Challenges of Translating Diplomatic Discourse, Terminology and Proverbs from English to Albanian Language

Redi Papa
*University for Business and Technology*, redi.papa@ubt-uni.net

Follow this and additional works at: [https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference](https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference)

**Recommended Citation**

[https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference/2019/events/51](https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/conference/2019/events/51)

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Publication and Journals at UBT Knowledge Center. It has been accepted for inclusion in UBT International Conference by an authorized administrator of UBT Knowledge Center. For more information, please contact knowledge.center@ubt-uni.net.
Challenges of Translating Diplomatic Discourse, Terminology and Proverbs from English to Albanian Language

Redi Papa

UBT – Higher Education Institution, Lagjja Kalabria, 10000 p.n., Pristina, Kosovo

Abstract. This paper aims to closely elaborate the comprehensive linguistic and stylistic features and aspects of equivalency regarding proverbs and diplomatic terminology in order to carry out a comparison with Albanian equivalents. The language of diplomacy and terminology has been broadly extended particularly during the last three decades. The sphere of this style is closely related to activities concerned with meetings, conferences, congresses. Indeed it is worth emphasizing that the whole range of these activities isn’t devoid of proverbs and terminology which renders specific peculiarities. Contrary to other fields the purpose of diplomatic texts, utterances and proverbs it’s not that of merely conveying information but to serve the interests of a certain socio-political or ideological group. Among others, I will primarily focus on analyzing the stylistic function of socio-political discourse and terminology owing to the fact that English is already being referred to as the language of contemporary diplomacy. In the course of historical developments, it’s worth pointing out that English gained supremacy in 1919 during the decision-making which followed the First World War. Undoubtedly the growth linguistic predominance came as a result of political expansion. Moreover during the post-war world English was at a large perceived as cultural legacy of colonial era and technological revolution. Nowadays English is at large extent being used in all spheres of diplomacy such as bilateral, multilateral agreements, public diplomacy, NGO’s, in relations between diplomatic corpses etc. In this point of view it is of significant importance to provide a fully-fired panorama of the key components which are necessary to embark on with a subtle scrutiny of equivalency of diplomatic discourse from English to Albanian with as special emphasis on terminology.

Keywords: proverbs, terminology, diplomatic discourse, stylistic function, linguistics

Introduction

In the course of latest historical developments translation has been of English Language had a leading role and as a matter of fact, it has gained a global status at a large scale by being merely recognized in all corners of the world. As David Crystal emphasizes it is a language which is widely used in various mediums of communication in such domains as governments, law courts, media and educational system and to penetrate in different societies it is essential to master English Language. Crystal (2003:21). Actually, English language is being referred to as the language of diplomacy. The main forum of political communication United Nation dates in 1945 and along with it there have been established numerous other international bodies such as World Bank (1945), UNESCO, UNICEF both in (1946), World Health Organization in (1948), and International Atomic Energy Agency (1957). The whole range of these bodies has been frequently represented in single meetings and the adoption of a single language to facilitate communications in such contexts has been indispensable. Crystal (2003:29). Consequently,
languages may be succinctly divided in dominant which is at a large extent subjugated to people and lingua franca which is freely accepted as a system of communication for mutual understanding. Snell-Hornby (139:2006). This may succinctly explained by the fact that international politics broadly operates in various ways and incorporates several levels but presence of English is permanently evident. As a result, political protests, riots even peaceful lobbies next to embassies convey their messages in English.

