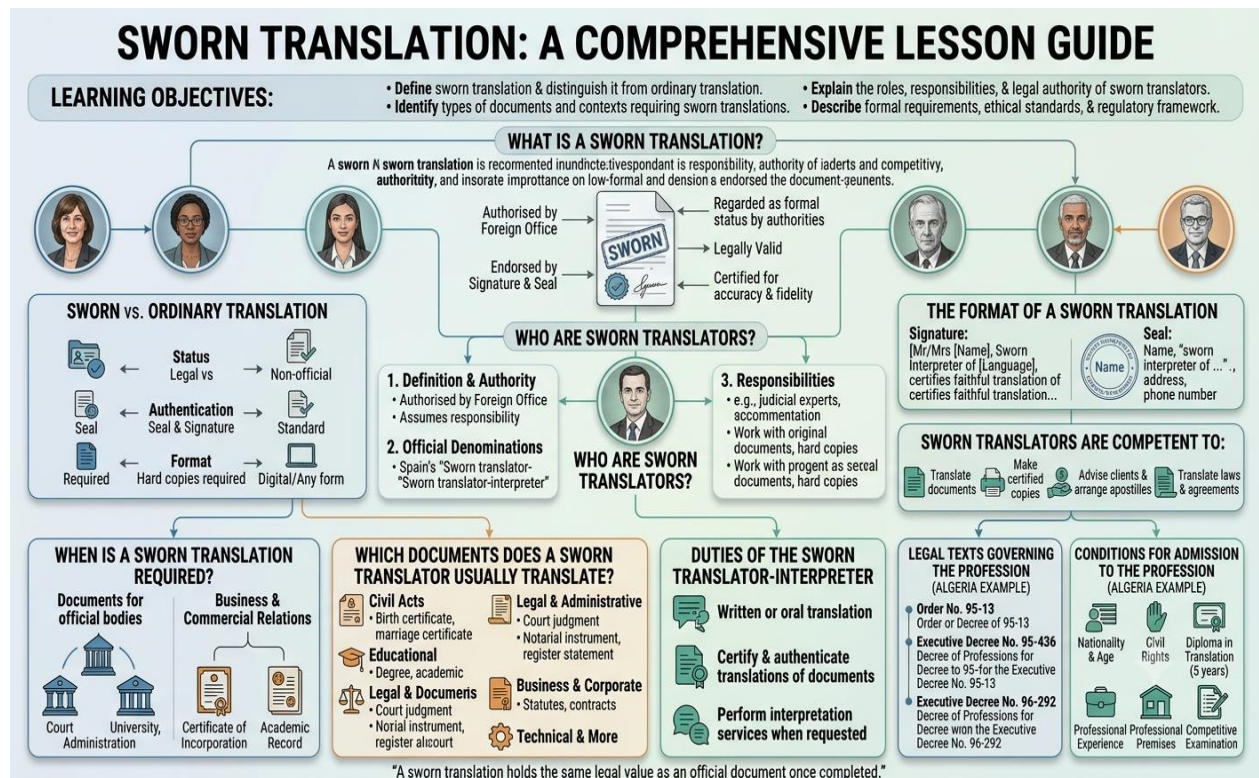


Figure 10: Sworn Translation: A Comprehensive Guide

### Theories and Approaches of Translation

**By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core principles of translation theory,
- Differentiate between major translation theories and their key features.
- Identify the most influential translation approaches.
- Recognize the significance of translation theories and approaches for language students and translation practice.

#### Introduction

Though there have been many serious attempts to arrive at a unified theory of translating, linguists and translation theorists are still in doubt about such a possibility. The idea of formulating a reliable theory is of a great significance, since it would systematize the methods and procedures of translating.

For almost 2,000 years, translation theory was not a separate "science." It was just a series of comments by translators about their work, usually focused on the simple debate of 'word vs. sense' or 'literal vs. free' translation. The "science of translation" (called translatology) only began to emerge in the 1940s.

#### What is a translation theory?

Newmark (1981): Says theory is concerned with determining appropriate translation methods for the widest range of texts. It provides a framework of principles, rules, and hints for solving problems and criticizing translations.

Graham (1981): Asserts that any good theory must include a practical evaluation procedure with specific criteria. Theories can be classified based on their primary focus.

Translator-scholar Mona Baker explains that interest in translation dates back to ancient civilisations and that there is a substantial body of literature on the topic, starting with figures like Cicero in the first century BC (2001, p. 277). However, she notes that the academic discipline of Translation Studies is relatively new, having emerged only a few decades ago. Although translation has been explored in academic contexts in the past—such as in comparative literature and contrastive linguistics—it wasn't until the second half of the twentieth century that scholars began to advocate for systematic research on translation and the development of coherent translation theories (2001, p. 277). Translation Studies integrates work from a diverse range of academic fields, including linguistics, literary theory, communication theory, history, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, and cultural studies.

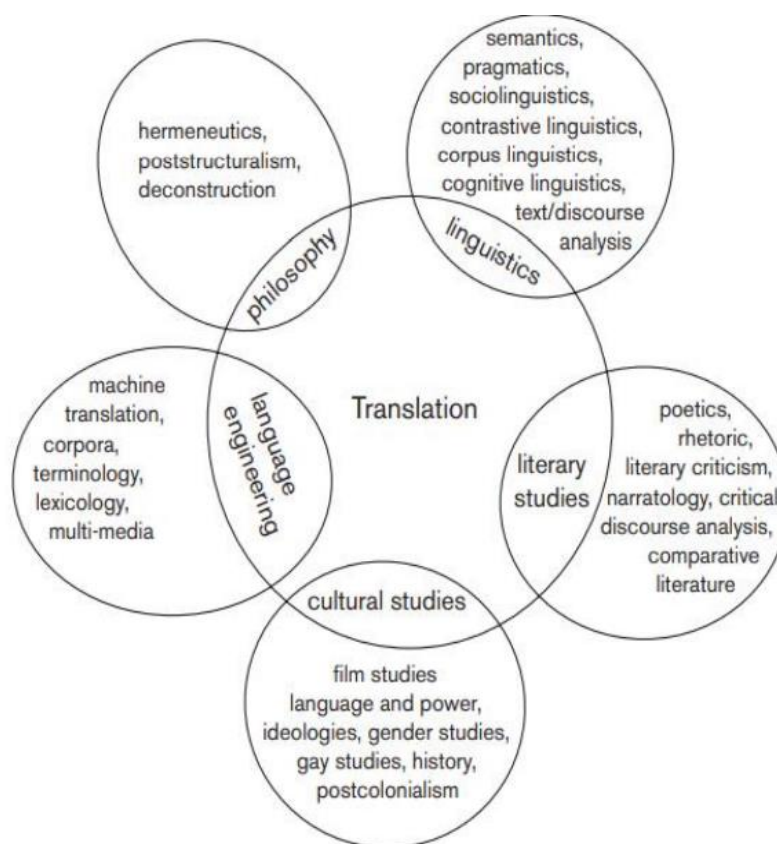


**Figure 11: Areas covered by the translation study (Hatim & Munday, 2004)**

For some, translation may appear to be an easy task. However, it should not be underestimated, as it involves complex multi-tasking and the application of various skills. The translator acts as a mediator between two parties, and their primary responsibility is to eliminate misunderstandings. Ultimately, a translator's duty is not solely to the reader or the writer, but to convey the truth (Newmark, 1988).

**Table 02: Translation Approaches**

| <b>Approach</b>        | <b>Main Orientation</b> | <b>Key Characteristics</b>                        | <b>Typical Use</b>                | <b>Example Strategy</b>     |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Linguistic Approach    | Language structure      | Focus on grammar, syntax, and lexical equivalence | Technical and scientific texts    | Structural correspondence   |
| Functional Approach    | Purpose of translation  | Emphasises communicative function                 | Professional translation practice | Skopos-based adaptation     |
| Communicative Approach | Reader response         | Naturalness and clarity for the target audience   | Public communication, media       | Meaning-based reformulation |
| Semantic Approach      | Source-text fidelity    | Preserves the author's wording and nuance         | Literary and academic texts       | Close translation           |

|                   |                   |                                     |                              |                                      |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cultural Approach | Cultural transfer | Focus on cultural context and norms | Cross-cultural communication | Cultural substitution or explanation |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Ref: Newmark (1981, 1988); Vermeer (1989); House (2015); Munday (2016)

### Philological Theories:

These theories are based on 'philology' (the study of the development of language and classical literature). They are mainly concerned with comparing the structures, literary genres, stylistics, and rhetoric of the source and target texts. George Steiner (1975) is the most prominent proponent. His approach is hermeneutic (focused on interpretation and understanding). He emphasizes the psychological and intellectual functioning of the translator's mind. He defines the translation process in four stages, which he calls the "Hermeneutic Motion":

- 1. Trust/Faith: The translator assumes the ST contains a "sense to be extracted."**
- 2. Aggression/Penetration: The translator "invades, extracts, and brings home" the meaning of the original.**
- 3. Incorporation/Embodiment: The translation brings new elements into the target language and culture.**
- 4. Compensation/Restitution: The translator must "restore" in his own language what he failed to recover from the original text.**

### Linguistic Theories of Translation:

According to Nida, linguistic theories of translation are based on a comparison of linguistic structures of source and receptor texts rather than on a comparison of literary genres and stylistic features. (1976: 69)

These theories developed as a result of the great development in modern linguistic theories, and the tendency to study language scientifically. The findings of these linguistic theories were applied to other related areas such as language teaching and translating. However, little benefit came out of these theories, since they were confined to the study of idealized constructions, with meaning left out of account.

