

# Glossary

- affective meaning** the emotive effect worked on the addressee by the choice of a particular **linguistic expression**, in contrast with others that might have been used to express the same literal message; affective meaning is a type of **connotative meaning**.
- alliteration** the recurrence of the same sound/letter or sound/letter cluster at the beginning of two or more words occurring near or next to one another in a text.
- allusive meaning** the **connotative meaning** of a **linguistic expression**, which takes the form of evoking the meaning of an entire saying or quotation of which that expression is a part. (NB: If a saying or quotation appears in full within a text, that is a case of citation; we speak of **allusive meaning** where only a recognizable segment of the saying or quotation occurs in the text, but that segment implicitly carries the meaning of the entire 'reconstructed' saying or quotation.)
- anaphora** in grammar, the replacement of previously used **linguistic expressions** in a **text** by simpler and less specific expressions (such as pronouns) having the same contextual referent; in rhetoric, the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses.
- associative meaning** the **connotative meaning** of a **linguistic expression** which takes the form of attributing to the referent certain stereotypically expected properties culturally associated with that referent.
- assonance** the recurrence of a sound/letter or sound/letter cluster in the middle of words occurring near or next to one another in a **text**.
- asyndeton** the omission of conjunctions.
- attitudinal meaning** the **connotative meaning** of a **linguistic expression** which takes the form of implicitly conveying a commonly held attitude or value judgement towards the referent of the expression.
- audiovisual translation** the translation of dialogue in films, video, television programmes and opera or theatre performances, either by means of dubbing and voiceover, or by means of subtitles or surtitles.
- calque** an instance of **literal translation** in which a TT expression is modelled on the grammatical structure and/or lexical collocation of a ST expression; it represents a minimal degree of **cultural transposition** –

- translating the components of a culture-specific item in the ST without giving it idiomatic viability in the TL.
- code-switching** the alternating use of two or more recognizably different language variants (varieties of the same language, or different languages) within the same **text**.
- cogency** the ‘thread’ of intellectual interrelatedness of ideas running through a **text** (a combination of **coherence** and **cohesion**).
- coherence** the tacit, yet intellectually discernible, thematic development that characterizes a cogent **text**, as distinct from a random sequence of unrelated sentences.
- cohesion** the explicit and transparent linking of sentences and larger sections of **text** by the use of overt linguistic devices that act as ‘signposts’ for the **cogency** of a text.
- collocative meaning** the **connotative meaning** lent to a **linguistic expression** by the meaning of some other expression with which it frequently or typically collocates in a grammatical context; that is, collocative meaning is an echo of the meanings of expressions that partner a given expression in commonly used phrases.
- communicative translation** a style of **free translation** involving the rendering of ST expressions by contextually/situationally appropriate counterparts in the TL; that is, the TT uses an expression that a TL speaker would be likely to use in that situation (in preference to **literal translation**).
- compensation** the technique of making up for unacceptable **translation loss** by deliberately introducing a more acceptable one; important ST features being approximated in the TT through means other than those used in the ST. (NB: Unlike, for example, an unavoidable, conventional **grammatical transposition** or **communicative translation**, compensation is not forced on the translator by the constraints of TL structures – it is a conscious, careful, free, one-off choice.)
- conative function** using language (verbal or non-verbal) to prompt the listener to do something, rather than to convey information (an aspect of **pragmatics**).
- connotative meaning** the implicit overtones and nuances that **linguistic expressions** tend to carry over and above their **literal meanings**. (NB: The overall meaning of an expression in context is compounded of the literal meaning of the expression plus its contextually relevant connotative overtones.)
- cultural borrowing** the process of taking over a SL expression verbatim from the ST into the TT (and, more broadly, into the TL as a whole). The borrowed term may remain unaltered in form or may undergo minor alteration or transliteration.
- cultural transplantation** the highest degree of **cultural transposition**, involving the replacement of source-cultural details mentioned in the ST with cultural details drawn from the target culture in the TT – that is,

cultural transplantation deletes from the TT items specific to the source culture, replacing them with items specific to the target culture.

**cultural transposition** any degree of replacement of ST features specific to the SL culture with features designed to be more familiar to TL readers; cultural transposition entails a certain degree of TL orientation.

**dative of interest** see **ethic(al) dative**

**decisions of detail** in translating a given **text**, the decisions taken in respect of specific problems of grammar, lexis, and so on; decisions of detail are ideally taken in the light of previously taken **strategic decisions**.

