



## **REALITY, PRACTICE, TRANSLATION: Translator as Language Mediator**

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### **Abstract:**

Given the expanding of interpreter jobs these days, with an acceleration of spreading news about the latest events around the world in each single minutes. The world is become more demandable for exist proficient mediators and interpreters. With absence statistical information about the exact number of pages that translated in each minute over the world. You could imagine how many archives, pages, reports, interviews, news are decoding, recording, translating, and saving in each day.

Translation as language mediation is naturally existed since language was originated. Translation is not just rendering words or act of speech form one language to another. It's a continuation process begins with words and ends with valuable heritage of thoughts, meanings, feelings, and concepts. Therefore, the essential mission of translator is language' carrier of everything related to civilizations and nations. Translator task could be the centre of universe thinking. During the translation process, the translator will recreate and reproduce the source language in the form of the target language syntactically, culturally, and semantically.





In regards another word, the interpreter needs a significant comprehension of the qualities and presumptions underpinning act as language mediator, sensitively of negotiating and text structure that should be understandable to both parts. Despite the huge of research and studies that published during past years, but most of it focused on culture function. Therefore, in this paper the researcher discussed the translator role as language mediator and how the translation is essential in language mediation process. Also, this paper presented three new phases may translator use to translate and deliver the speech from one language to another. The paper concluded that translator based on his situation could employ as language mediator.

**Keywords:** Mediator; translator as language mediator; carrier; cultural transfer; mediation.

## 1. Introduction

Translation since centuries has been taken as corner stone of civilizations. Generation after generation, translation played a pivotal role in transferring, rendering, carrying, and conveying messages, thoughts, arts, sciences, literature, cultures, etc. A long time ago, flattered thoughts were coming to my mind about the roles in which interpreters and translators could played. In this paper, I picked up this topic as I believe it is an important to be investigated, so I believe that translator could fill this role, during my years of field work in translation, I realized that translation is a mediation process, and it is essentially in conveying thoughts and messages amide civilizations and nations. It is commonly believed that translator as a culture mediator but in this paper, I suggested that translator also linguistically and semantically mediator. The translator in addition to his role in rendering language from one to another, he also be expert in different aspect

beyond texts as culture, thoughts, customs, traditions, society norms, semantic relations, various kinds of interpreting and translation orally and written and other language aspects. This paper present new concepts related to translator as mediator and conveyer of the text and speech into the end user. Whereas translation is a communication process to simplify, analysis, convey and render the speech from language to another. Therefore, the researcher suggested in this regard three phases regarding translator as mediator as follows:

- **Translation as photographic process**
- **Translation as analysis process**
- **Translation as reproduction process**

**1.1. Translation as photographic** means he will show the text as the first step in translation process, the translator should look for the sentences, body of text, beyond the text, cohesion and coherence of the text, relations between words and sentences, linkers, and format. In this process, translator behave as photographer as if he is zooming, closing, and disclosing the text.

**1.1.1. There are some steps may translator follow:**

- Choose a Strong Focal Point; what type of text, how many sentence, phrases there are, what kinds of sentences, junctions, part of speech include in, type of lines, size, fonts, format, etc..
- Use leading lines; imagine the first step decided to take, how is supposed to begin and what is the best way should take, etc..
- Put some thought into perspective; arrange your idea, thoughts, meanings and make a mentality list. put your final perspective of the text

and make sure you have good initial impression. Now move to the next phrase

**1.2. Translation as analysis** means translator should dive underline of texts, reveal the secret behind words, scan segments of sentences word by word

**1.2.1. The analysis of text may follow these steps:**

- Making an induction, focusing on body language, and conclusion.
- Hooking the text and diving to the bottom of text.
- Previewing the main points covered in the body.
- Determining the type of speech that need analyzed and where it took place.

**1.3. Translation as reproduction** process means translator should be expert in dressing a final product of text.

**1.3.1. Text production and message of text includes a few steps:**

- Ideation, organizing of text.
- Planning and mapping
- Functioning and modification.
- Quality Reproduction

**2. Definitions:**

**Cambridge dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A person whose job is to mediate in a disagreement (= talk to the people or groups involved to help them find a solution)

**Vocabulary dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A mediator is a person who helps negotiate between two feuding parties. When a married couple is considering getting divorced, they sometimes hire a mediator to help them come to an agreement, and possibly even avoid divorce.

**The Free Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A person who mediates, esp. between parties at variance.

**Oxford Learner's Dictionaries defines “mediator” word as:**

A person or an organization that tries to get agreement between people or groups who disagree with each other.

