II
THEORIES
OF
TRANSLATION

Translation Theories

The question arises what kind of help do translations theories offer to a translator ?

As Peter Newmark in his book 'Approaches To Translation has said". The main concern of translation theories is to determine appropriate translation methods for the widest possible range of texts. They provide a framework of principles, restricted rules and limites for translating texts".

Translation theories are concerned with choices and decisions, not with mechanics of either the source language or the target language. But first we must keep in mind a translation theory cannot make a bad a translator a good one. It has been held that it cannot make a translator intelligent or sensitive. If someone is sensitive to TL as well as SL and persues facts as well as words he can do without translation theories (Peter Newmark, 1982, 26) However, it may be said that what translation theories can do is to show the student all that is or may be involved in the translation process and to offer principles and guidelines. Further, translation theory can stop him making howlers likes translating the title of periodicals or mistakes of lusage like

translating a laymen's term by a technical term. Mainly the trans-
lation theory is concerned to see no higustic or factor is ignored
when one is translating (Peter Newmark, 1982, 36)

According to Peter Newmark the central concern of translation
theories is to determine an appropriate translation method. But we
could see that all translations theories did not have this con-
cern.To explain this sentence more clearly we must have a quick
look at those theories and try to understand why do they lack some
such qualities.

Translation theories may be classified into three for all
areas. Non-linguistic theories, (Traditional), Linguistic theories
and literary theories.

In traditional translation theories the (Dryden 1680)
(Stainer 1975) significant factor in the european translation
culture was the religions attitude. So there was a
controversy regarding word for word versus sense far sense trans
lation procedure. And with the davelopment of European languages,
the style factor also became important. After 17th Century the
translations were undertaken not merely as excercises is writing
but as a means of enriching vernacular language. Dryden (1680)
formulated his three basic types.

1.Metaphrease : Word by word translations.

2.Paraphrase : Translations with latitude or sense for sence.

3.Imitation : Where the translator can abandon the text of the original as he sees it.

Towards the end of 18th Century 1791, Tytler published his principles of translations in which, he set up three basic principles.

a) A translation should give a complete transcript of the idea of the original.

b) The style and manner of writing should be of the same character which that of the original.

c) The translation should have all the ease of the original composition.

The same kind of view was taken by some other 19th Century writers such as Longfellow.

On the contrary the romantic individualistic line which include Edward Fitzgerald (1809, 63) who declared that a text must line at all cost with a translation in one's own word and lines if one can't retains the originals better. (quoted in Bassinet Mequire 1980, 70)

From the discussion above it becomes clear that the theories based on a non-lingustic approach are very much ambiguious and contradictory. As Savory gives a list of several contradition he noticed. (1968, 50)

1.   A translation must give the words of the original.

2.   A translation must give the ideas of the original.

3.   A translations should read like an original work.

4.   A translation should read like a translation.

5.   A translation should reflect the style of the original.

6.   A translation should posses the style of lthe translator.

7.   A translation should read as a contemporary of the original.

8.   A tramslation should read as a contemporary of lthe translation.

Taking in to consideration all such facts we have to turn to lignestic theories of translation where we find more precise approaches and emphasis on the process of translation.

In lingustic theories few important names are Catford J. C. Nida, Halliday and Levy.

Catfored praposes three levels in language.

1.   Grammatical and lexical form.

```
                                    -------Phonological.
                                   |
2.     Midium forum. --------------|
                                   |
                                    -------Graphalogical.
```

```
                                    -------Phonological
                                   |
3.   Medium  Substance.------------|
                                   |
                                    -------Situational.
```

Catfords approach is a texonomic one . He defines transla- tion as "The replacement of texual material in one language (SL) by equivalent lexual material in another language. Catford classi- fies translation equilance as texual equivalance and formal corre- spondence. According to Catford texual equivalence is that portion of the text which is changed . When and only when a given portion of the SL text is changed.

According to him   translation equivalence is the only lest weather the TL is translationally related or not.

Situational Features :

According to Catford the translation has to match the situational features of the SL and TL. The greater the number of situaltional features common to the contexual meaning at both the SL and TL text, the better the translation. Catford has given quite an emphasis on situation and context.

Formal Correspondence :

Any TL catagory which may be said to occupy the same place in the economy of the TL as the given SL Catagory occupies in the SL. lt is only approximate and can be established a rela- tively high levels of abstraction.

Catford claims that this Catagory is an essential basis for the discussion of problems which are important to translation theory and necessary for it's application.

Catford has attempted to classify translation types with respect to the following three aspects.

a) Extent to which the SL text is submitted to the process of translation.

b) The formal level/levels involved in translation.

c) The rank is the grammatical or phonological hiererchy at which translation equivalance is established.