Later, when meaning was reinstated by linguists and anthropologists such as Bloomfield, Malinowski, and Firth, all aspects of meaning were investigated, and new insights about the nature of meaning were provided. Thus, linguists and translation theorists were motivated to propose that translation theory 'is mainly an aspect of semantics; all questions of semantics relate to translation theory'. (Newmark: 1981: 5)

One major difference between linguistic theories of translating and philological theories of translating is that linguistic theories are descriptive rather than prescriptive. They demonstrate how people translate rather than how they should translate. This does not imply that all linguistic theories are the same, or there would be one standard theory only. They differ in terms of focus or perspective.

According to Nida: The principal differences between various linguistic theories (or semi-theories) of translation lie in the extent to which the focus is on surface structures or corresponding deep structures. Theories based on surface-structure comparisons involve the use of more-or-less elaborate sets of rules for matching roughly corresponding structures. (1976) Nida's list includes contributions from linguists such as Pottier (1970), Hjelmselev (1953), Greimas (1966), Coseriu (1970a, b), Vinay and Darbelnet (1958), Nida (1952, 1964, 1969), Walmsley (1970), Scharlau (1970), Raabe

(1972), Beekman and Callow (1974), Petofi (1971a, b, and 1972), and most of the articles published in *Meta* as representative of linguistic theories of translating.

These theories are based on a comparison of the linguistic structures of the ST and TT, rather than literary genres. They grew out of the rise of modern linguistics and the emergence of Machine Translation.

### **Newmark's Two Approaches:**

Peter Newmark classified translation into two types:

#### **Communicative Translation:**

Attempts to produce an effect on its readers as close as possible to the effect of the original. It also attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership (1988b: 45-47). Newmark (1991:10-12) writes of a continuum existing between "semantic" and "communicative" translation. Any translation can be "more, or less semantic—more, or less, communicative—even a particular section or sentence can be treated more communicatively or less semantically."

For Newmark, 'communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original' (Newmark, 1981, p. 39). Communicative translation has a target language bias; it is free and idiomatic. It attempts to make the reading process easier for the TL reader 'who does not anticipate difficulties or obscurities, and would expect a generous transfer of foreign elements into his own culture as well as his language where necessary' (Newmark, 1981, p. 39). It must emphasise the force rather than the content of the message. It is likely to be smoother, simpler, clearer, more direct, more conventional, tending to undertranslate

– it uses more generic terms in difficult passages. Communicative translation relates to the sentence (1981, p. 60).

Communicative translation aims to convey the author's intended meaning in a way that promotes effective understanding by the target audience. It prioritises the impact and purpose of the message over strict adherence to linguistic form. This approach considers translation as a socially situated act influenced by the communicative context, which includes the source-text author, the translator, and the target readership. Instead of focusing solely on lexical or grammatical equivalence, communicative translation emphasises naturalness, clarity, and the influence of extralinguistic factors.

### **Semantic Translation:**

Semantic translation aims to capture the exact contextual meaning of the original text as closely as the grammatical and syntactical structures of the target language will allow. It functions similarly to literal translation but focuses on analysing the meanings of words and sentences in the source language to produce a translation that remains semantically and syntactically close to the original. This method tends to preserve the original culture, minimising changes to local expressions in the source language.

Lui (2004) argued that semantic translation is an art form, as it effectively conveys the expressions of language in an objective and precise manner. Newmark (1988) further stated that semantic translation is particularly suitable for translating "expressive" texts, where the specific language used by the speaker is as significant as the content itself.

This approach seeks to illustrate every detail of the source text's contextual meaning while maintaining its unique characteristics and expressions.

Moreover, semantic translation emphasises both content and form, striving to recreate the original text's tone and flavour. By aiming to preserve the distinctive features of the source language, it reflects the writer's thought process most accurately (Shi, 2014). However, despite translators often attempting word-for-word translations, some loss of meaning is still inevitable (Hatim, 2001).

Newmark acknowledged that, at times, a communicative translation is more effective than a semantic one. He argued that semantic translation does not permit corrections or improvements to the source text. Therefore, a communicative translation may be preferable in certain situations as it allows for the following: correcting logical inconsistencies, clarifying ambiguities and jargon, replacing awkward structures with more elegant ones, removing obscurities, eliminating repetition, and normalising poorly written texts.

### **Functional Theories:**

In the 1970s and 1980s, the focus shifted from static linguistic rules to a functional and communicative approach, especially in Germany.

Text-type Theory (Katherina Reiss) Reiss argued that the text type determines the translation method. She links language functions to text types.

- **Informative Text:** (e.g., a news report).
  - o Function: Plain communication of facts.
  - o Translation Method: Transmit the full conceptual content in 'plain prose'.

- **Expressive Text:** (e.g., a poem). o Function: Creative composition, using the aesthetic dimension of language. Translation Method: Transmit the aesthetic and artistic form; the translator adopts the standpoint of the ST author.
- **Operative Text:** (e.g., an advertisement). o Function: To appeal to the reader or persuade them to act in a certain way. o Translation Method: Create an equivalent effect among TT readers.
- **Audiomedial Text:** (e.g., films, visual ads). o Function: Supplements the other three functions with visual images, music, etc. o Translation Method: Requires the 'supplementary' method, combining words with images and sound.

### Skopos Theory (Vermeer)

Skopos is the Greek word for 'aim' or 'purpose'.

Core Idea: The shape of the TT is determined by the function or purpose it is intended to fulfill in the target context.

The Golden Rule: "The end justifies the means." The translator should use whatever strategies are needed to achieve the skopos, regardless of whether they are "literal" or "free."

Criticism: Linguistically-oriented critics argue this theory is an oversimplification and that it focuses too much on the message at the expense of the richness of meaning in the original ST.

### Significance of Translation Theories and Approaches:

Translation theories and approaches are essential in both language education and professional translation practice, as they provide a structured framework for understanding how translation functions as a linguistic, cultural, and communicative

activity. These theories help language students' progress beyond intuitive or strictly literal translation by clarifying the underlying processes, purposes, and norms that influence translation decisions (Munday, 2016).

By engaging with theoretical models, students learn to identify and apply suitable translation strategies based on text type, function, and target audience. They also develop objective criteria for evaluating translation quality. In professional practice, translation theories guide translators in their decision-making processes, helping them justify their choices, manage equivalence, and systematically resolve complex linguistic and cultural challenges instead of relying solely on intuition.

As a result, familiarity with these theories enhances analytical thinking, improves translation accuracy, and leads to functionally appropriate and context-sensitive translations.