In addition, it is worth emphasizing that translation has played a key role in international policy making and diplomacy (for example, the signing of bilateral and multilateral contracts, delivering speeches during state visits) and in national policy-making in particular for officially bilingual or multilingual countries. Schaffner, Bassnet (2010:12). Due to the significant importance as a global language, it has led Albanian translators, diplomats, scholars and linguists to reveal a keen interest draw comparisons between source and target language regarding the terminology of diplomatic discourse. Contrary to other layers or lexical sub-divisions, socio-political lexicon is comprised of distinctive features and reflects on social and ideological groupings, socio-economic relations, ideological matters etc. Due to the fact, the equivalence in meaning can’t be considered a satisfactory criterion for an accurate translation as well as the idea that equivalence in meaning is merely provided by synonymy is ungrounded, lacking a sound argument. Eco (2001:9). Those differences are reflected even between English and Albanian respectively in translation socio-political discourse. The Albanian notable linguist Xhevat Lloshi categorizes socio-political lexicon in the following groups, Lloshi (2005:231):

1. Denominations of the activities related to political parties and social organizations such as; plenum, komitet drejtues, kongres, kuotë, conference, mbledhje ose organizatë. The equivalents in English are: plenum, steering committee, congress, quota, conference, meeting or organization;

2. Words which comprise the core of political ideologies such as; diktatura e proletariatit, revolucioni socialist, lufta e klasave, kooperimi, this discourse is related to communist ideology, whereas; shetët ligjar, ekonemia e tregut, të drejtat e njeriut, bota e lirë, pluralizimi, privatizimi is a terminology widely used in the post-communist society. The equivalents in English are: dictatorship of proletariat, socialist revolution, class struggles, cooperation, the rule of law, market economy, human rights, free world, pluralism, privatization;

3. The lexicon concerned with social and economical orders such as: klasë, borgjezi, fshatarësi, tinia, kapitalizmi, superstruktura, imperializmi, republikan, demokraci, diktaturë, anarkizëm, konsensusi, pakti social, kandidati për deputet. The English equivalents are; class, bourgeoisie, peasantry, capitalism, superstructure, imperialism, republican, democracy, dictatorship, anarchy, consensus, social pact, candidate for deputy;

4. Words with regard to social political struggles; revolucion, grevë, aksion, bojkotim. The English equivalents are; revolution, strike, action, boycott;

5. Lexicon comprising socio-political phenomena; korrupsiun, nepotizëm, liberalizëm, destabilizat. The English equivalents are corruption, nepotism, liberalism, and destabilization;

Meanwhile, Leech provides a multifaceted overview regarding meaning of style, which has been consistently subject to a kind of over-definition, characterized by unsuccessful attempts to give a concise meaning. He appears to have a far more precise approach regarding this issue, and as a
matter of fact has drawn the following conclusions as follows; (i) Style is a way in which language is used: i.e., it belongs to parole rather than to langue; (ii) Therefore style consists in choices made from the repertoire of the language; (iii) A style is defined in terms of a domain of language use (e.g., what choices are made by a particular author, in a particular genre, or in a particular text); (iv) Stylistics (or the study of style) has typically been concerned with literary language; (v) Literary stylistics is typically (again, as in this book) concerned with explaining the relation between style and literary or aesthetic function; (vi) Style is relatively transparent or opaque: transparency implies paraphrasing, opacity implies that a text cannot be adequately paraphrased, and that interpretation of the text depends greatly on the creative imagination of the reader. Leech (48:2007). Owing to the fact that socio-political discourse is devoid of aesthetic function opposing the literary texts, which are at large scale distinguished for their artistic value. Contrary to poetry, which Edgar Allan Poe defines it as “a rhythmical creation of beauty”, succinctly said, the core function of socio-political discourse is concerned with political systems such as: dictatorships, communism, democracy, political groups, socio-political movements and as a result it is primarily focused on genres such as propaganda or campaigning, political speeches etc. Obviously it is a harsh language immersed into dogmas bare of artistic value.

The method of translation used in the above-mentioned comparison between Albanian and English equivalents there is interwoven to each other two methods of translation that of literal and word-for-word translation. The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. The SL word-order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context. Cultural words are translated literally, Newmark (46:1988).

