

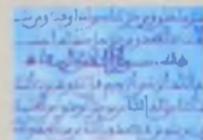
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TRANSLATION STUDIES ABROAD: GENERAL

The aim of the article is to outline the object named in the headline. For translation teachers it is necessary to familiarize future translators with the most significant works of foreign translatoologists. This article is the first in the series that highlights this subject written in English.

The object of the present article is to make an outline of the tendencies of the most significant works of foreign translatoologists with a view to familiarize future translators with the development of translation history outside the CIS.

Though translation has a long history, modern translatology was formed as a self-dependent scientific discipline mainly in the second half of the twentieth century. The post-war extension of international contacts in all spheres of human intercourse caused a sharp necessity in translations and translators, which fact became a powerful stimulus for the growth of the number of theoretical researches of translation activity. For the past 50 years, scientific publications in translation problems were so numerous that it is hardly possible to give a comprehensive survey of these translation studies. Modern translatology is characterized by a great variety of theoretical conceptions and methods of research. The accumulated scientific store of knowledge needs to be analyzed and interpreted. Creation of the history of the twentieth century translatology is of indubitable theoretical and practical interest.

Modern translatology may be characterized as the result of the interdisciplinary researches using methods of many sciences. The study of translation is conducted from the positions of literary criticism, cognitive and experimental psychology, neurophysiology and ethnography. However, by virtue of many objective and subjective reasons, the majority of works in the field of the theory of translation has a more or less strongly pronounced linguistic basis. Linguistic researches brought the basic contribution to the development of the science about translation. For the successful formation of linguistic translatology there were a lot of important preconditions [1, p. 15].

In the second half of the twentieth century, linguistics considerably expanded the area of its interests. From exclusive attention to the development and structure of language systems, it turned to the broad range of problems that determine the opportunity of using the language as an instrument of thinking and means of speech communication. In the center of attention of linguists, there was semantic side of language units and speech products, connection of language with thinking, reality, with the society and its culture, with other sign systems. There were new linguistic disciplines and areas of research, such as cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, text linguistics, theory of speech acts and so on. Linguistics turned into a genuine macrolinguistics – a whole complex of linguistic disciplines studying all variety of forms, ways, results and features of existence of language in a human society. Only such linguistics could take up the theoretical judgment of modern translational activity, which is necessary in view of its new unknown scopes, the increased requirements to the quality of translations and problems of mass preparation of professional translators.

It became obvious that inclusion of translation activity in the sphere of linguists' interests could give much to linguistics. Translation can be considered as a large-scale natural experiment on comparison of language and speech units in two languages in real acts of interlingual communication, and its study allows finding out the important features which can remain unrevealed within the framework of "monoilingual" researches in each of these languages.

Attraction of linguists' attention to translation activity was promoted also by the attempts to create a machine translation system, to transfer the functions of a translator to a computer that would be capable of performing this work much more quickly and cheaper. Having convinced that the basic obstacles in this area lay not in the limited opportunities of a computer, but in the insufficiency of our knowledge of the essence of the translation process (which is necessary for creation of high-grade software) many developer linguists turned to the study of "human" translation and hoped to solve the arisen problems in such way.

The subjective factor played a certain role too. The arisen necessity of large-scale preparation of professional translators led to the creation of numerous translation schools and branches which were basically created at universities and institutes of foreign languages. In the role of teachers of translation alongside with translators, there were university scholars – philologists and linguists, – which were the first to realize the necessity of theoretical judgment of translation activity for the development of scientifically proved curriculums.

The linguistic orientation of the theory of translation was connected also with the change in the character of translation activity. In the twentieth century - both in the volume and social importance - translations of texts of special character: informational, economic, legal, technical and so on, began to occupy a more important place. Unlike translations of works of fiction where the basic translation difficulties were connected with the problem of transfer of the aesthetic merits of the original created, in particular, by an individual author's use of language in translation, in such translations purely language problems came to the foreground. The texts which can be characterized as informative or pragmatic, were often anonymous, more or less standard in their form and language means, and the translator first of all had to solve purely linguistic problems caused by the distinctions in the semantic structure and features of the use of the two languages in the process of communication. And consequently, it was expedient to study such translation problems by means of linguistic methods.