**Table 03: Major Translation Theories**

| <b>Theory</b>                         | <b>Key Scholar(s)</b> | <b>Core Idea</b>                                                            | <b>Focus of Analysis</b>         | <b>Classroom Application</b>                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Equivalence Theory                    | Eugene Nida           | Translation aims to achieve equivalence between source and target texts     | Meaning and effect on the reader | Distinguishing formal vs dynamic equivalence |
| Semantic vs Communicative Translation | Peter Newmark         | Translation may prioritise form (semantic) or reader effect (communicative) | Author vs reader orientation     | Strategy selection based on text function    |

## Translation and Interpreting: Lectures for Third-Year LMD Students

|                                 |                 |                                                                              |                             |                                        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Skopos Theory                   | Hans J. Vermeer | The translation purpose determines the method and strategy                   | Function of the target text | Functional translation decisions       |
| Text-Type Theory                | Katharina Reiss | Translation method depends on text type (informative, expressive, operative) | Text function and genre     | Matching strategies to text categories |
| Descriptive Translation Studies | Gideon Toury    | Translation is studied as a cultural and norm-governed activity              | Norms and real practices    | Analysis of translated corpora         |

**Ref:** Nida (1964); Newmark (1981, 1988); Vermeer (1989); Reiss (1971); Toury (1995)

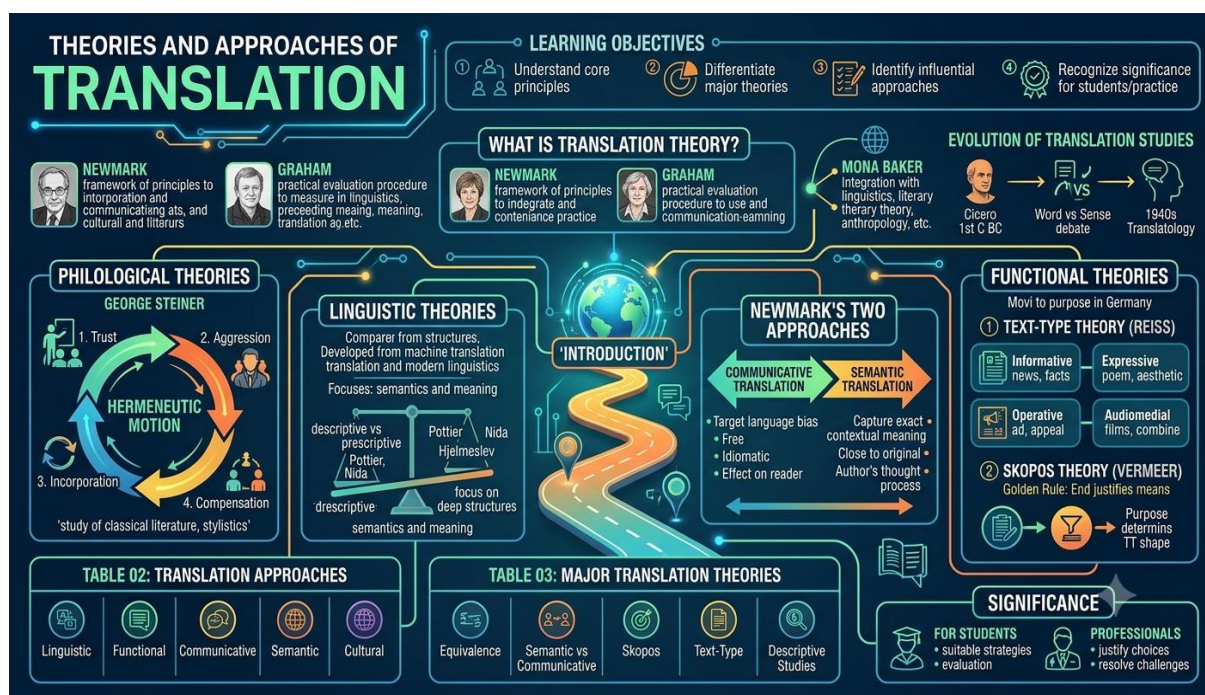


**Figure 12: Theories and Approaches of Translation**

### Specialised Translation (Arabic/ English)

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define specialised translation and explain its scope and objectives.
- Differentiate between specialised and general translation, highlighting their respective requirements
- Identify the main domains and linguistic features of specialised texts, including terminology, style and discourse conventions
- Analyse the role of the translator and the main Arabic-English challenges in Specialised Translation.

#### **Introduction:**

Specialised translation is a term and concept used in translation studies and in translation schools. A text to be translated is specialised if translating it calls for knowledge in some field that would not normally be part of a translator's or translation student's general knowledge.

The word 'specialised' applies differently to translators and to texts. Some translators work in a variety of fields (such as law or finance), while others are 'specialised' or 'specialists' in the sense that they work exclusively in just one or two fields. A text to be translated is specialised if translating it calls for knowledge of the field that would not normally be part of a translator's general knowledge.

Specialised translation aims to give students of translation a METHOD for acquiring the specialised concepts and writing conventions of different fields of

knowledge. In specialised writing, conventional formats are usually followed. The student needs to consult similar texts for examples of layouts and the use of terminology.

### **What is a specialised text translation?**

The text usually contains terminology and concepts particular to the field and often follows conventional formats. Rendering the meaning of technical words from specialised texts into the target language. Specialised writing is the production of non-literary, pragmatic texts designed for use in a specific field or discipline, such as science, technology, healthcare, business, administration, or tourism.

### **Difference between Specialised Translation & General Translation**

What differentiates specialised translation from general translation is the terminological and technical difficulty level. The general translation is the simpler of two types and does not involve jargon or lingo, and thus targets a general audience.

In contrast to general translation, specialised translation calls for expert knowledge in specified fields and may include complex terminology in the text. Consequently, it requires higher language proficiency, as well as knowledge and expertise in the subject.

The translation process of specialised texts should take into consideration two essential dimensions: the content and the form, as they are exactly the elements the translator has to transfer from a source language A to a target language B.

Specialised Translation is an interdisciplinary process as it implies translation methods and techniques, and at the same time, documentation work and terminological research in that field.

Lethuillier (2003: 379) states that "the ability to perform this type of translation is a vital component in the training of the professional translator." Thus, the competence of the modern professional translator is not limited to general translation. The future professional translator must be prepared for specialised translation.

### Features of Specialised Translation

1. Specialised translations are focused on translations that require subject matter knowledge to translate.
2. Specialised translation related to the special use of the language, general language vs. specialised language or language for general purposes vs. language for special(ized) purposes.
3. The most conspicuous aspect of specialised translation is its having to do with specialised terms. Dealing with terminology in specialised translation is quite often a challenging task and may require much more effort and creativity from the translator's part than meets the eye.
4. The purpose of the specialised text is primarily informative, and the translator's concern is for clarity, precision and effectiveness in the transmission of information.
5. Four parameters that the student translator should consider in any specialised writing assignment are: - the purpose of the text - the target audience- the subject matter- the conventions of the field.
6. The specialised text is often a vehicle of research, instruction, clarification, or dissemination of information.
7. The translator must determine who the reader is and how the reader will use the text. If the text is designed for a specialised or non-specialised readership.

**Table 04: Common Problems in Translation**

| <b>Problem Type</b>     | <b>Description</b>                          | <b>Cause</b>                       | <b>Example</b>          | <b>Pedagogical Solution</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lexical Non-Equivalence | No direct word match in the target language | Cultural or conceptual gap         | Legal or cultural terms | Paraphrase or borrowing     |
| Structural Differences  | Different grammatical systems               | Syntax variation between languages | Word order changes      | Grammatical restructuring   |
| Cultural References     | Culture-specific concepts                   | Social and cultural divergence     | Idioms, customs         | Cultural adaptation         |

## Translation and Interpreting: Lectures for Third-Year LMD Students

|                       |                                         |                           |                              |                      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Pragmatic Meaning     | Implied meaning differs across contexts | Contextual interpretation | Politeness forms             | Contextual analysis  |
| Terminology Problems  | Specialised vocabulary difficulty       | Domain knowledge gap      | Scientific/legal terminology | Terminology research |
| Stylistic Differences | Tone and style mismatch                 | Genre conventions         | Literary texts               | Style adjustment     |

Ref: Baker (2018); Newmark (1988); House (2015)

