

# The Art of Translation

ಅನುವಾದಮು μετάφραση ಅನುವಾದ перевод  
अनुवाद Übersetzung ಅನುವಾದ traduzione ಅನುವಾದ  
översättning, kääntäminen, 訳, vertimas

- **Translation** is an activity comprising the **rendering** of the meaning of text in one language — the *source language* — and the production in a new, equivalent text in another language .— the *target language*.

A quote by Dr. David Bello, one of the nation's active literary translators.



I would not urge anyone to take up translation if they don't have a passion to pursue alongside a taste for exploring their own language.

# Components of Translation

- Comprehension of both the target language and English
- Equal proficiency in the target language and in English
- Training and maintaining the target language and English
- Ability to write in English at the same level as the target language



# The Significance of Culture

- **Native speakers of foreign languages:**
- - decipher implicit meaning in written communications
- - decode cultural nuances
- - clarify values expressed in writing
- - explain attitudes, ideas and beliefs
- - link the source text to its cultural context

# Key Translation Skills

- RE-WORDING
  - - Synonymy –interchangeability
  - - Transfer – substitution
  - - Reduction – cutting back words
  - - Expansion – amplification, addition
- EQUIVALENCE
  - - Literal where practical
  - - Paraphrase where necessary

## PARAPHRASE THIS SENTENCE

- The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.



# A Couple of Examples

- The motivation exists, but action is difficult.
- The will is there, but the follow-through is lacking.

# Bad Translation

- The vodka is strong, but the meat is rotten.





# Synonym Exercise

- Presentation
- Diverse
- Collection

# Synonym Exercise

- Delivery, introduction, show, offering, exhibition, exposition
- Disparate, different, distinct, contrasting, contrary, dissimilar, varied, assorted
- Assemblage, assortment, compilation, selection, batch, caboodle, cluster, clump

# Translation Nightmares

- In a Paris hotel elevator: *Please leave your values at the front desk.*
- In an Acapulco hotel: *The manager has personally passed all the water served here.*
- Outside a Hong Kong tailor shop: *Ladies can have a fit upstairs.*
- In a Copenhagen airline ticket office: *We take your bags and send them in all directions.*



# TYPES OF TRANSLATIONS

- **VERBATIM** of a level 2/2+ text:
- Ankarin kuivuus vuosisatoihin on korventanut Lähi-idän maita Välimeren itäpuolella kohta parikymmentä vuotta. Näin raportoivat Nasan Goddard-instituutin tutkijat. Kuivuuskausi on koetellut Kyprosta, Israelia, Jordaniaa, Libanonia, Palestiinaa, Syyriaa ja Turkia. Jo aiemmin sodan on katsottu saaneen sytykettä ilmastonmuutoksen kärjistämästä kuivuudesta.
- **Translated as:**
- The severest drought in centuries has scorched the Mideast countries on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea for almost 20 years. This is what scientists are reporting at the NASA Goddard Institute. This bout of dryness has afflicted Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey. Even earlier, the climate change causing the worsening drought was believed to be the catalyst for the Syrian war.

# Gisting and Summarizing

- **A gisted translation:**

- Research scientists at the NASA Goddard Institute are studying the effects of a long standing drought in the Middle East. Countries affected by the drought include Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey. The drought is believed to be the impetus for the Syrian War.

- **A summary translation:**

- NASA Goddard scientists believe that a severe drought in the Middle East provoked by climate change has been a catalyst for the Syrian War.

# Native Translators of LTCLs

- POINTS TO PONDER:
- Translators of the 09L languages possess unique and rare skills
- Make use of these rare skills
- Training in English is imperative
- Training in the native language is imperative
- Training in translation is imperative
- Even level 4 and 5 translators need training



# Program to Reward Afghan and Iraqi Translators

- About 12,000 Afghan translators have applied for a visa under a program Congress designed as a way to both thank them and help them escape often-dangerous situations, where attacks retaliating against them for helping the Americans have cost many their lives.

# Final Note

- **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**