CHAPTER TWO
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter begins with definitions of translation to provide a knowledge of the boundary of translation, including translation equivalence and characteristics of proper translated work which describe the fundamental features of a translated version. Techniques and strategies used in the translating process are explained. In addition, translation criticism principles are studied in order to use them for guiding the evaluation.

2.1 DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF TRANSLATION

2.1.1 Definitions:

Translation is the skill of substituting a text in one language for a text in another while still maintaining its original meaning. However, that process could possibly distort some parts of the original meaning as well (Newmark, 1981).

In "A linguistic Theory of Translation: An Essay in Applied Linguistics" by Catford (1965) states that translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another.

Despite all the above definitions, translation is also the action of interpretation of the meaning of a text, and subsequent production of an equivalent text, also called a translation, that communicates the same message in another language.

2.1.2 Types:

There are many translation experts defining the types of translation as follows:

Catford (1965) states in his book, A Linguistic Theory of Translation, that there are three broad types of translation in terms of extent, levels and ranks.

1. Extent

   1.1 Full Translation: it aims to replace every part of the SL text to the TL text completely and accurately.

   1.2 Partial Translation: it can transfer some part or parts of the SL text to the TL text and some part or parts are left out that cannot be translated.

2. Levels

2.1 Total Translation: SL grammar and lexis are substituted by equivalent TL grammar and lexis but SL phonology/graphology are not replaced by TL phonology/graphology.

2.2 Restricted Translation: Equivalent between SL text material and TL texture material can be replaced at only one level, e.g., grammar and lexis.

3. Ranks

3.1 Rank Bound Translation or Word for Word Translation: it aims to transfer at the same rank (e.g. word and form) from the SL to the TL.

3.2 Unbounded Translation or Free Translation: it aims to transfer the meaning from the SL to the TL, regardless of word and form.
Newmark (1981) presents translation into two principal types:

1. Communicative Translation: this attempts to produce for its readers an effect as close as possible to that achieved for the readers of the original.

2. Semantic Translation: this attempts to transform the semantic and syntactic structure of the SL as near as possible to the semantic and syntactic structure of the TL. As mentioned before, translation can be classified into various types that significantly relate to the purpose of translating. Nevertheless, some translation experts divide translation into two main broad types (ดวงตา สุพล, 2541):

1. Literal Translation

1.1 Word for World Translation: the method was used in Bible translations in ancient times in order to keep its strict form and meaning.

1.2 Literal Translation: this attempts to keep the meaning, style and form of the SL as much as possible. It regards only the accuracy of the SL. The method has been used nowadays in Bible translations, international contract translations and official notice translations.

2. Non-literal Translation: it does not aim to keep strict form, meaning and style seriously. Additionally, it includes paraphrasing in the same language. It is not necessary to realize the accuracy of the SL so the method is still used widely in novels and short story translating.

2.2 TRANSLATION EQUIVALENCE

The concept of translation equivalence by Catford (1965) has been divided into two main parts: Formal Correspondence is any TL category (unit, class, structure,

element of structure, etc.) which can replace as closely as possible the given SL category, Textual Equivalent is any TL form (text or part of text) which is seen to be equal to a given SL form (text or part of text).

The above concept is related to the nature of translation equivalence cited in "Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice" by Bell (1991) which is as follows:

"Translation is the replacement of a representation of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in a second language." (p. 6)

As quoted in the book "Theory and strategies of Translation (ทฤษฎีและกลวิธีการแปล) by Duang-ta Supol (ดวงตา สุพล, 2541, น. 65-83), the equivalence is divided into 2 models. Similarly, Nida (1964) distinguishes translation equivalence into two principal categories:

1. Formal Equivalence attempts to focus on the text itself, in terms of form and content. He also views such a translation as one involved with correspondences (e.g., poetry, sentence to sentence and concept to concept). It is called "a gloss translation" in which the translator aims to replace the form and content of the SL to the form and content of the TL as literally and meaningfully as possible.

2. Dynamic Equivalence depends on the principle of equivalent effect, e.g. the relationship between receivers and messages should be essentially the same as that between the SL receivers and messages. He also adds that cultural equivalence may concern differences of both linguistic combination and culture. It is said that the differences of culture are much more complicated than the differences of language structure.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD RANSLATED WORK

In the textbook "Translation principles for careers" by Associate Prof. Kusumal Rajatanun (2005), the characteristics of a good translated work were stated as follows:

2.3.1 It achieves accuracy and completeness.
The translated text should contain complete ideas, between-the-line meanings, and the flavor and feel of the original text.