Translation of Idioms and diplomatic terminology from English-Albanian “translation vs. interpretation”

Translation has been often defined with reference to meaning, and there it is frequently argued that the translation shall have the “same meaning” as the original. According to Catford, it is defined as a network of relations entered in a linguistic form, text, item-in-text, element of structure, class, term in system etc. Moreover, he distinguishes between formal linguistic units of grammar and lexis which are of two kinds formal relations and ii) contextual relations. Formal relations mean one formal relation between one item and others in the same language. In lexis these are formal relations between and others in the same lexical set and co-textual relations between lexical items in the text. The various formal relations which a form enters constitute is called formal meaning. Whereas the contextual relations we mean the relationship between grammatical and lexical items to linguistically relevant elements in situations which operate or in texts. The range of situational elements found relevant to a given linguistic form constitutes the contextual meaning of that form, Catford (1965:36). In the following phraseology in the domain of diplomacy and politics is witnessed a contextual meaning from TL to SL, in translation from English Language to Albanian language: A front runner of elections: kandidat kryesor, udhëheqës. To drop out a presidential race: largohem, heq dorë nga gara presidenciale. A snap election: zgjedhje shumë të shpejta rrufe. To win by a slight margin: fitoj mjaft. To handpick a candidate: zgjedh vet një kandidat. To be locked in a neck and neck race: gozhdohem në një garë me kokë. To lift the veil of early elections: hap siparin e zgjedhjeve të parakohshme. These cities emerge as must wins: Këto qytete duhen fituar. Kote (2010: 32). In this case the translation of phraseology is devoid of technical terminology and it is primarily based on three principles of translation faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance, a) faithful equivalence of meaning, b) expressive clarity form and attractive c) elegance which makes a text a pleasure to read. This is the underlying reason why the vast majority of translation theories
focus on stylistics rather than content, (Nida 2001:1). Indeed the method of translation use in this case is that of idiomatic translation, which means that the original tends to distort the nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where they exist in original. Newmark (1988:41).

Among others it is worth posing the question: “What is that translators need to know and be able to do in order to translate?” First and foremost translator processes a text, by outlining and specifying the required skills (implicitly monolingual) text-processing. Translator is a communicator who bears the knowledge and skills which characterize a communicator. As a result, Bell Roger has suggested a possible answer to this question as follows:

“The professional translator has access to five different distinct kinds of knowledge TL (target language) knowledge, text type knowledge, SL (source language) knowledge, subject area (real-world) knowledge and contrastive language. Roger (36:1991). Moreover he claims that translator ought to know a) how prepositions are structured, b) how clauses can be synthesized to carry the prepositional content c) how the clause can be realized as information-bearing text and decomposed into clause (pragmatic knowledge). Unless the translator isn’t capable of interweaving the broad scope of these components and it means that he can’t translate. Without a) and b) even literal meaning would elude the translator and without c) would be devoid of coherence and communicative value.

Besides an accomplished translator shall be a product of an all-embraced “translator expert system” and a knowledge base consisting of: a)source language knowledge; syntactic rule system code, its lexicon and semantics and its text-creating systems, b) target language knowledge equivalent to that of source language c) text-type knowledge d) domain knowledge e) contrastive knowledge. Bell Roger (40:1991).

In this comparison to translation between Albanian and English version are encompassed all the above-mentioned components required for and ample translation from SL to TL.

**TITLES OF HEAD MISSION**

It is usual for an ambassador to be styled “Ambassador Extraordinary or plenipotentiary, (An ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary was once time superior in status of a resident ambassador). Similarly, the head of a legation is likely to be styled Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

**DATA E MARRJES SË FUNKSIONEVE**

A head of mission of ambassador rank is considered to have taken up his functions in the state which he is accredited when he has presented his credentials to the Head of State. In a few states (notably in UK,) he is considered to have taken up his functions when he has notified the appropriate ministry (Usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), of his arrival and has presented them with a working copy (copy d’ usage) of his credentials. The ceremonies for the formal acceptance of heads of mission are held strictly in order that they arrived to take up their functions. Feltham (5:1998)

Albanian Version of translation

Për një ambasador është e zakontë të titullohej ambasador i jashtëzakonshëm dhe fuqiplotë. (Një ambasador i jashtëzakonshëm dhe fuqiplotë ishte dikur superior në status me një ambasador resident.) Po ashtu kreu i një legate mund të titullohet: “I dërguar i jashtëzakonshëm dhe ministër fuqiplotë”.