**Lexico Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement, a go-between.

**Macmillan Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A person tries to end a disagreement between two people or groups

**Collins Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

If someone mediates between two groups of people, or mediates an agreement between them, they try to settle an argument between them by talking to both groups and trying to find things that they can both agree to.

**Longman Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A person or organization that tries to end a quarrel between two people, groups, countries etc by discussion.



### **APA Dictionary of Psychology defines “mediator” word as:**

An unseen process, event, or system that exists between a stimulus and a response, between the source and destination of a neural impulse, or between the transmitter and receiver of communications.

### **Al-Maany Dictionary defines “mediator” word as:**

A negotiator who acts as a link between parties - [synonyms]: go-between, intermediary, intermediator.

The mediator is the one who transmits thoughts and ideas from mind to mind.

This paper defines the mediator as ‘A person who transfer and convey everything identified with the text socially and linguistically from the source language to the end user in the target language’.

### **3. Objective of the study**

The paper aims to investigate the role of the translator as language mediator, with specific reference to his role in rendering the text and oral speech amide languages.

### **4. Question of the study**

Is the translator could play asthe language mediator?

### **5. Statement of Problem**

A penal of translation scholars during decades tackled with translator as culture mediator, but a little one goes through other roles as language mediator or carrier. The researcher is so interested to present new thoughts and concepts about the comprehensive role of translator as a language mediator.

## 6. Theoretical Background of the study

Numerous mediators will experience mediation where the parties don't communicate in English fluently. Usually, a mediator may communicate with the parties in the same language and may proceed with them without interpreter. Different occasions, the mediators can scarcely speak with a party and has no translator. Regardless, the mediator may have to decide whether they need to interpreters, or they should proceed with the mediation. Therefore, the interpreter may play the role of mediator in transfer between languages systems and close approaches of their views (Rendon & Bujosa, 2002).

According to “Christopher & Maheswari, (n.d., p. xx) Translator plays an important role in being a mediator between two cultures”. Translation is a craft, and the translator is the artist who convey a message and thought from mind to mind. Mediation in language is defined by Beaugrande and Dressler (1981:182) as" the extent to which one feeds one's current beliefs and goals into the model of the communicative situation".

“The translator and interpreter are not needs to be only bilingual but also bicultural to be able to facilitate cross-cultural understanding” (Al-Omar, 2012, p. 3), he added that the concept of cultural mediation has been developed to be a strategy of translation.

Hatim and Mason, (1990, p 223) stated that “work of the translator involves mediation between two parties: the producer of ST and the receivers of TT for whom mutual communication might otherwise be problematic because of the disparities between the two cultures”, also, translator in text play essential role not only in rendering culture but also in thoughts and sprit of the text" the extent to which translators intervene in the transfer process, feeding their own knowledge and beliefs into their processing of a text""( Hatim and Mason , 1997, p.122).



Regarding to Al- Omar, (2012) the degree of mediation may largely be justified according to who and/what initiate the translation action. During the past twenty year the translator role have seen a significant change in multi position who could occupy. The translator in addition to his role in rendering language from one to another, he also be expert in different aspect beyond texts as culture, thoughts, customs, traditions, society norms, semantic relations, various kinds of interpreting and translation orally and written and other language aspects. Therefore, translator as a full mediator still unquestionable, according to Portelli, (2018, p.358) "changing role of the translator has still not yet been fully accepted both within and outside the profession". Therefore, allowing the door open to wide space discussion about translator role as mediator allow us to go in depth beyond narrow angles.

## 7. Literature Review

Coimbatore & Erode, (n.d) defined translation as the art of reproducing the work of art from one language to the other and translator is a person who takes sole responsibility to reach the mass. The art of translation is highly appreciated if the translator translates a work of art without his own ideas. His act as a mentor and a mediator as they transform a culture to the other. Therefore, this study focused on the problems faced by the translators and how they are transforming culture to the people of another culture. They reached the conclusion that the translator is not a person who translates only the text but he acts as a mediator, mentor and preserver of the SL culture and he passes it to the TL languages.

Kardiansyah & Salam, (2020) discussed the translator's strategy in producing an Indonesian-English translated work considering that the translator is a cultural mediator, this study aims to reveal more the strategy that translator used in transferring an Indonesian work full of cultural terms into English. They focused on the literature as a core of the study. They follow interview and document

selection as methodology to collect the data. The findings indicated that the translator uses the strategy to enable readers to understand the work being translated, and how cultural capital is significant for translation practice.

Bedeker & Feinauer, (2009) focused on the importance of culture and communicative function in translation. They described the translator as cultural mediators who are responsible for successful cross-cultural communication. This article aims to investigate the mediating role of the translator and the importance of cultural awareness during the process of translation. They used many fictions as Harry potter to explain the importance of translator role as mediator.