2.3.2 It creates a feel for the smoothness and naturalness in the language of the reader.

2.3.3 It is understandable. Language used in the translated text should be understandable.

2.3.4 It leads to an equivalent effect   The translated text should elicit feeling and a response from the reader as if they are reading the original.

2.4 TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

Newmark (1981) conveys the criteria for a translator in order to analyze before choosing a translation method.

2.4.1 The Intention of a Text

The translator needs to analyze the intention of the writer, what they want to convey through the message, both on the surface and at deeper levels.

There are three functions generally, as follows:

- Expressive function: this is used in author-centered writing. The author discloses his/her feelings, thoughts and emotions. The target readers are not specified. Typical examples of this writing are literature authoritative texts.

- Informative function: the text provides only information and facts. Textbooks and technical reports are examples.

- Vocative function: this is used in reader-centered writing. The purpose of the author is to persuade the readers to follow him or take action after reading the text. This type of writing includes polemical writing, notices, laws, and regulations.

2.4.2 The Intention of the Translator

After finding the intention of the original text, the translator decides whether to keep the same intention or not. If he/she changes the intention, he/she must decide how the message will be expressed: by persuasive, emotional or informative means. Then she/he selects which level or style of language should be used.

2.4.3 The Reader and the Setting of the Text

Investigate the reader: education, class, age and sex of the reader to know "who the reader is". Besides, the translator should study how the setting of the text is. Both the reader and the setting guides the degree of formality and simplicity the translated text should possess.

2.4.4 The Quality of Writing and Authority of the Text

Finally, the translator decides if the original text should be translated word for word. Moreover, he/she has to add explanations sometimes to make the message clearer. The difference of cultures also affects the degree of explanation required in the translated text.

2.5 TRANSLATION TECHNIQUE

2.5.1 Nida (1964) states about the techniques that are useful and helpful as they should:

(1.) Permit adjustment of the form of the message to fit the requirements of the structure of the TL language

(2.) Produce semantically equivalent structures

(3.) Provide equivalent stylistic appropriateness carrying an equivalent communication load.

There are many types of techniques used and some are discussed below:

1.) Additions: to add is to make explicit what is implicit in the SL. The most and important additions are:

    a. filling out elliptical expressions

    b. obligatory specifications

    c. additions required because of grammatical restructuring

    d. amplification from implicit to explicit status

    e. answers to rhetorical questions

    f. classifiers

    g. connectives

    h. categories of the TL language which do not exist in the SL language

    i. doublets

2.) Subtractions or Omissions: subtractions must not alter the total content of the message. To subtract is also done for the purpose of changing some features from explicit to implicit status. They include primarily the following types:

    a. repetitions

    b. specifications of reference

    c. conjunctions

    d. transitionals

    e. categories

    f. vocatives

g. formulae

3.) Alterations: as the form of the original can never be fully retained, alterations are used to solve problems ranging from those of correspondence in sounds to the most complicated adjustments in idiomatic phrases. General alterations can be treated under the following classes:

a. sounds

b. categories

c. word classes

d. order of elements

e. clause and sentence structure

f. semantic problems involving single words

g. semantic problems involving egocentric expressions

4.) The use of footnotes: footnotes are used according to two principle functions. First, footnotes are used to correct linguistic and cultural discrepancies, e.g., they are used to explain contradictory customs, to provide information, or even to identify unknown geographical or physical objects. Secondly, footnotes are used to add information, which may be generally useful in understanding the historical and cultural background of the document in question. These footnotes can be placed on the page where the object or event is spoken of, or placed at the back of the book.

2.5.2 Transliteration

Transliteration is a means of transferring sounds of the source language's letters and vowels to the target language ones as closely as possible. (สัญฉวี สายบัว, 2540, น. 57-62)

Transliteration is required when specific names: names of people, places, and things, are translated. In addition, transliteration is workable when some of the source language words are not able to be translated into the target language semantically in the form of equivalent words. However, in the latter case, an additional explanation ought to follow.