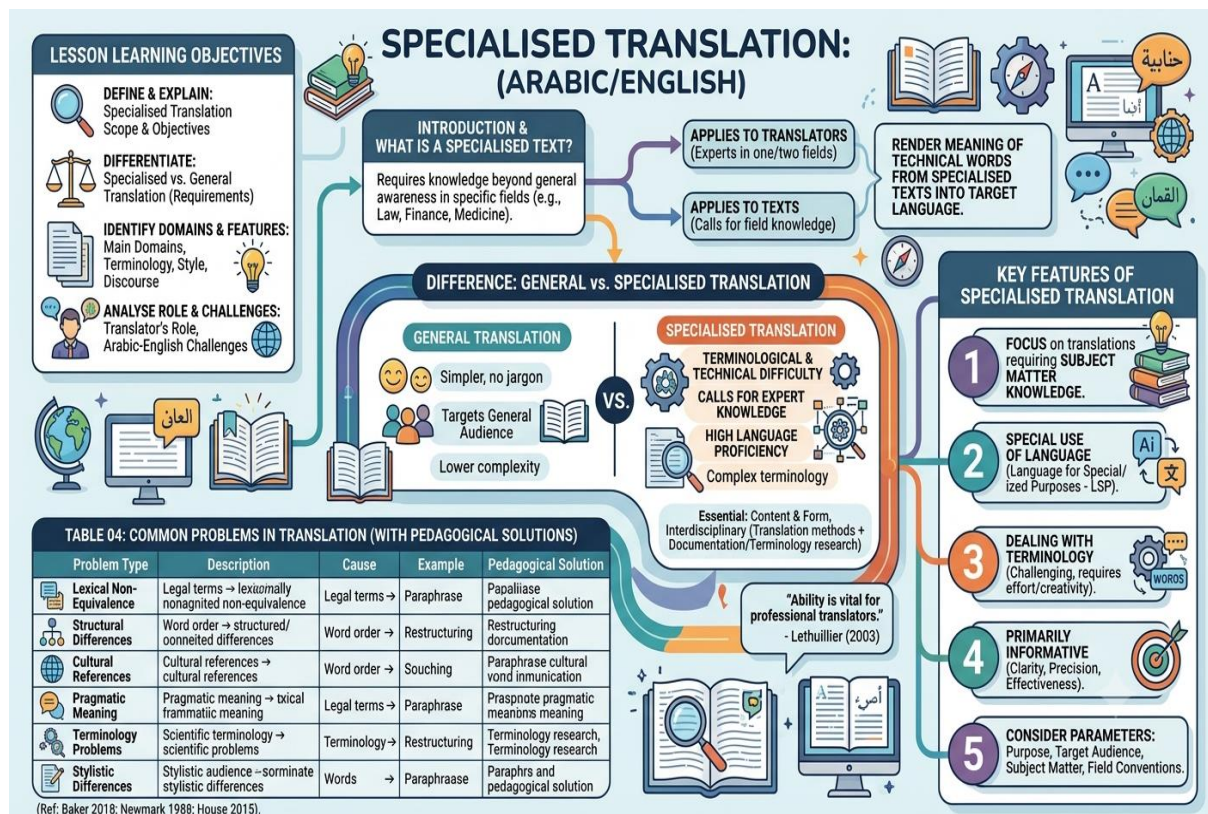


Figure 13: Specialised Translation

### Translating Scientific Texts

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define scientific translation and distinguish it from other types of specialised translation.
- Identify and analyse the linguistic and structural features of scientific texts in English and Arabic.
- Be familiar with the main challenges encountered in scientific translation.
- Apply the appropriate translation strategies and techniques to render scientific texts accurately from Arabic into English

#### Definition of Scientific Translation

Scientific translation is the process of transferring scientific texts from one language to another while maintaining the accuracy of terms and meanings, ensuring that the idea is clear to the recipient. This translation requires familiarity with the scientific field of the text, as well as language translation skills.

It refers to the interlingual transfer of texts belonging to scientific disciplines (medicine, biology, etc) with the primary objective of preserving conceptual accuracy, terminological precision and functional clarity. According to Byrne (2012), scientific translation is fundamentally communicative: It aims to transmit knowledge clearly and efficiently.

#### Who is a Scientific Translator?

A scientific translator is a person who has specialised knowledge in a particular field (e.g., medicine, engineering, physics), as well as accurate translation skills. According to Maeve Olhan, a science translator must be familiar with scientific

terminology and possess the ability to accurately analyse and understand specialised content. A scientific translator is not merely bilingual but bicultural and domain-competent. Olohan (2016) emphasizes that translators of scientific texts must:

- Possess familiarity with specialised terminology.
- Understand discipline specific discourse conventions.
- Demonstrate research competence.

### Characteristics of the Scientific Text

As Zaki Naguib pointed out in his book "The Foundations of Translation", the scientific text is characterised by the following: Scientific texts have unique features that make them different from literary or general texts. These include:

- **Precision and Accuracy:** Every term has a fixed meaning that should not be altered.
- **Objectivity:** The writing style avoids subjective expressions and focuses on facts.
- **Logical Structure:** Scientific texts follow a structured format (e.g., introduction, methodology, results, conclusion).
- **Neutral Tone:** The language used is formal and impersonal.
- **Use of Standardised Terminology:** Scientific disciplines have established terminologies that must be adhered to in translation.

### Difficulties of Scientific Translation:

Maeve Olohan points out several challenges in scientific translation, including:

- **Complex scientific terminology:** Some terms may not have a counterpart in the target language.

- Multiple semantics: Some terms may have different meanings depending on the speciality.
- Constant Update of Terminology: Scientific advances are constantly giving rise to new terms.
- Differences between languages in scientific syntax: The structure of scientific sentences may differ between Arabic and English, which requires reformulation.

### Scientific translation from Arabic to English

The success of scientific translation from Arabic to English depends on:

- Use specialised dictionaries, such as "Oxford Science Dictionary" or "Collins Medical Dictionary".
- Understand the structure of the scientific text in Arabic and its paraphrasing in English, since the style in the two languages may differ.
- Adherence to normative terminology: Scientific terminology used globally must be adopted.
- Achieving functional equivalence: As mentioned by Zaki Naguib, translation should achieve the same scientific impact for the target reader.

Scientific translation plays a crucial role in global knowledge dissemination. It requires precision, scientific literacy, and linguistic expertise to ensure accurate communication across languages. Both Maeve Olohan and Zaki Naguib emphasise that scientific translation is not merely word substitution but a careful process of knowledge transfer that respects linguistic and conceptual integrity. Mastering scientific translation

requires continuous learning, access to reliable scientific sources, and an awareness of the latest advancements in both language and science.

Scientific translation is one of the most complex types of translation, requiring scientific rigour and specialised knowledge. By following the methodological foundations mentioned in the books of Maeve Olhan and Zaki Najib, it is possible to achieve an accurate scientific translation that effectively serves the scientific field

#### **Activity N° 01 : Scientific Translation**

**ترجم ما يلي الى اللغة الإنجليزية:**

**النص:**

التبخر هو عملية تحول السائل إلى غاز، ويمكن أن يحدث هذا عند أي درجة حرارة، وهو نتيجة حركة الجزيئات في السائل. فمثلا إذا تركنا ماء في طبق فسوف يتبخر تدريجيا، لأن جزيئات الماء سوف تهرب إلى الهواء كغاز هو بخار الماء.

وكلما ازداد الهواء دفئا، ازدادت الرطوبة التي يحتويها على شكل بخار. وفي كل ثانية يتبخر حوالي 15 مليون طن من الماء من على سطح الأرض بتأثير أشعة الشمس، وغالبا ما يسافر الماء المتبخر من المحيطات لمئات الأميال قبل أن يسقط كأمطار.

وعندما يحتوي الهواء على أقصى كمية ممكنة بالنسبة لحرارته-من بخار الماء، يقال إنه أصبح " مشبعاً"، وتحت درجة الحرارة هذه، والتي تسمى بـ "نقطة المدى" بالنسبة لكتلة معينة من الهواء، يبدأ بخار الماء بالتكثف إلى نقاط من الماء. وتسمى كمية بخار الماء

الموجودة في الهواء بالرطوبة. أما الرطوبة النسبية فهي الكمية الفعلية لبخار الماء في الهواء مقارنة بالكمية التي يمكن أن يحتويها الهواء لو كان مشبعاً. ويعبر عن الرطوبة النسبية عادة بنسب مئوية، ولها أهمية كبرى في مناطق كثيرة من العالم في تقارير حالة الطقس.

-----

التبخر Evaporation ، الجزيئات Molecules ، طبق Saucer ، الرطوبة Moisture ، بخار Vapour ، نقطة المدى  
Dew point ، نقاط الماء Water Droplets ، نسبي Relative ، تقارير حالة الطقس Weather Reports

### Translating Literary Texts

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify key features of literary texts.
- Recognise the main challenges in translating literary works.
- Apply strategies to translate a literary text while preserving its aesthetic and cultural value.
- Analyse and evaluate different translation choices through discussion and peer feedback.

#### Definition of Literary Translation

Literary translation refers to the translation of texts in which aesthetic, expressive, and stylistic functions are central. In literary translation, translators must convey not only semantic content but also form, tone, style, cultural identity, and artistic effect. As Landers (2001) argues, literary translation is inherently creative; it is not merely a transfer of meaning but the recreation of a literary work in another language. Lefevere (1992) views literary translation as a form of rewriting shaped by cultural, ideological and aesthetic constraints.

#### Features of Literary Translation:

Literary translation is distinguished by its strong aesthetic orientation and its reliance on artistic expression. Unlike utilitarian texts, literary works foreground rhythm, narrative voice, and stylistic texture as essential components of meaning. The translator must therefore attend not only to semantic accuracy but also to the musicality and expressive quality of the source text, striving to recreate its artistic impact in the target

language. In this context, form and content as an indivisible unity, where stylistic choices actively shape interpretation.

A central feature of literary texts is their extensive use of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and personification, which contribute to imagery and emotional resonance. Such devices often generate symbolism and multiple layers of meaning, inviting diverse interpretations beyond the literal level. The translator's task involves careful hermeneutic engagement to preserve these connotations, ambiguities and aesthetic nuances while ensuring coherence and readability in the target culture.