**DATE OF ASSUMPTION OF FUNCTIONS**

A head of mission of ambassador rank is considered to have taken up his functions in the state which he is accredited when he has presented his credentials to the Head of State. In a few states (notably in UK,) he is considered to have taken up his functions when he has notified the appropriate ministry (Usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), of his arrival and has presented them with a working copy (copy d’ usage) of his credentials. The ceremonies for the formal acceptance of heads of mission are held strictly in order that they arrived to take up their functions. Feltham (5:1998)

Albanian Version of translation

Kreu i një misioni në rang ambasadori, konsiderohet të ketë filluar funksionet e tij në shtetin pranë të cilit është akredituar, kur ai i ka paraqitur kredencialet e tij Kryetarit të Shtetit. Në disa shhete (sidomos në Mbretënë të Bashkuar), ai konsiderohet të ketë filluar funksionet e tij, kur të
ketë njoftuar ministrinë përkatëse (zakonisht Ministrinë e Punëve të Jashme), për mbërritjen e tij dhe t'i ketë paraqitur një kopje pune (copie d'usage) të kredencialeve të tij. Ceremonitë për pranimin formal të krerëve të mission mbahen me rigorozitet sipas radhës së mbërritjes së tyre për të filluar nga funksionet. Feltham (17:2010).


Definitions, synonymy antonyms of the following words from “Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms” 1968 are as follows; 1) Strict synonyms are; stringent, rigid, rigorous, severe, austere, inflexible, inexorable, oppressive, onerous, and burdensome. Antonyms: loose, lenient, indulgent. 2) Legate n. ambassador nuncio, internuncio, chargé d'affaires, minister, envoy. Legate vb; will, bequeath, devise, leave. 3) Assumption synonyms are: presupposition, postulate, posit, presumption, premise. 3) Envoy, synonyms are: ambassador, legate, minister, nuncio, internuncio, chargé d'affaires. 4) Appropriate vb. preempts, arrogate, confiscate, usurp, seize, annex. Appropriate adj. fitting, proper, fit, suitable, apt, meet. Antonyms are: inappropriate false, incongruous, incompatible, inconsonant. 5) Ambassador, legate, nuncio, minister, envoy internuncio, charge d’affairs all designate a diplomatic agent serving his sovereign or his country and are compared with reference to their order of precedence as fixed by international regulations and protocol. Webster’s (1968: 38).

Indeed the translation of proverbs or quotations from one language to another, SL to TL or vice versa asks for adaption which is considered as the freest form of translation. As Newmark puts it this method is at a large extent used in comedies and poetry; the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved, the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten. Newmark (1988:35). Due to artistic nature of proverbs it is widely used even in this genre. This may be merely pointed out in the following comparison to translation from English to Albanian of quotations: “A Diplomat must use his ears not his mouth”-KOMURA JUTARO, the equivalent to Albanian is; Një diplomat duhet të përdorë veshët jo gojën. Diplomats, best: The best diplomat is he who is inspired solely by cold reason, asks himself only what he can obtain and how he will arrive at it GYULA SZILASSY-1928. Freeman Jr,(2009:62-64).