Bassnett, (2011) emphasis placed on examining the role of the translator not only as a bilingual interpreter but also as a figure whose role is to mediate between cultures. She mentioned the process transfiguration involves what has come to be termed 'transnationalism', a way of conceptualizing intercultural transmission beyond national boundaries. Translator could play transmission processes that involve interlingual exchange to some extent, she calls to hence translation needs to be understood in the broadest. she also indicated that to what the extent of the knowledge base of a translator who is effectively a mediator between cultures. The translator necessarily must be bicultural to some extent.

## **8. Methodology**

This paper will follow the analysis and practical method in review and narrate the previous thoughts about translator role as mediator.

## **9. Sample and analysis**

Many texts could be cited as evidence to the role of translator as mediator, in this regard, newspaper, analysis thoughts and new suggested phases will be the

best examples for such events. Supposing that speaker wanted to deliver the speech to audience in other languages. The translator requested to render the speech to audience in target language.

Here, the speaker = signified to the first product in source language the "Sender"

Speech text = signified to the channel of speech "context"

Audience = signified to the final product "receptors"

In this context, the translator should be the mediator and the contact point between the sender and the receptors. The text should pass through three steps that illustrated above in section theoretical background.

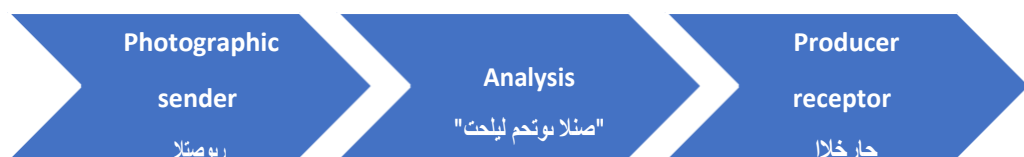
looking at the word “**mediator**” in Al-Maani dictionary in one of its definitions, meaning "A person who transmits thoughts and ideas from one mind to another.

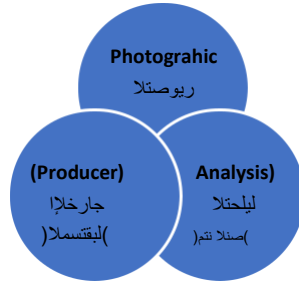
### 9.1. Mediation Process in translation:

According to the paper perspectives that translation process, could pass through three phases, to transfer the text from the source language into the target language through the text channel by intervening translator

The translation process moved from point (A) “sender speaker that required translation photo graphicand passed through point (B)” speech context analysis or text” to reach point (C)” the final product that required reproduction of text in the target language”.

Figure (1) below clarify this process.





These phases should apply to all written, audio, visual and read texts, and no translation process can take place without going through these phases. Therefore, the translator must recognize these phases when he faces a particular text and putting points and remarks for what he wants to go through.

For example, in below line text taken from the CNN news and English-language website on August 25, 2021

**Source Text:**

**“There's less than a week until the US's Afghanistan withdrawal deadline”**

**By applying the three phases as follows:**

**9.1.1. First: Photographic Phase:**

Show the format of text, logical relations between sentences and type of text.

**“There's less than a week until the US's Afghanistan withdrawal deadline”**

**9.1.2. Second: Analysis Phase:**

Analysis the text to minor units to understand the syntactical aspects and structure of words, then determine the meanings beyond the text.

There's	Less	Then	A week	Until	the US's Afghanistan	Withdrawal	Deadline
Demon+ auxiliary v	Adj	Conj	Noun	Prep	Noun	Noun	Noun

### 9.1.3. Third: Reproduce Phase:

This is the final phase that reproduce the text in the target language to comply with the meaning and message of source language.

#### Target Text:

"أقل من أسبوع هي الفترة المتبقية للموعد النهائي لانسحاب القوات الأمريكية من مطار كابل في أفغانستان"

More examples will be included in dependent study that will be more focus on translation process with reference to translator as language mediator.

## 10. Findings and conclusion

Upon my experience as an interpreter and lecturer of interpreting course at University of Science and Technology, many translation students said the translation merely as a linguistic task, but in the interpreting field, interpreter finds himself called upon to interpret in multi position to convey an accurate message to the end user. In view of the findings stated above, beside the previous literature review and related what we have experienced during our work in translation market, we reached out that the translator could play as language mediator beside his role as culture conveyer. Finally, this paper is a part of a huge study will be comprehensible for more aspects and examples about translator role as language mediator.

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