At the same time many scholars who made a significant contribution to the development of modern translatology did not consider themselves as linguists though they were engaged in communicative-language aspects of translation, and some of them especially emphasize the limitation and illegitimacy of the linguistic approach to the research of translation activity. Such rejection of linguistic concept of translation is mainly explained by two reasons. First, translatology as a whole is, undoubtedly, a special scientific discipline that has many inter-disciplinary aspects. Linguistics can describe and explain a lot of major factors defining the character and results of translation, but it cannot reveal the whole many-sided nature of this complicated kind of human activity. This circumstance, however, does not belittle the important role of linguistic concepts for studying the basic mechanism of translation.

Secondly, criticism of the linguistic approach to translation obviously starts with the idea of linguistics as a discipline that is confined by the description of different language systems. One mainly means structural linguistics that was not interested in the semantic aspects of language and did not consider the structure of units that were larger than sentences. It is clear that such micro-linguistics cannot really pretend to the all-round description of the translation process, which object is the contents of texts created in different languages. As it has been specified, modern linguistics has overcome this narrow understanding of its subject.

With the macro-linguistic approach, linguistic translatology can deal with the problems that were traditionally considered non-linguistic. So, the outstanding American linguist E. Nida who made a big contribution to the development of modern translatology suggests reducing various theories of translation to four basic approaches which he calls accordingly philological, linguistic, communicative and sociosemantic [2]. E. Nida briefly characterizes each of these approaches, and it turns out that he deals with the problems which mostly enter the sphere of interests of modern macro-linguistics. So, the philological direction which historically arose earlier than the others, concentrated basically on the problem of conformity of translation to the text of the original, on the principles of adequacy of translation, based on the philological interpretation of translated texts. Definition of concepts of adequacy and equivalence remains in the center of attention of translators today, and this problem is solved much more successfully owing to the use in comparison of texts of the original and translation of the methods involving the analysis of the contents and structure of the text developed within the framework of text linguistics.

The linguistic approach is assumed by E. Nida as a natural consequence of the fact that translation always deals with two languages. He notes that the supporters of such approach give their basic attention not to formal, but to the substantial relations between the original and translation. Unfortunately, from the big number of translatalogical researches E. Nida refers only to the works of five authors (including his own ones). At the same time, he mentions many works of philosophical and psychological orientation which, in his opinion, brought an indirect contribution to the development of the linguistic approach to translation.

In the basis of the communicative approach E. Nida sees borrowing the basic concepts from the theory of communication, such as source, message, receptor, feedback, and processes of coding and decoding. As we have already noted, the communicative approach makes one of the major principles of modern linguistics, and consequently, it is an integral part of linguistics of translation. It is no mere chance that characterizing this approach, E. Nida speaks about the role of sociolinguistic works of W. Labov, D. Himes and others, about the importance of pointing out the basic functions of language, about the works of such well known linguists, as R. Jakobson and J. Grimes. It is worthy of note that among

the leading developers of the communicative approach there are J. Mounin and C. Reiss, whose translational works have a clearly pronounced linguistic basis.

The socio-semiotic approach concentrates attention on the social aspects and interaction of various sign systems (codes) in real acts of verbal communication. Here again, many factors are included in the sphere of interests of macro-linguistics which studies the correlation of linguistic, extra-linguistic and paralinguistic components in the process of speech dialogue, the whole complex of problems connected with the influence of language features, culture and thinking of the person on this process.

Certainly, among the numerous works on the theory of translation, there are many works that cannot be directly referred to linguistics, even in the widest understanding of this term: however, linguo-translational researches make the major part of modern translatology. They cover various aspects of translation activity that are one way or another connected with the use of language in the process of communication. Informative and literary, written or oral translations can serve as a material for research. In the center of attention of the researcher can also be the problems of the general theory of translation that discloses the laws underlying any act of translation in any combination of languages, of the particular theory of translation that describes translational difficulties within the framework of a concrete pair of languages, or one of the special theories of translation that study the features of particular kinds of translation.

The majority of such researches are focused on one of the main components of inter-lingual communication: the source text (original), translation process, the text of translation or the receptor of translation for whom it is intended. The works that are oriented towards the original start with the precondition that the main task of translation consists in the fullest reproduction of the source text. Their authors try to define the theoretical opportunities and practically achievable degree of affinity of texts of the original and translation in view of the distinctions in the respective languages and cultures, and also the type of the text to be translated, the purpose of translation and the character of the prospective receptor. The main problem in such researches is the development and application of objective methods of comparison of the structure and contents of texts in different languages.

An important place in the theoretical translatology is occupied by the researches of the translation process, cognitive operations of the translator, his / her strategy and techniques. As such, such operations are inaccessible for direct observation, that's why they develop indirect methods of studying the translation process. Various theoretical models and possible operations of transition from the original to translation (translational transformations), and also the possible psycholinguistic experiments are widely applied.