**deixis** (adjective **deictic**) a **linguistic expression** (for instance, a demonstrative, a personal pronoun, a temporal or spatial expression) referring to or determined by the circumstances in which an utterance is made – who is speaking, who is being addressed, where, when.

**dialect** a language variety with features of accent, vocabulary, syntax and sentence formation (for example, **illocutionary particles**, intonation) characteristic, and therefore indicative, of the regional provenance of its users.

**discourse level** the textual level on which whole utterances or texts (or sections of whole texts) are considered as self-contained, coherent and cohesive entities; the ultimate discourse structure of texts consists of a number of interrelated sentences, these being the lowest analytic units on the discourse level.

**domesticating** (or **naturalizing**) **translation** a TL-biased translation strategy aiming to make the TT seem as accessible and familiar as possible to TL readers, especially on the cultural level (in contrast with **exoticizing translation**).

**editing** the last stage of the translation process, consisting of checking over the draft of a written TT with a view to correcting errors and polishing up stylistic details.

**ethic(al) dative** or **dative of interest** the use of an indirect object pronoun ('se, le, me', etc.) to indicate that the person referred to is associated with the direct object ('his hands, my shoes') or the action being carried out.

**exegetic translation** a style of translation in which the TT expresses and explains additional details that are not explicitly conveyed in the ST; that is, the TT is, at the same time, an expansion and explanation of the contents of the ST.

**exoticism** an instance of zero **cultural transposition**, whereby a ST feature (having its roots exclusively in the SL and source culture) is taken over verbatim into the TT; that is, the transposed term is an ostensibly 'foreign' element in the TT.

**exoticizing** (or **foreignizing**) **translation** a SL-biased translation strategy aiming to retain features of the ST and the SL culture in the TT (in contrast with **domesticating translation**).

**expressive function** using language (verbal or non-verbal) to communicate the feelings of the speaker, rather than to convey information (an aspect of **pragmatics**).

- foot** a prosodic/metric unit in versification, consisting of a rhythmic pattern of stressed and/or unstressed syllables; in certain languages (for example, English or Latin, but not Spanish), feet are the basic units of poetic rhythm.
- foreignizing translation** see **exoticizing translation**.
- free translation** a style of translation in which there is only a global correspondence between units of the ST and units of the TT – for example, a rough sentence-to-sentence correspondence, or a still looser correspondence in terms of even larger sections of text.
- generalizing translation, generalization** rendering a ST expression by a TL **hypernym** – that is, the literal meaning of the TT expression is wider and less specific than that of the corresponding ST expression; a generalizing translation omits details that are explicitly present in the literal meaning of the ST.
- generic or androcentric masculine** the use of the masculine gender to refer to male and female referents, or to describe a mixed-sex group.
- genre (or text-type)** a category to which, in a given culture, a given **text** is seen to belong and within which it is seen to share a type of communicative purpose with other texts; that is, the text is seen to be more or less typical of the genre.
- gist translation** a style of translation in which the TT purposely expresses a condensed version of the contents of the ST; that is, the TT is, at the same time, a synopsis of the ST.
- grammatical (or syntactical) level** the level of linguistic structure concerned with words, morphology (the decomposition of inflected, derived or compound words into their meaningful constituent parts), and syntax (the patterned syntactic arrangement of words into phrases, and phrases into yet more complex phrases).
- grammatical (or syntactical) transposition** the technique of translating a ST expression having a given grammatical structure by a TT expression with a different grammatical structure containing different parts of speech in a different arrangement.
- hypernym** a **linguistic expression** whose literal meaning is inclusive of, but wider and less specific than, the range of literal meaning of another expression: for instance, ‘parent’ is a hypernym of ‘mother’.
- hyponym** a **linguistic expression** whose literal meaning is included in, but is narrower and more specific than, the range of literal meaning of another expression; for example, ‘younger sister’ is a hyponym of ‘sibling’.
- hypotaxis** (in syntax) the use of compound sentences containing subordinate clauses with a hierarchical relationship; the main clause is modified or added to by one or more subordinate clauses, each of which plays a syntactical role within the structure of the main clause (that is, they are embedded within it).
- idiom** a fixed figurative expression whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal meaning of the words that make it up.

**idiomatic** what sounds ‘natural’ and ‘normal’ to native speakers – a **linguistic expression** that is unexceptional and acceptable in a given context.

**idiomizing translation** a translation that respects the ST message content, but typically uses TL idioms or familiar phonic and rhythmic patterns to give an easy read, even if this means sacrificing nuances of meaning or tone.