Literary translation is one of the most challenging fields of translation. This is due to the fact that it is a special use of language that is deviant from ordinary, everyday, non-literary language. Besides rendering the semantic qualities of the text, it is the translator's mission to re-create the Source Text as a work of art, and he/she attempts to keep the unity of content and form and the text's national, individual and linguistic qualities. Unlike other types of writing, literature is rich with connotations and indirect messages, which are the real challenge for the translator.

Consequently, literary translation requires not only linguistic competence but also cultural and historical awareness, enabling the translator to mediate between traditions while maintaining the integrity and identity of the original text.

### **Problems in Literary Translation**

Literary translation presents complex aesthetic and cultural challenges because literary texts emphasise style, voice, and artistic form. One of the main difficulties is

preserving the tone and authorial voice, which are reflected in word choice, sentence structure, and rhythm.

As Roman Jakobson (1959) explains, the poetic function of language highlights the message itself, making literary texts particularly resistant to direct translation. Translators must also address stylistically distinct features like abbreviations, sound patterns (such as alliteration, rhyme, and rhythm), and phonetically significant expressions at the linguistic level. Replicating these effects often requires creative rephrasing rather than sticking to a literal translation.

According to Peter Newmark (1988), a communicative approach may be necessary when formal equivalents fail to maintain the aesthetic impact. Additionally, idioms, wordplay, and culture-specific symbolism, like associations with colours, can create serious challenges because they rely on language-specific meanings and cultural conventions. Strategies for handling these issues may include functional equivalence, compensation, or cultural adaptation. As noted by Susan Bassnett (2014), literary translation is not simply a linguistic transfer; it is an act of intercultural mediation that requires the translator to negotiate meaning within broader social and symbolic systems.

### **Strategies in Translating Literature:**

Literary translation is often considered one of the most challenging forms of translation because literary language frequently departs from conventional norms. Authors intentionally use ambiguity, stylistic density, and intertextual references to create multiple layers of meaning, making it difficult to achieve straightforward equivalence. As Roman Jakobson (1959) points out, literary discourse emphasizes the aesthetic function of language, where form and meaning are intertwined. This

complexity requires translators not only to decode the meaning but also to reconstruct the literary effect within a different linguistic and cultural context. To navigate these challenges, translators utilize various strategies such as stylistic equivalence, compensation, cultural substitution, preservation of metaphor, creative reformulation, and controlled adaptation. The choice of strategy depends on the genre, authorial voice, and the expectations of the intended audience. Peter Newmark (1988) highlights that both communicative and semantic considerations must be carefully balanced when aesthetic and cultural elements hinder literal translation. Ultimately, literary translation demands a combination of fidelity and creativity. Translators must create a work that functions as literature in the target culture while remaining ethical and textually faithful to the source material. Clifford E. Landers (2001) asserts that literary translation is fundamentally a creative act, but this creativity operates within interpretive constraints.

### Activity N° 02 : Literary Translation

#### ترجم مايلي الى اللغة الإنجليزية:

##### النص:

ايرنستو ساباتو Ernesto Sábato روائي وكاتب صحفي أرجنتيني، اشتهرت رواياته باهتمامها بالقضايا الفلسفية والنفسية، وكان لدراساته السياسية والاجتماعية كبير الأثر في حياة الأرجنتينيين خلال النصف الثاني الأخير من القرن العشرين.

التحق ساباتو، ذو النصيب الوافر من التعليم في الفيزياء والرياضيات، بجامعة لا بلاتا La Plata الوطنية 1929-1936، حيث حصل على دكتوراه في الفيزياء عام 1937. وكان يُجري أيضا أبحاث ما

بعد الدكتوراه في مختبر كيوري في باريس عام 1938. بعدها عاد للأرجنتين عام 1940. ومنذ عام

1940 حتى عام 1945 درس الفيزياء النظرية بجامعة لابلاتا .

بدأ بإرسال مقالاته إلى القسم الأدبي في لا ناسيون *La Nación* (وهي إحدى الصحف الرائدة في

الأرجنتين). ونتيجة لذلك عزل من منصبه في التدريس عام 1945، نظرا لمعارضته العلنية لحكومة خوان

بيرون *Juan Perón*.

كان أول نجاح أدبي له في سلسلة مقالاته (الفرد والمجتمع) *Uno y el universo* عام 1945.

أما روايته (النفق) *El túnel* والمترجمة إلى الانجليزية عام 1945 بعنوان *The Outsider*، فقد حققت

له شهرة وطنية وعالمية.

مقتبس من دائرة المعارف البريطانية

جنس النص : أدب السيرة

### Translating Economic Texts

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify what makes economic texts different from general texts?
- Describe the nature and communicative purpose of economic texts.
- Identify language features characteristic of economic discourse.
- Apply appropriate strategies and techniques to translate economic terminology accurately.
- Be familiar with common translation challenges and propose solutions using research-based strategies.

#### **Introduction:**

Economic texts—such as reports, financial news articles, and policy documents—differ from general texts in both content and communicative purpose. They convey specialized knowledge grounded in economic theory and practice, frequently integrating quantitative data, abstract concepts, and, at times, regulatory or institutional language. As a result, successful translation of economic discourse requires not only advanced linguistic proficiency in the target language but also subject-matter competence to interpret technical meanings accurately within their disciplinary context. This dual requirement reflects the broader principle that translators must possess familiarity with thematic content and discourse conventions specific to the field in order to produce accurate and functionally appropriate translations (Schäffner & Adab, 2000).

### Nature of Economic Texts

Economic texts are specialized informational texts created to inform, analyze, persuade, or regulate audiences about financial, commercial, and macroeconomic issues. For example: Economic reports (e.g., IMF World Economic Outlook), Financial news articles, Policy briefs on fiscal or monetary policy

### Features of Economic texts

- **Lexical Features.** Economic texts are characterized by a high concentration of specialized terminology that encodes precise disciplinary meanings, such as *inflation*, *gross domestic product (GDP)*, and *liquidity*. These texts also frequently employ nominalization to condense complex processes into compact noun forms—for example, *the deregulation of markets* instead of *when markets are deregulated*—thereby increasing informational density and formality. In addition, fixed lexical collocations such as *balance of payments* and *economic downturn* function as conventionalized units of meaning that must be translated as cohesive semantic expressions rather than word-by-word combinations.
- **Grammatical Features:** At the grammatical level, economic discourse commonly utilizes complex noun phrases that pack multiple layers of modification into a single structure, as in *long-term interest rate expectations*. Passive constructions are also frequent, serving to foreground processes and results rather than agents, which contributes to the objective and impersonal tone typical of scientific and professional communication. Furthermore, the present simple and present perfect tenses are widely used to describe general economic

principles, established relationships, and ongoing trends, thereby reinforcing the sense of continuity and empirical validity in economic analysis.

- **Discourse Features:** From a discourse perspective, economic texts exhibit a high degree of information density, where large amounts of conceptual and quantitative information are compressed into relatively short stretches of text. Argumentation is typically structured around evidence-based reasoning, with claims supported by statistical data, empirical findings, and referenced sources. This evidence-oriented organization reflects the analytical and explanatory function of economic communication, requiring readers—and translators—to interpret not only linguistic forms but also the logical relationships between data, interpretation, and conclusion.

### Strategies and Techniques in Translating Economic Texts

#### 1- Terminology Management:

A central strategy in translating economic texts is **systematic terminology management**, as economic concepts often have multiple near-equivalent expressions across languages that differ in scope or institutional usage. Translators therefore rely on bilingual term banks and subject-specific glossaries—such as those produced by the International Monetary Fund—to verify standardized usage within international economic discourse.

Effective practice involves establishing translation equivalents through contextual validation rather than dictionary matching alone. For example, a term-base entry should include a precise definition, authentic source-text examples, and typical collocations to ensure conceptual consistency across translations. Corpus-informed terminology work

has been shown to enhance accuracy, coherence, and terminological consistency in specialized translation domains (Bowker & Pearson, 2002).

### **2- Contextual Interpretation before Translation:**

Accurate translation of economic discourse requires holistic contextual interpretation prior to text production. Translators are advised to read the entire document to identify communicative purpose, intended audience, institutional setting, and register, all of which shape lexical and syntactic choices in the target language.

Economic texts often function within policy, academic, or financial reporting frameworks, and meaning emerges from the interaction between conceptual content and rhetorical structure. Empirical research demonstrates that translators who engage in global comprehension strategies—rather than sentence-by-sentence rendering—produce more coherent and semantically precise translations, as pre-interpretation facilitates informed decision-making at both micro- and macro-textual levels (Alves, 2003).