Orientation towards the text of translation directs the research idea in two different measurements. On the one hand, the status of translated texts is considered

in literature and culture. It is supposed that the primary goal of the translator consists in the fact that the text of translation should provide the achievement of the set goal. Such approach presupposes a different strategy of the translator giving him a much greater freedom in relation to the text of the original.

On the other hand, the text of translation is considered as a means of achieving a certain practical purpose set before the translator by the person who pays for his work (the customer, or the client), and the success of translation (its quality) is determined exclusively by the fact to what extent it meets this requirement.

Huge contribution to the development of modern translatology was made by the researches focused mainly on the receptor of translation, analyzing the pragmatic influence or the communicative effect of translation and ways of achieving such effect. The translator can seek to reproduce the communicative effect of the text of the original, or achieve another desirable influence on the receptor of translation. Thus, it can be guided by a concrete person or a group of people or by some "average" receptor as a typical representative of a certain culture. It is supposed that the source text will be translated differently depending on the addressee of the translation. In any case, it can become necessary to make some changes in the translation to adapt it to the requirements of the receptor and his / her culture.

These basic directions of linguo-translational researches do not exclude, but supplement each other. Many translatoologists study various aspects of inter-lingual communication seeking to comprehensively research translation activity.

Like any other scientific discipline, modern translatology was created thanks to efforts of scholars of many countries. It is natural that special contribution to the development of the theory of translation was made by the researchers of the countries where translation activity had got a wide range. A considerable merit in this area belongs to the Soviet (Russian) science.

Many valuable results were achieved by the scholars of the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany and some other countries.

The theoretical judgment of translational activity has a doubtless practical value. The professional competence of the translator presupposes awareness of the essential principles of modern translatology and the skill to use them in the solution of practical problems. The study of works of the domestic and foreign theoreticians of translation makes an important part of preparation of future translators.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, university curricula for professional translators, as a rule, include special courses of the theory of translation. However, familiarization of students with the works of foreign translatoologists is difficult because the works are hard to obtain. Written in various languages they have essentially not been translated into Kazakh or Russian and are not available even in the leading libraries of the Kazakhstan or Russia. It is necessary then to create a

survey course which would contain at least a brief reproduction of the chief works of foreign translato­logists who made a serious contribution to the development of the science of translation.

Of course, within a survey course, the numerous literature sources of the theory of translation cannot be represented in a wide scope. The choice of the authors and their works, the statement of contents of these works will be inevitably subjective and to some extent fragmentary. Professor V. N. Komissarov who was the first to make such survey proposed the following criteria for the selection of material:

1. The review should include basically fundamental works (monographs). Mention is should be made of some articles that played an important role in the rise of modern translato­logy.

2. The works that deal with the problems of the general theory of translation are considered. As a rule, the research is conducted on the material of translations with a certain set of languages, but its author seeks to reveal the problems and laws that are common for all translations with any combination of languages.

3. The works of linguistic or quasi-linguistic orientation are considered. It means that the essential part of their contents is directly or indirectly connected with the units, factors, processes and methods of the analysis which enter the sphere of interests of modern linguistics. The linguistic character of the approach is determined by a range of problems instead of material studied which can include any translations – literary and informative, written and oral.

4. The survey presents in the first place the treatises of translato­logists of the countries where translation researches are most numerous and significant. However, in some cases the country can be presented by individual works that made an essential contribution to modern translato­logy. The limited choice of the leading “translato­logist” countries does not, of course, mean absence of significant works in the theory of translation in other countries.

5. The choice of analyzed works in each country is also limited and does not mean less importance or absence of other researches of translation in this country, that have not been included in the review.

6. In most cases, the national identity of the author and his works do not raise doubts irrespective of the language in which they are written. However, some authors live, work and publish their works (or part of them) outside the native land. It should be emphasized that the science of translation does not know national borders, and the geographical principle was accepted only for convenience of statement.

7. Some works in the theory of translation can be united on the basis of commonness of the initial assumptions, general-theoretical concepts or applied methods of research that allows speaking about separate scientific schools or directions. However, as a rule, in each country various directions of researches coexist.

8. The sequence of sections of the survey is substantially arbitrary and does not mean the comparative value of the contribution of scholars of different countries.

The brief characteristic of separate works can give only a general idea about their content and importance. A fuller picture of the history of modern foreign translatology can be made by a self-dependent study of these and other works of foreign theoreticians of translation.

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Шетелдегі аударматану: жалпы ескертулер

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