This theory is more useful for machine rather then human translation. It also has less use to the problem of translation evaluation. Though theoractically useful it fails to define what he means by text. The procedures suggested by, Catford are subjective.

Catford's theory of translation in fact, focuses more on the product of the translaters process from a sentence bases position rather than the process itself. He does not venture in to exploring the problem of what exactly happens while translating. Though it is based upon the Eirthin `contexual view' of language, it really does not go beyond the sentential level.

Halliday's Theory of Translation

Holliday tries to determine first the place of translation and its methodological status within comparative synchronic lin-

gustics like Catford Halliday also assume that the nature of equivaleance in translation is not formal but contexual. "Transla-tion is the releation between two or more texts playing an identical role is an identical situation. They clarify that translation relation is not a yes-no relation but 'more or less' relation Halliday et al. view the process of translation as 'the progressive selection among catagories and items in the TL. that are recognized on contexual criteria as equivalant to catagories and items having a set of potential equivalents range on a scale of probability.

According to Halliday There are two stages in translation process.

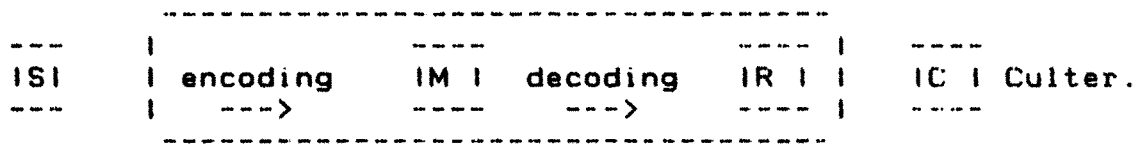a) Selection of the most probable translation equivalent for each catagory and item in the sentence.

b) Modification of this section at the unit next above, either

1. From evidence in the SL.

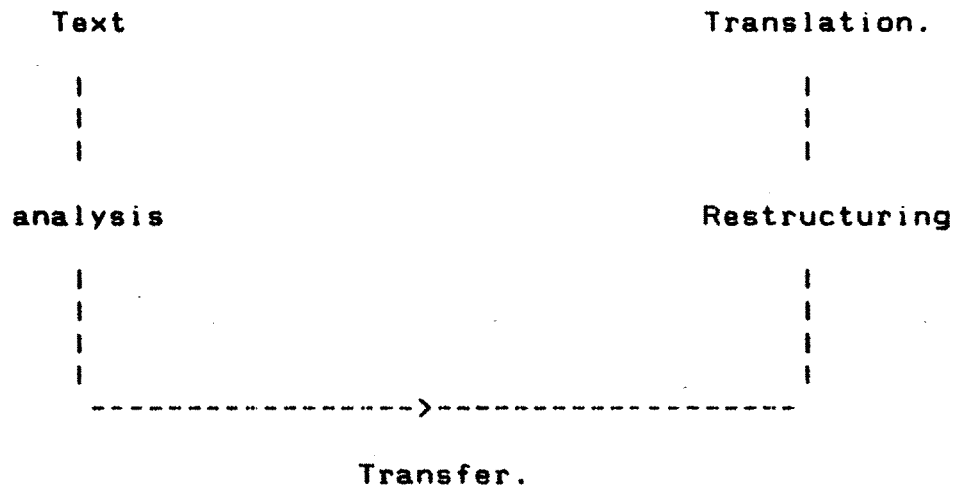2. From internal features of TL.

Nida's Theory of translation

The most comprehensive in terms of procedures of transla-
tion, has been produced by the famous Linguist Nida. His model of
translation process is set in an ethnolinguistic framework. Nor-
mally communication is monolingual M. (Message) is translated from
S (Source) to R (Receiver). S and R operate within one and the
same speech community in their decoding and ecoding of M. Both
interlocutors use the same lexico - semantie inventory of expres-
sions and the same system of syntactic-synatagmatic rules.

```
      ---      |                ----             ---- |    ----
      |S|      | encoding       |M |  decoding   |R | |    |C | Culter.
      ---      |   --->         ----    --->     ---- |    -----
```

(1) **Translation** : The (M)formulted in the SL code by the
original (S) is decoded by the translator who is the original
(R). Then the analysis J. Segements (M) on the basis of his inter-
lingural competence the (M) for R^2 who are the receivers of the
reencoded M in the TL. They S/R system. Nida's definition of
translation ;- Translation consists in reproducing in the receptor
language. The closest natural equivalent of the SL message, first
in terms of meaning, secondly in terms of style.

Source language.   Receptor language.

        Text   Translation.

         | |
         | |
         | |

        analysis   Restructuring

         | |
         | |
         | |
         | |
         ----------------------->--------------------

                            Transfer.