### **3- Clarification of Ambiguity:**

Economic terminology frequently exhibits polysemy across sub-fields, requiring careful disambiguation through contextual analysis. Terms such as *rate*, *market*, and *capital* may refer to distinct concepts depending on whether the discourse concerns macroeconomics, finance, or business administration. Translators therefore analyze co-text and domain-specific usage patterns to determine precise meaning—for instance, distinguishing between *interest rate*, *exchange rate*, and *rate of return*.

Conceptual verification techniques, including back-translation and comparison with parallel texts, further support equivalence at the level of meaning rather than form. Such interpretive procedures align with functionalist approaches to translation that prioritize semantic accuracy within disciplinary context (Schäffner & Adab, 2000).

#### 4- Paraphrasing and Explication:

When direct lexical equivalence is unavailable or potentially misleading, translators employ paraphrasing and explication to convey specialized economic meaning clearly in the target language. Explication involves introducing clarifying information that is implicit in the source text but necessary for comprehension in the target context. For example, a concise statement such as quantitative easing was implemented may be rendered as the central bank adopted a policy of quantitative easing, increasing the money supply to stimulate economic activity, thereby preserving conceptual content while enhancing interpretability. Classical models of translation procedures identify paraphrase, modulation, and transposition as systematic techniques for achieving functional equivalence when structural or conceptual mismatches arise between languages (Newmark, 1988).

#### Activity N° 03 : Economic Translation

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01-ترجم النص التالي الى اللغة الإنجليزية

مبيعات المحمول القياسية

قال معهد استراتيجي فرنسي للأبحاث يوم الخميس إن مبيعات الهواتف المحمولة سجلت رقما قياسيا جديدا في عام 2004 حيث بيع ما يقرب من 684 مليون هاتف في مختلف أنحاء العالم. ويمثل هذا الرقم ارتفاعا بنسبة 32 في المئة مقارنة بعام 2003 الذي شهد بيع 571 مليون هاتف. ويتوقع معهد أناليتكس زيادة بنسبة ثمانية في المئة ليصل حجم مبيعات الهواتف المحمولة إلى 735 مليون هاتف. واحتفظت شركة نوكيا الفنلندية لإنتاج الهواتف المحمولة بصدارة قائمة الشركات الأكثر مبيعا في عام 2004. حيث باعت 207.6 مليون هاتف وهو ما يعادل 30.4 في المئة من حجم المبيعات الإجمالية في الأسواق.

## 02 – حدد الخصائص الفنية للنص أعلاه ثم أذكر صعوبات ترجمة النص الاقتصادي

### للفائدة :

الترجمة الاقتصادية هي مجال متعدد التخصصات من البحوث والممارسات المهنية التي تعتمد أساسا على دراسات الترجمة، والاقتصاد، واللغويات، ودراسات الاتصالات. فهي أولا تعتبر أحد الحقول الفرعية للترجمة المتخصصة، كالترجمة القانونية والتقنية والطبية، على سبيل المثال لا الحصر. وثانيا، فيما يتعلق بقاعدتها المعرفية ونطاقها، ترتبط الترجمة الاقتصادية بعلم الاقتصاد والمفاهيم المتداخلة الأساسية (الأعمال التجارية والاقتصاد والتبادل التجاري والتجارة) التي تدين باسمها لها. وثالثا، تعتمد الترجمة الاقتصادية على الاتصالات التجارية، وهو تخصص أكاديمي نما في أوائل التسعينيات من القرن الماضي للبحث في الاتصالات الرسمية وغير الرسمية داخل منظمات الأعمال ومع العالم الخارجي، ويهدف عمليا إلى تحسين فعاليتها وكفاءتها .

فرج أحمد صوان

### Translating Political Texts

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define political translation and explain its scope within specialised translation.
- Identify and analyse the linguistic and cultural characteristics of political texts.
- Examine the major challenges in political translation.
- Apply appropriate translation strategies to ensure accuracy, neutrality, and contextual appropriateness in political discourse.

#### **Introduction :**

Political translation is a specialised field concerned with transferring politically oriented texts across languages while preserving meaning, intent, and contextual sensitivity. It encompasses diplomatic documents, political speeches, international agreements, and politically related media discourse. Because political texts often employ ideologically charged language, rhetoric, symbolism, and culturally specific references, their translation presents challenges such as ambiguity, cultural differences, and potential ideological bias. Accordingly, effective political translation requires contextual analysis, precise terminology use, and culturally informed strategies to ensure accuracy, neutrality, and appropriateness in the target language.

#### **Definition of Political Translation**

Political translation is the process of transferring texts of a political nature from one language to another, while maintaining the accuracy of meaning and context, taking into account cultural and ideological sensitivities that may affect the understanding of the text in the target language. It is one of the branches of specialised translation, which is unique in translating texts and documents related to the internal or foreign policy affairs of a country.

The political translator translates the documents of international political agreements, negotiations and conferences, the speeches of politicians to the people, as well as the statements of diplomatic governments.

Political translation also overlaps with journalistic and media translation when the news is related to a political matter.

### **Characteristics of the Political Text:**

Political texts are typically marked by ideologically charged language and strategic discourse that reflects particular power relations and worldviews. Such texts employ evaluative terminology, framing devices, and rhetorical strategies designed to persuade audiences and legitimise political positions. They also rely heavily on symbolism, metaphor, and indirect expression to communicate meanings that may remain implicit rather than explicit, making interpretation dependent on contextual knowledge (Chilton, 2004; Hatim & Mason, 1990). These features demonstrate that political discourse functions not merely to inform but to shape perception and influence public opinion.

Another defining feature of political texts is their strong cultural embeddedness. Political concepts, institutional references, and value-laden expressions are often rooted in the historical and sociocultural context of the source society, which may not have direct equivalents in the target culture. As a result, meaning is frequently negotiated through culturally specific frameworks that influence both production and interpretation of discourse (Munday, 2016; van Dijk, 1998). This cultural specificity intensifies the interpretive responsibility of the translator, who must reconstruct meaning across differing ideological and social systems.

These characteristics give rise to significant challenges in political translation, particularly regarding neutrality, ambiguity, and interpretive plurality. Political language often contains vague or strategically ambiguous expressions that allow multiple interpretations, while translators' own ideological positioning may consciously or unconsciously shape lexical

choices. Furthermore, cultural divergence between source and target contexts can complicate the transfer of politically sensitive concepts, requiring careful mediation rather than direct equivalence (Baker, 2006; Hatim & Mason, 1990). Consequently, political translation demands critical awareness of discourse, ideology, and context to preserve both meaning and communicative intent.

### Political Translation Techniques

- Contextual Analysis: Understanding the political and cultural context of the original text.
- Terminology verification: Use reliable sources to verify the accuracy of terminology.
- Translation Reservations: Avoid literally translating terms that may be sensitive.
- Consult with experts: When in doubt, it is preferable to consult experts in the political or cultural field.

### Activity N° : Political Translation

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ترجم النص التالي الى اللغة الإنجليزية

الرئيس تبون يشيد بوعي وشجاعة المرأة الجزائرية في "الهبة الوطنية التاريخية السلمية"

—أشاد رئيس الجمهورية، السيد عبد المجيد تبون، الاحد بالجزائر العاصمة، بمستوى الوعي السياسي

والشجاعة اللذين تحلت بهما المرأة الجزائرية في "الهبة الوطنية التاريخية السلمية" دفاعا عن البلاد ضمن

"مسار التغيير السلمي والديمقراطي لبناء الجمهورية الجديدة".

وفي كلمة له خلال إشرافه على حفل بمناسبة إحياء اليوم العالمي للمرأة، أعرب الرئيس تبون عن "تقديره لمستوى الوعي السياسي والشجاعة اللذين تحلت بهما المرأة الجزائرية في الهبة الوطنية التاريخية السلمية ووقوفها جنبا الى جنب مع أخيها الرجل في الدفاع عن البلاد ضمن مسار التغيير السلمي الديمقراطي لبناء الجمهورية الجديدة التي نحن بصدد وضع أسسها من خلال إعداد دستور وطني توافقي يقطع بصفة جذرية مع ممارسات الماضي ويعطي لكل ذي حق حقه في إطار دولة قوية وعادلة وديمقراطية".

وأشاد الرئيس تبون بهذه المناسبة التي حملت هذه السنة شعار "المرأة الجزائرية. عمل وإبداع" ب"الرصيد الحافل والمساهمات الفعالة للمرأة الجزائرية على امتداد مراحل المقاومة الشعبية إبان الاستعمار الفرنسي الغاشم الى ثورة التحرير العظيمة، مروراً بسنوات المأساة الوطنية وصولاً الى الحراك الشعبي المبارك الذي كان المنعرج الحاسم نحو التغيير الديمقراطي المنشود".

