## UNDERSTANDING TRANSLATION UNITS AND SHIFTS

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#### **Annotation:**

**English:** This article provides a comprehensive exploration of translation units and shifts as key concepts within the realm of translation studies. The article not only elucidates the importance of translation units and shifts but also highlights the challenges faced by translators and suggests effective strategies to overcome them. Through a different examination of these essential concepts, readers are encouraged to strengthen their understanding of cross-linguistic communication and value the complex dynamics at play in the translation process.

**Russian:** В этой статье представлено всестороннее исследование единиц перевода и сдвигов как ключевых понятий в сфере переводоведения. В статье не только поясняется важность единиц перевода и смен, но также освещаются проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются переводчики, и предлагаются эффективные стратегии их преодоления. Посредством другого рассмотрения этих основных понятий читателям предлагается лучше понять межъязыковую коммуникацию и оценить сложную динамику процесса перевода.

Oʻzbekcha: Ushbu maqola tarjimashunoslik sohasidagi asosiy tushunchalar sifatidagi tarjima birliklari va siljishlarini har tomonlama o'rganishni taqdim etadi. Maqola nafaqat tarjima birliklari va siljishlarining ahamiyatini tushuntiribgina qolmay, balki tarjimonlar duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarga ham urg'u beradi va ularni bartaraf etishning samarali strategiyalarini taklif qiladi. Ushbu asosiy tushunchalarga boshqacha

munosabatda bo'lish orqali o'quvchilar tillararo muloqotni yaxshiroq tushunishga va tarjima jarayonining murakkab dinamikasini qadrlashga da'vat etiladi.

### **Introduction: Translation units and shifts**

In the field of translation, a translation unit is a segment of a text which the translator treats as a single cognitive unit for the purposes of establishing an equivalence. It may be a single word, a phrase, one or more sentences, or even a larger unit. When a translator segments a text into translation units, the larger these units are, the better chance there is of obtaining an idiomatic translation. This is true not only of human translation, but also where human translators use computer-assisted translation, such as translation memories, and when translations are performed by machine translation systems.

First of all, let's define what is translation units and shifts. Translation shifts are the changes that occur when a text is translated into another language due to either the differences between the two languages or the translator's choices. This paper attempts to examine the translation shifts in Mohammed Khodair's short story The Swing. It aims to find out how culture-specific items found in the source text (ST) have been translated into the target language (TL); whether or not these items have undergone shifts; and what strategies that have been used in translating them. However, the present paper discusses different scholars' views related to translation shifts keeping track of this concept with the old views about it and going through the recent ones. In the field of translation, a translation unit is a segment of a text which the translator treats as a single cognitive unit for the purposes of establishing an equivalence. It may be a single word, a phrase, one or more sentences, or even a larger unit. When a translator segments a text into translation units, the larger these units are, the better chance there is of obtaining an idiomatic translation. This is true not only of human translation, but also where human translators use computer-assisted translation, such as translation memories, and when translations are performed by machine translation systems.

# **Challenges**

In addition, there are several challenges that the writers encounter when it comes to translation which can affect the quality and accuracy of their work. I will give some common challenges below:

- 1. Contextual Ambiguity: Determining the boundaries of a translation unit can be difficult when the context is ambiguous. Words or phrases may have multiple meanings depending on the context, making it challenging to choose the correct translation.
- 2. Cultural Differences: Cultural references, idioms, and colloquialisms often do not have direct equivalents in the target language. Translators must find ways to convey the same meaning or effect without losing the original's cultural richness.
- 3. Linguistic Structure: Languages have different grammatical structures, which can necessitate shifts in the translation. For example, the word order may differ significantly, or there may be grammatical categories in one language that are absent in another.
- 4. Consistency: Maintaining consistency in the translation of terms and phrases across a large document or multiple related documents can be challenging, especially when working with a team of translators.
- 5. Technical Terminology: Translating specialized or technical terms requires a deep understanding of the subject matter. Translators must often research extensively to find appropriate equivalents in the target language.
- 6. Nuances and Connotations: Words and phrases can carry connotations and subtle nuances that are difficult to replicate in another language. Finding the right balance between a literal translation and one that captures these subtleties is a common challenge.
- 7. Register and Tone: The level of formality and the tone of the original text must be matched in the translation. This can be particularly tricky when the target language has different conventions for formality or when the translator's instinctive language use differs from the source material's tone.

8. Length Constraints: Some translations, such as subtitles or software localization, have strict space or character limits. Translators must convey the original message within these constraints, which can lead to difficult choices about what to omit or alter.

However, addressing these challenges requires a combination of linguistic expertise, cultural knowledge, technical skills, and the ability to make informed decisions about how best to convey the meaning of the source text in the target language.

In conclusion, mastering the art of translation requires a diverse set of skills, from linguistic prowess and cultural understanding to research abilities and technical knowhow. It's a challenging yet rewarding profession that offers the chance to bridge cultures and facilitate communication across borders. Whether just starting your translation journey or looking to refine your skills, remember that continual learning and practice are essential. As the world becomes more interconnected, the demand for skilled translators is only set to grow.

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