Analysis :- At this stage, the substence structure of the SL text is analyised to its kernel level by back transformation in terms of

a) gramatical relationships.

b) The meaning of words and their combinations.

Transfer : According to Nida the Second stage continued with the translators brain. Here he discusses five problems at this stage.

(i) Personal problems.

(ii) Personnel involved in transfer,

(iii)Stages of transfer.

(iv) Semantic adjustments in transfer.

(v)   Structural adjustments in transfer.

Restructuring :-

This is very important stage in a translation. This final operations according to Nida has to be made from three perspec-tives.

(i) The varieties of languages or styles.

(ii) Essential components and characteristics of these.

(iii)The techniques to be employed in producing the

type of style desired.

Varities :- Nida makes a distingtion between vertical and hori-zontal problems in restructuring process at the discourse level. Vertical problems are caused by socio-economic and educational dialeets and Horizontal problems are caused when restructuring languages with highly literary trandition.

(II) **Styles** : Nida employs two parameters purpose and level for classifying the features of style.

The stylistic features are both formal and lexical.

(III) The techniques employed is the style. These are related to.

(a) The discourse as a whole, i.e. to problems such as making of the beginning and end of discourse, to making major interval translation in it,

(b) to the events in the discourse i.e. to the spatial and logical relations between events and objects.

 (c) To the objects in discourse, i.e., to identifica- tions of participants, highlighting, focus, emphasis.

(d) to the auther involvement.

Besides this procedue of translation Nida has given an importance to the concept of dynamic equivalence.

Jiry Levy's theory of Translation.

According to Levy translation is a process of communication; the objective of translating is to impact a knowledge of the original to the foreign reader" (1967, 1171) He views translations as a decision making process in which the translator takes into account the entire 'text'. A translator has number of various equivalents and he goes on making choices.
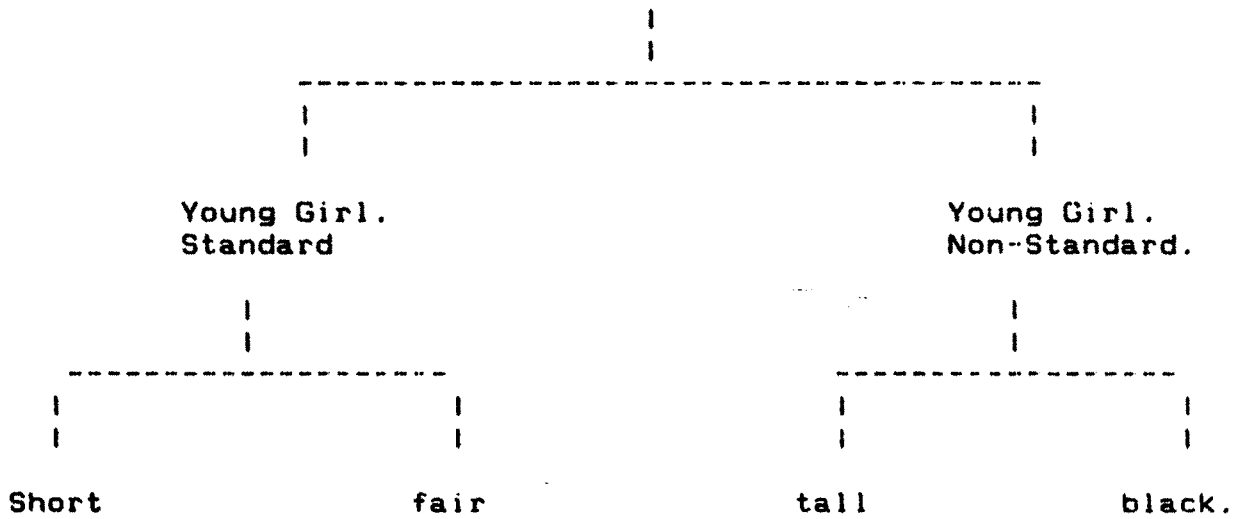
The basic components of this process are :

1) The situation :   which is an abstract of reality.

2) The definitional instructions.

3) Paradigms :   The class of possible alternatives in the TL.

4) Selective instructions :   Which direct the translator's
   choice among the several available alternatives. He
   makes the process clear by giving an illustration.:

Definitional Instrution.