**illocutionary particle** a discrete element not integrated into the syntactical structure of a sentence which reinforces the illocutionary force or function of the utterance – that is, its main pragmatic purpose, what the speaker is trying to achieve by uttering those words (primarily in spoken language but also reflected in written texts). For example, ‘please’, ‘for God’s sake!’, ‘surely’, ‘qué va’, ‘¿no?’, ‘coño’.

**interlineal translation** a style of translation in which the TT provides a literal rendering for each successive meaningful unit of the ST (including affixes) and arranges these units in their order of occurrence in the ST, regardless of the conventional grammatical order of units in the TL.

**interpreting** translation of an **oral** ST into an oral TT (usually a **gist translation**); either consecutive (producing an oral TT based on notes after the ST has been delivered), simultaneous (an oral TT is delivered at the same time as the ST) or bilateral/liaison (mediating an exchange between speakers of the SL and TL).

**intersemiotic translation** translating from one semiotic system (that is, system for communication) into another. For a translation to be intersemiotic, either the ST, or the TT, but not both, may be a human natural language.

**intertextuality/intertextual level** the level of shared culture on which texts are viewed as bearing significant external relationships to other texts (for example, by allusion, by imitation, by virtue of genre membership).

**intralingual translation** the re-expression of a message conveyed in a particular form of words in a given language by means of another form of words in the same language.

**lexis** (adj. **lexical**) the totality of words in any given language.

**linguistic expression** a self-contained and meaningful item in a given language, such as a word, a phrase, a sentence.

**literal meaning** the conventional range of referential meaning attributed to a **linguistic expression** (as abstracted from its **connotative** overtones and contextual nuances).

**literal translation** a word-for-word translation, giving maximally accurate literal rendering to all the words in the ST as far as the grammatical conventions of the TL will allow; that is, literal translation is SL-oriented, and departs from ST sequence of words only where the TL grammar makes this inevitable.

**metalingual function** using language in a self-referential way to discuss language itself or how something has been expressed (an aspect of **pragmatics**).

**naturalizing translation** see **domesticating translation**.

**nominalization** the use of a noun which, in the same language or in a TT, could be replaced by an expression not containing a noun; it is a typical feature of technical texts.

**onomatopoeia** a word whose phonic form imitates a sound, which is the referent of the word or which is associated with the referent.

**oral language/genre/discourse/text** spoken or sung as opposed to written; includes both live and recorded speech/performance. Can be broadly categorized as: conversation, oral narrative, oral address, oral reading, dramatization, sung performance.

**parataxis** phrases, clauses and sentences which are placed next to one another without subordinating relationships or explicit connecting elements.

**partially overlapping translation** rendering a ST expression by a TL expression whose range of **literal meaning** partially overlaps with that of the ST expression – that is, the literal meaning of the TT expression both adds some detail not explicit in the literal meaning of the corresponding ST expression, and omits some other detail that is explicit in the literal meaning of the ST expression; in this sense, partially overlapping translation simultaneously combines elements of **particularizing** and **generalizing**.

**particularizing translation, particularization** rendering a ST expression by a TL **hyponym**; that is, making the **literal meaning** of the TT narrower and more specific than that of the corresponding ST; a particularizing translation adds details to the TT that are not explicitly expressed in the ST.

**phatic function** using language (verbal or non-verbal) to communicate shared feelings, maintain social interaction and fill gaps in conversation, rather than to convey information (an aspect of **pragmatics**).

**phonemic translation** a technique of translation that consists of an attempt to replicate in the TT the sound sequence of the ST, while allowing the sense to remain, at best, a vague and suggested impression.

**phonic/graphic level** the level of linguistic structure concerned with the patterned organization of sound-segments (phonemes) in speech, or of letters (graphemes) in writing.

**phrasal verb** in English, a verb formed with an adverb, preposition or both.

**poetic function** using language in a way that focuses on formal qualities (sound, rhythm, patterning, graphic presentation) rather than on sense or cohesion (an aspect of **pragmatics**).

**pragmatics** the study of language as used for particular purposes in particular situations, focusing on communicative acts rather than grammatical structures (what users are doing or intending to achieve by expressing themselves in particular ways).

**prosodic level** the level of linguistic structure concerned with metrically patterned stretches of speech within which syllables have varying degrees

of prominence (in terms of such properties as stress and vowel-differentiation), varying degrees of *pace* (in terms of such properties as length and tempo) and varying qualities of *pitch*.