Characteristics of an accomplished translator for attaining an utmost proficiency in translating diplomatic terminology

Translation is a demanding and at the same time a rewarding profession when there is attained an utmost proficiency of both source and target language. Thus, it is absolutely necessary for a translator to provide a fully-fledged conveyance of equivalence from SL to TL and vice versa. First and foremost to provide a lucid, straightforward and easily absorbed text, by the targeted audience it is noteworthy to bear the following qualities which have been underpinned by renowned translator scholars. Among others, the Albanian translation scholar Tupe (2006:22),
argues that a translator who strives for perfection must render the following qualities: a) to have at least a comprehensive basic knowledge of the target language

must be able to analyze and understand a text or a given speech c) capable to carry out not only a linguistic, but even a interpretative translation d) an enriched lexicon and vocabulary, that exceeds the linguistic framework, which is in other words called “overall culture” which is sustained by an eager curiosity and a strong memory. Consequently, it means to cognize the history, culture, the social and artistic life the respective population, from whose language you want to translate; whereas it is also necessary to acquire some information about their lifestyle, e) to approach to translation as an art, technique science and profession, f) to have a strong passion and be gifted in reading, comprehending, speaking, writing and creating when asked to translate from source to target language g) lastly, what is considered as one of the underlying features of a professional translator is that he must be fostered by a insight curiosity, concerning the world that surrounds him. Whereas the translation scholar Robinson, emphasizes that a translator must bear in mind the following elements; a) never assume you understand the source text perfectly b) never assume your understanding of the source text is detailed enough to enable you to translate it adequately. c)always analyze for text type, genre, register, rhetorical function, etc. d) always analyze the source text’s syntax and semantics, making sure you know in detail what it is saying, what it is not saying, and what it is implying e)always analyze the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic relationship between the source language (especially as it appears in this particular source text) and the target language, so that you know what each language is capable and incapable of doing and saying, and can make all necessary adjustments. Robinson (1997:199).

Finally, as it is even stipulated in the code of Ethics Association des traducteurs littéraires de France (ATLF), 1988: Let it suffice to say that translators: a) Must have adequate linguistic competence. b) Must have knowledge of the pertinent subject matter. c)Must refuse to translate from a TT unless with the consent of the author. d) May only alter a text with the author’s consent, e) Have the right to accept or refuse a translation. f) May demand the documents necessary for the translation. g) Must respect professional secrets. h) Must translate personally and ensure that their name appears on TT. Pym (167:2010).

Conclusions

• The professional translator has access to five different distinct kinds of knowledge TL (target language) knowledge, text type knowledge, SL (source language) knowledge, subject area (real-world) knowledge and contrastive language;
• Translation has been often defined with reference to meaning, and there it is frequently argued that the translation shall have the “same meaning” as the original;
• The method of translation used in the comparison between Albanian and English equivalents there is interwoven to each other two methods of translation that of literal and word-for-word translation;
• Translator is a communicator who bears the knowledge and skills which characterize a communicator;
• Translation has played a key role in international policy making and diplomacy (for example, the signing of bilateral and multilateral contracts, delivering speeches during state visits) and in national policy-making in particular for officially bilingual or multilingual countries;
- The equivalence in meaning can’t be considered a satisfactory criterion for an accurate translation as well as the idea that equivalence in meaning is merely provided by synonymy is ungrounded, lacking a sound argument;
- Translator shall be a product of an all-embraced “translator expert system” and a knowledge base consisting of: a) source language knowledge: syntactic rule system code, its lexicon and semantics and its text-creating systems, b) target language knowledge equivalent to that of source language c) text-type knowledge d) domain knowledge e) contrastive knowledge;
- The translation of phraseology is devoid of technical terminology and it is primarily based on three principles of translation faithfulness, expressiveness and elegance, a) faithful equivalence of meaning, b) expressive clarity form and attractive c) elegance which makes a text a pleasure to read;
- Translator shall have an enriched lexicon and vocabulary that exceeds the linguistic framework, which is in other words called “overall culture” which is sustained by an eager curiosity and a strong memory;
- Translator must be able to analyze and understand a text or a given speech;
- Translator shall cognize the history, culture, the social and artistic life the respective population, from whose language you want to translate; whereas it is also necessary to acquire some information about their lifestyle and must never assume to understand the ST perfectly;

References

25.