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    ----------------------------------------------------
    |                                                  |
    |                                                  |
    |                                                  |

  Selective                                        Selective
  Instruction.                                     Instruction

        |
        |
    -------------------------
    |                       |
    |                       |

Selective              Selective
Instruction            Instruction.
```
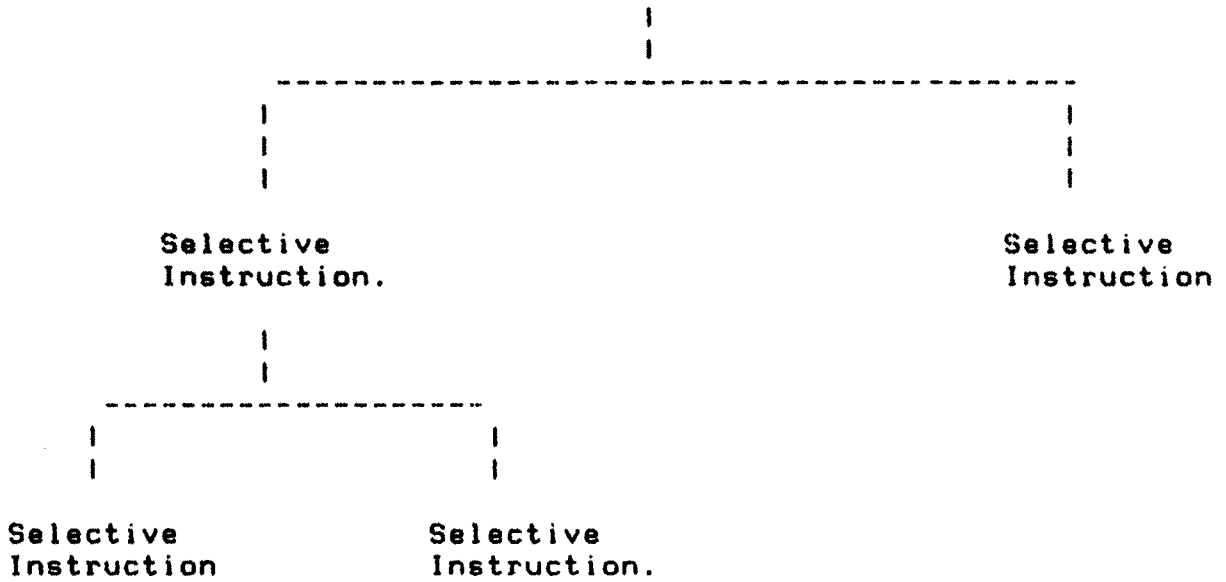
Example : with lexical items.

Young Girl.

```
                            |
                            |
    --------------------------------------------------
    |                                                |
    |                                                |

  Young Girl.                                    Young Girl.
  Standard                                       Non-Standard.

        |                                            |
        |                                            |
    ----------------------            ------------------------
    |                    |            |                      |
    |                    |            |                      |

Short                fair          tall                 black.
```

So the significant points in this theory are.

1   Surplus decision.

2   Syntax of instrution.

3.   Two types of decision processes.

4.   The minimax strategy.

As one can see the most important contribution of Levy's theory is that it takes in to account the totality of the text to explain the translator's choice of perticular items from the paradigms available in the SL and the TL. Levy considered the translator's subjective standards important in making decisions.

Levy's model provides interesting theoretical construction for evaluating translaton : His concept for surplus decisions though do have the potential of developing in to a full-fleged model of translation evaluations. But in his discussion we don't find him making any attempt for it, because he couldn't define the nation of text and the lack of explicit methodological procedures for measuring the surplus decisions the theory fails to provide an explicit model of translation evaluation.

Though as we can see these linguistic theories of transla- tion tell us the process of translation and it's mathodology they

have a major shortcoming. They ignore one very significant factor in their theories and that is 'cultural factor'. They define `situation' `context' and `discourse' but do not discuss the languages of the culture involved. Catford of Haliday both mention context and situation but context of situations can very much change the equivalences. So they have not been able to take in to account the cultural contact taking place in translation process.

Some literary translators have made this attempt to culturally define the nature of translation. They are Andre Lefevere (1970,1978), Anton Popocic (1976) and Efim Etkind (1967)

Literary theories proposed by Lefevere (1971) Popvic (1970) are for more dynamic in their treatment of the translation process.

Popvic (1970-78)

The aim of translation is to transfer certains intellectual and aesthetic values from one language to another... Translation by it's very nature entails certain shifts of intellectual and aesthetic values ... A translation involves an encounter of linguistic and literary norms and conventions, a confrontations of literacy and literary stystem.

Popovic in his definition of translation equivalence, distinguishes four types (Bassinet Mcquire, 1980, 25)

1. Linguistic Equivalence :- where there is homogeneity on the lingnistic level of both SL and TL texts : that is lexical equivalence.

2. Paradimatic equivalence :- Where there is equivalence of "The elements of a paradimatic expressive axis".

3. Stylistic :- (Translational equivalence) Where there is a functional equivalence of elements is both original and trans- lation aiming of an expressive identity with an invariant of identical meaning.

4. Texual (Syntagmatic) equivalence: Where there is equival- ence of the syntagmatic structuring of a text.

Translation involces for more than replacement of lexical and grammatical items.