**reflected meaning** the **connotative meaning** lent to a **linguistic expression** by the fact that its *form* (phonic, graphic, or both) is reminiscent of a homonymic or near-homonymic expression with a different **literal meaning**; that is, reflected meaning is an echo of the literal meaning of some other expression that sounds or is spelt the same, or nearly the same, as a given expression.

**register** see **social register** and **tonal register**

**rephrasing** the exact rendering of the message content of a given ST in a TT that is radically different in form, but neither adds nor omits details explicitly conveyed in the ST.

**sentential level** the level of linguistic structure concerned with the formation of sentences as complete, self-contained linguistic units ready-made to act as vehicles of oral or written communication. (NB: Over and above the basic grammatical units – which may be elliptical – that it contains, a sentence must be endowed with sense-conferring properties of intonation or punctuation, and may in addition contain features of word order, and/or **illocutionary particles**, all of which contribute to the overall meaning, or ‘force’, of the sentence.)

**skopos** the specific purpose of a translation seen as an assignment fulfilling the requirements of the person or organization that commissions it.

**social register** a style of speaking/writing appropriate to a given social situation, which may give grounds for inferring relatively detailed stereotypical information about the social identity of the speaker/writer. (NB: ‘Social identity’ refers to the stereotypical labelling that is a constant feature of social intercourse.)

**sociolect** a language variety with features of accent, vocabulary, syntax and sentence formation (for example, intonation, **illocutionary particles**) characteristic of a particular social group, and therefore indicative, for example, of the class affiliations of its users.

**source language (SL)** the language in which the **text** requiring translation is expressed.

**source text (ST)** the text requiring translation.

**strategic decisions** the general decisions taken, in the light of the nature of the ST and the requirements of the TT (the *skopos*), as to what ST properties should have priority in translation and the overall style and register of the TT; **decisions of detail** are ideally taken on the basis of these strategic decisions (though, conversely, decisions of detail may have an effect on altering initial strategic decisions).

**synonymy** the highest degree of semantic equivalence between two or more different **linguistic expressions** having exactly identical ranges of **literal meaning**. (NB: Synonymous expressions usually differ in **connotative**, and therefore in ‘overall’, meaning; that is, they are unlikely to have

perfectly identical meanings in textual contexts – compare ‘automobile’ and ‘jalopy’, for instance.)

**syntactical (or grammatical) level** the level of linguistic structure concerned with words, morphology (the decomposition of inflected, derived or compound words into their meaningful constituent parts), and syntax (the patterned syntactic arrangement of words into phrases, and phrases into yet more complex phrases).

**target language (TL)** the language into which a given **text** is to be translated.

**target text (TT)** the text proffered as a translation (that is, a proposed TL rendering) of the ST. (NB: ‘Publishing’ a target text is a decisive act that overrides the necessarily relative and tentative success of the target text.)

**text** any given stretch of speech or writing produced in a given language (or ‘mixture of languages’ – see code-switching) and assumed to make a self-contained, coherent whole on the discourse level; a text may contain elements (images or sounds) that are not verbal.

**text-type** see **genre**

**textual variables** all the ostensible features in a **text**, and which *could* (in another text) have been different; that is, each textual variable constitutes a genuine *option* in the text.

**tonal register** a style of speaking/writing adopted as a means of conveying the affective attitudes of speakers/writers to their addressees. (NB The **connotative meaning** of features of tonal register is an **affective meaning**. This connotative meaning is, strictly speaking, conveyed by the *choice* of one out of a range of expressions capable of conveying a particular literal message; for example, ‘Give me the money, please’ versus ‘Chuck us the dosh, will you?’)

**translation loss** any feature of inexact correspondence between ST and TT. (NB: Where a TT has properties, effects or meanings that are *not* present in the ST, the addition of these counts as a translation loss. That is to say, translation loss is not limited to the omission from a TT of properties, effects or meanings present in the corresponding ST.)

**transposition** see **grammatical transposition** and **cultural transposition**.

**word system** a pattern of words (distributed over a text) formed by an associative common denominator and having a demonstrable function of enhancing the theme and message of the text (for example, an alliterative pattern emphasizing a particular mood).

**written language/genre/discourse/text** recorded in the form of graphic symbols, either hand-written or printed onto a physical medium such as paper, or in a digital medium. Can be broadly categorized as: literary/fictional/imaginative; religious/devotional/ritual; theoretical/philosophical/speculative; empirical/descriptive/analytical; and persuasive/prescriptive/normative.