وأبرز رئيس الجمهورية ان المرأة الجزائرية في دولتها المستقلة "تتخطى كل الحواجز للمساهمة في صناعة النهضة العلمية والعملية لبلادها وتثبت بذلك جدارتها وتفوقها في شتى مجالات العلوم والمعارف وفي قيادة الاعمال وتقلد المناصب في كل مستويات المسؤولية مع استمرارها أما، زوجة وربة بيت، في الاضطلاع بدورها التاريخي المقدس المتمثل في تربية الاجيال والمساهمة في صناعة مستقبل الامة بروح منفتحة تحافظ على اصالة شعبنا وموروثها الحضاري وتنسجم مع متطلبات العصر".

### Translating Legal Texts

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define legal translation and explain its role within specialised translation.
2. Identify the linguistic and pragmatic features of legal language and legal discourse.
3. Recognize the nature and distinctive characteristics of legal texts across legal systems.
4. Apply appropriate strategies and techniques for accurate and functional legal translation.

#### Introduction

Legal translation is a highly specialised field that involves transferring legal meaning between languages while preserving the legal effect and interpretive force of the source text. Because law is embedded in a specific linguistic, cultural, and institutional framework, every legal text reflects the legal system that produced it. Consequently, legal translation requires not only linguistic competence but also comparative legal awareness and sensitivity to systemic differences between source and target legal cultures (Cao, 2007; Šarčević, 1997).

#### Definition of Legal Translation

Legal translation refers to the process of translating texts that create, interpret, or apply legal norms, such as legislation, contracts, judicial decisions, treaties, and administrative documents. Its primary aim is to reproduce legal meaning and effect rather than merely linguistic form. Since legal systems differ conceptually and terminologically, equivalence in legal translation is functional and contextual rather than purely lexical (Šarčević, 1997; Cao, 2007).

### Legal Language and Legal Discourse

Legal language is characterised by precision, formality, technical terminology, and conventionalised structures intended to minimise ambiguity and ensure interpretive stability. It frequently employs specialised vocabulary, complex syntactic patterns, performative expressions, and formulaic phrases. Legal discourse, in turn, operates within institutional contexts where language performs regulatory and normative functions, shaping rights, duties, and obligations. As scholars note, legal language is not universal but closely tied to national legal traditions and conceptual frameworks (Tiersma, 1999; Gibbons, 2003).

### Nature of Legal Texts

Legal texts are normative, authoritative, and system-bound. They are drafted to produce legal consequences and are interpreted according to established legal principles within specific jurisdictions. Their meaning is therefore inseparable from the legal system that governs their interpretation, making direct equivalence across languages particularly complex (Šarčević, 1997).

### Challenges in Legal Translation

Legal translation presents distinct difficulties, including the technical nature of legal terminology, system-specific concepts lacking direct equivalents, and the necessity of preserving legal validity and precision. Because legal language reflects cultural and institutional traditions, translators must mediate between differing conceptual systems rather than merely transfer words (Cao, 2007; Tiersma, 1999).

### Strategies and Techniques in Translating Legal Texts

Effective legal translation requires a functional and comparative approach. Key strategies include:

- **Functional equivalence:** selecting target-language expressions that produce comparable legal effects.
- **Terminological consistency:** maintaining stable use of legal terms within and across texts.
- **Comparative legal analysis:** understanding conceptual differences between legal systems before translating.
- **Explicitation and clarification:** resolving system-specific references when necessary for comprehension.
- **Consultation of authoritative sources:** using legal dictionaries, statutes, and expert knowledge to ensure accuracy.

These strategies aim to preserve both semantic precision and legal force, ensuring that the translated text functions appropriately within the target legal context (Šarčević, 1997; Cao, 2007).

### Activity : Legal Translation

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#### الجزء الأول:

ترجم النص التالي الى اللغة الإنجليزية، (والذي هو عبارة عن جزء من عقد إيجار مع بعض التعديلات)

، ثم حدد أبرز الصعوبات التي واجهتها أثناء الترجمة وكيف تغلبت عليها:

حرر هذا العقد يوم السادس من ماي 2020 بين كل من محمد فاضل (مؤجر) وسامي علي (مستأجر)؛

وأثبتا به مايلي:

يدفع المستأجر في مكتب المؤجر إيجارا شهريا قدره 8000 دج. يدفع مقدما في اليوم الأول من كل شهر خلال فترة العقد.

عين المستأجر العقار المذكور المعاينة التامة النافية للجهالة، وقبله على حالته. ويعتبر استلام المستأجر له دليلا دامغا على تسلمه له في حالة جيدة مالم ينص في هذا العقد على خلاف ذلك.

يوافق المستأجر على الحفاظ على العقار المذكور وملحقاته في حالة نظيفة وصحية ومظهر جيد. على أن يعيده إلى المؤجر فور انتهاء هذا العقد بسبب انتهاء مدته أو بأي طريقة أخرى أيا كانت بنفس الحالة النظيفة والجيدة التي كان عليها وقت تحرير هذا العقد.

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المؤجر : Lessor المستأجر : Lessee عقد ايجار: Lease

### الجزء الثاني:

### ترجم النص التالي إلى اللغة الإنجليزية:

تشكل الفكرة العامة للعدالة لب جميع أنظمة القانون. وغالبا ما تمثل العدالة، المرتبطة بالإنصاف والنزاهة، في امرأة معصوبة العينين تحمل ميزانا\* يرمز إلى نزاهة القانون. ويقال إن العدالة يجب أن تُطبق وأن يُشهد تطبيقها.

ويعتبر الكثيرون من فلاسفة السياسة والحقوق أن القانون هو السمة المميزة، بل الجوهر بالذات، للدولة القومية. ومع أننا نتكلم عادة عن قوانين علمية أو إلهية أو اقتصادية أو اجتماعية، فإن مفهوم القانون بالنسبة إلى العالم السياسي، يتضمن معنى العمليات والمبادئ والمعايير والقواعد التي تحكم العلاقات. وتساعد في حل التضارب في مصالح الناس والمؤسسات داخل مجتمع متماسك.

\*في ثقافات معينة، تحمل الميزان بيد وسيفا باليد الأخرى.

من خلال ترجمة هذا النص والنص السابق حدد أبرز خصائص النص القانوني.

### Supplementary Practical Exercises

The following exercises have been added to reinforce the theoretical concepts covered in the lectures above. They are designed to develop students' practical translation and interpreting skills progressively, moving from controlled tasks to open-ended professional challenges.

#### **PART A — Interpreting Skills Exercises**

##### Exercise A-1: Distinguishing Interpreting Modes

Read each scenario below. Identify which mode of interpreting would be most appropriate (Consecutive, Simultaneous, or Sight Translation) and justify your choice in two or three sentences.

1. A United Nations General Assembly session with delegates from 50 countries delivering speeches one after another, each lasting approximately 15 minutes.
2. | 2. An Algerian patient who speaks only Arabic is visiting an English-speaking specialist in Canada. The doctor asks detailed questions about the patient's medical history, waiting for answers before proceeding.
3. | 3. A foreign investor has just received a lease agreement written in Arabic and must understand its main clauses immediately before signing.
4. | 4. A live television press conference in which an Arab head of state delivers an unscripted speech to an international media audience.

##### **Exercise A-2: Consecutive Interpreting and Note-Taking Practice**

Step 1: Read the speech aloud (or listen to it). Take notes using symbols, abbreviations, and key words only — do not transcribe word for word.

Step 2: Using only your notes, render the speech in Arabic as accurately and fluently as possible.

Step 3: Compare your version with a classmate and discuss any differences in meaning or register.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the issue of climate change is no longer a distant threat. According to the latest reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global temperatures have risen by approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This rise has triggered more frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and significant biodiversity loss. Governments around the world must act decisively by reducing carbon emissions, investing in renewable energy, and supporting vulnerable communities most affected by these environmental shifts. Delay is not an option; the window for meaningful action is rapidly closing.”

**Reflection:** Which terms were most difficult to render into Arabic? Were any concepts culturally unfamiliar? How did your note-taking strategy help or hinder your delivery?

### **Exercise A-3: Public Speaking Self-Assessment**

Prepare a two-minute spoken presentation in English on one of the following topics:

- (a) The importance of translation in a globalised world.
- (b) The challenges facing Arabic-English interpreters.
- (c) Why every student of English should develop public speaking skills. After your turn, complete the peer self-assessment grid: Clarity /5 — Organisation /5 — Eye contact and body language /5 — Pronunciation and fluency /5 — Confidence /5.

## **PART B — Translation Theory: Application Exercises**

### **Exercise B-1: Identifying Translation Approaches**

Study the three Arabic translations of the same English sentence below. Identify which reflects

- (a) a semantic approach,
- (b) a communicative approach,
- and (c) a literal approach.

Justify each answer with reference to Newmark’s theories (Lecture 6).

ST: “It’s raining cats and dogs outside, so you’d better take an umbrella.” | Version A: “المطر

إنها تمطر قططاً وكلاباً في” | Version B: “ينهمر بغزارة في الخارج، لذا من الأفضل أن تأخذ مظلة

.”الجو ممطر جداً بالخارج؛ احمل مظلتك معك” | Version C: “الخارج، لذا من الأفضل أن تأخذ مظلة

### Exercise B-2: Applying Skopos Theory

The advertising slogan “Eat Fresh. Live Well.” must be translated into Arabic for three different audiences. For each version, state the skopos (purpose), the target audience, and explain your translation choices.

Audience 1: Health-conscious urban Algerian adults aged 25-40.

Audience 2: Children aged 6-12 for a school lunch programme.

Audience 3: Elderly readers in a Gulf Arabic-speaking country.

## PART C — Equivalence in Translation: Practical Exercises

### Exercise C-1: Formal vs. Dynamic Equivalence

Translate the following English idioms into Arabic twice: once using formal equivalence and once using dynamic equivalence. Then comment on which version is more appropriate and why.

1. “Break a leg!” (said to a performer before going on stage)
2. “The ball is in your court.”
3. “Once in a blue moon.”
4. “Every cloud has a silver lining.”
5. “To kill two birds with one stone.”

### Exercise C-2: Handling Non-Equivalence (Baker's Strategies)

The following English terms have no direct single-word equivalent in Arabic. For each one, choose the most appropriate strategy from Baker's framework (TGW, TCS, TLW, TLWE, TI, TPRW, TPUW, TN/L, TO) and provide your Arabic translation with justification.

1. Brainstorming — 2. Deadline — 3. Networking — 4. Privacy — 5. Feedback — 6. Hashtag — 7. Accountability — 8. Empowerment

### PART D — Specialised Translation: Additional Exercises

#### Exercise D-1: Scientific Translation (English → Arabic)

Translate the following scientific passage from English into Arabic. Pay particular attention to technical term accuracy. After completing your translation, list five terminological challenges and explain how you resolved them.

Key terms for reference: Pathogen — مسبب المرض | Phagocyte — خلية بالعة | Lymphocyte — خلية  
ليمفاوية | Antibody — جسم مضاد | Antigen — مستضد | Inflammation — التهاب | Immunological  
memory — ذاكرة مناعية

The human immune system is a complex network of cells, tissues, and organs that work together to defend the body against harmful pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. When a pathogen enters the body, the innate immune system provides an immediate but non-specific response, triggering inflammation and activating phagocytes that engulf and destroy foreign particles. The adaptive immune system then takes over, producing antigen-specific lymphocytes — namely T-cells and B-cells — that target and eliminate the invading organism. B-cells, upon activation, differentiate into plasma cells that secrete antibodies, which bind to antigens on the surface of pathogens and neutralise them. This process results in immunological memory, allowing the body to mount a faster and stronger response upon subsequent exposure to the same pathogen.

### Exercise D-2: Literary Translation — Preserving Style and Voice

Translate the following literary excerpt into Arabic, paying close attention to tone, imagery, and rhythm. After your translation, answer:

1. What is the dominant tone and how did you preserve it in Arabic?
2. Identify two metaphors and explain your strategy for each.
3. Did you use a semantic or communicative approach? Why?

“He walked through the old medina as though time had pressed itself thin there, flattened between the stones and the shadows. The smell of cumin and charcoal hung in the air like a forgotten promise. He had been away for twenty years, and the city remembered him better than he remembered it. The alley did not widen or narrow to accommodate his grief; it simply continued, indifferent and eternal, as cities often are.”

### Exercise D-3: Economic Translation (English → Arabic)

Translate the following economic text into Arabic. For each technical term, indicate whether you used a standard Arabic equivalent, a loan word, or a paraphrase.

Key terms: Fiscal consolidation — ضبط المالية العامة | Hydrocarbon — المحروقات | Fiscal deficit — عجز الميزانية — | FDI — الاستثمار الأجنبي المباشر | GDP — الناتج المحلي الإجمالي | Subsidy — دعم حكومي.

Algeria’s economic reform agenda has placed significant emphasis on fiscal consolidation and the diversification of revenue streams beyond hydrocarbon exports. The government has outlined a medium-term expenditure framework aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit through improved tax compliance, rationalisation of subsidies, and greater investment in non-oil sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy. Analysts note that sustainable growth will require structural reforms to improve the business environment, attract foreign direct investment, and strengthen the private sector’s contribution to GDP.

### Exercise D-4: Political Translation (English → Arabic) — UN Diplomatic Register

Translate the following UN Security Council press statement into formal Arabic.

Pay attention to diplomatic register, passive constructions, and politically sensitive vocabulary. Underline any expression you found particularly challenging and annotate your translation choice.

Text: “The Security Council has urged all parties to the conflict to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from any action that could further escalate tensions in the region. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, stressing that a lasting solution can only be achieved through inclusive political dialogue and diplomatic engagement. Humanitarian access to affected civilian populations must be guaranteed without delay or precondition.”

### **Exercise D-5: Legal Translation (English → Arabic) — Employment Contract**

Translate the following employment contract extract into Arabic, then answer the follow-up questions:

1. How did you handle “gross misconduct”? Is there a precise Arabic legal equivalent?
2. Identify two performative expressions (e.g. “agrees to”, “reserves the right”) and explain how you preserved their legal force.
3. What strategy did you use for “hereinafter referred to as”?

This Agreement is entered into on the first day of September 2025 between Horizon Technologies S.A.R.L. (hereinafter referred to as “the Employer”) and Mr. Yacine Belkacem (hereinafter referred to as “the Employee”). The Employee agrees to perform the duties and responsibilities associated with the position of Senior Software Engineer in a professional and diligent manner. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing thirty (30) days’ written notice. The Employer reserves the right to terminate this contract without notice in cases of gross misconduct or material breach of the terms herein. All confidential information obtained in the course of employment shall remain strictly confidential and shall not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the Employer.

## PART E — Sworn Translation: Simulation Exercise

### Exercise E-1: Sworn Translation Simulation (Arabic → English)

You are a sworn translator. Translate the following official Algerian birth certificate extract into English. Then draft the certification statement that a sworn translator would attach to the document, including: translator's name, seal reference, date, location, and attestation of accuracy.

مستخرج من سجل المواليد — بلدية الوادي — الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية. يُشهد بأن

المدعو: بلخير يوسف، من جنس ذكر، وُلد بتاريخ الثاني عشر من أبريل عام ألفين وواحد، بمدينة الوادي،

ولاية الوادي. اسم الأب: بلخير محمد. اسم الأم قبل الزواج: دراجي فاطمة. حُرر هذا المستخرج بناءً على

طلب صاحب الشأن وسُلم إليه للاستعمال القانوني. محرر بالوادي بتاريخ العاشر من يناير 2025. ضابط

الحالة المدنية.

## PART F — Translation Revision and Error Analysis

### Exercise F-1: Spot and Correct the Errors

The following student translations contain errors. Read each source text and its attempted Arabic translation.

Identify the error(s) — specifying whether each is a mistranslation, omission, register problem, literal rendering, or cultural error — then provide a corrected version.

Item 1 — ST: “The defendant was acquitted of all charges due to insufficient evidence.” | Student TT: “تم تبرئة المتهم من كل التهم بسبب الأدلة غير الكافية.” [Error type? Correction?]

Item 2 — ST: “The company announced a significant downturn in its quarterly earnings, attributing the losses to rising raw material costs and weakening consumer demand.” | Student

أعلنت الشركة عن انخفاض كبير في أرباحها الفصلية، مُعزّيةً الخسائر إلى ارتفاع تكاليف المواد الخام وضعف طلب: “TT: المستهلكين” [Is this acceptable? What would you improve?]

### Exercise F-2: Back-Translation as a Quality Check

**Step 1:** Translate the following Arabic paragraph into English.

**Step 2:** Without looking at your translation, give it to a classmate who will translate it back into Arabic.

**Step 3:** Compare the back-translated Arabic with the original and discuss what the differences reveal about translation loss and equivalence.

إن اللغة ليست مجرد أداة للتواصل، بل هي المرآة التي تعكس هوية الشعوب وذاكرتهم الحضارية. ومن هنا تنبع أهمية الترجمة بوصفها جسراً يربط بين الثقافات ويُسهّم في نقل المعرفة الإنسانية عبر الحدود. غير أن المترجم الحقيقي لا يكتفي بنقل الألفاظ، بل يسعى إلى استحضار الروح الكامنة وراء النص ونقلها بأمانة إلى القارئ في اللغة الأخرى.

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