2.6 TRANSLATION ADJUSTMENTS

There are techniques translators also use in order to allow translated versions to convey clear and correct meanings and also to create an equivalent effect. (สัญฉวี สายบัว, 2540)

The adjustment is adopted particularly in order to simplify the message in the translated text; however, the adjustment must not distort the significant characteristics of the translated work: accuracy and equivalence.

The adjustment is done within the 2 levels as follows:

2.6.1 Word Level

When the meaning of words or idioms in the SL text does not have its TL equivalent replacement, an adjustment is used.

2.6.1.1 Add an explanation

The additional explanation is placed within content or acts as a footnote.

a. Add a classifier

In the instance of no equivalent word or idiom in the TL, the translator chooses to transliterate the SL word. He or she ought to add a classifier that helps to reveal the meaning that a word refers to.

b. Add an adjective of a noun phrase

An adjective of a noun phrase is added to make the meaning of a word more specific or clearer.

2.6.1.2 Substitute a phrase of a sentence for the SL word

The translator uses a phrase or a sentence that describes in itself the meaning of the SL word.

2.6.1.3 Use a word that holds a wider meaning in reference to the SL word

For example, "สาคูไส้หมู" is a Thai snack with a filling. In English, there is no word that is equivalent to "สาคูไส้หมู". The translator may use the word "dumpling" to refer to, "สาคูไส้หมู".

2.6.1.4 Add a conjunction between thought-groups

The added conjunction gives a clearer relationship between the thought-groups.

2.6.1.5 Omit the word of idiom

This is in case the SL word of idiom refers to something that does not exist in the TL and carries an unimportant idea or causes repetition. It can be omitted if the feeling and flavor and the essence of the content in the TL text are not damaged.

2.6.2 Structure Level

The key aim of adjustment at the structural level is to make the language used in the translated text suitable for the setting of the text and harmonize it with the nature of the language. Structural level adjustment can be divided into 4 sub-levels.

2.6.2.1 Phonic level

Like transliteration, letters and vowels of TL are adopted to represent the sound of SL letters and vowels.

2.6.2.2 Word-structure level

For example, the following words are translated into Thai like this:

English	Thai
Books	หนังสือหลายเล่ม
Kindly	ด้วยความเมตตา
The rose's fragrance	กลิ่นหอมของกุหลาบ
(she) met (him)	เจอแล้ว

2.6.2.3 Sentence level

(a) Change the order of words in the sentence.

(b) Change a phrase into a sentence and vice versa.

(c) Change a negative sentence to an affirmative sentence.

(d) Change a passive voice sentence into an active voice sentence and vice versa.

(e) Add or omit a subject and/or a verb in the sentence because of the difference in language structure.

2.6.2.4 Upper-sentence level

At this level, what is adjusted is the writing style. The order of thought –groups is changed and that makes the orders of sentences in the translated text different.

2.7 PRINCIPLES IN TRANSLATION CRITICISM

Peter Newmark (1981) states that any comprehensive criticism of a translation has to cover five procedures

2.7.1 Text Analysis

To criticize the translated version, one needs to study the intention of the original text, including other surroundings, such as cultural features and the setting of the text first.

2.7.2 The Translation's Purpose

Next, the purpose or intention of the translated text will be analyzed and considered as to whether it is the same as the original. Sometimes, the translator embellishes the message or changes style to make the translated text more understandable for the target readers who read the translated version. Besides this, the critic should consider whether the language used in the translated text responds to the intention of the text.

2.7.3 Comparing the Translated Text With the Original

Compare them in terms of meaning and language usage. In terms of meaning, the translated text will be investigated as to whether there are mis-translations, under-translations or over-translations. In terms of language usage, the target language used in the translated text will be examined for its understandability, acceptability, naturalness and smoothness.

Moreover, the critic considers how the translator has solved the particular problems of the source-language text. For instance, the order of ideas is re-arranged in order to form a more understandable text. Consider whether the differences of word choice and word order get along with the language usage and culture of the reader who reads the translated text.

2.7.4 The Evaluation of the Translation

The translated text will be evaluated overall as per the translator's standard and the critic's standard. Along with the translator's standards, whether the text contains all the essential ideas is investigated. It is also assessed as to whether it responds to the purpose properly. For example, if the purpose is to prohibit, does the text function well?

Then, the text is evaluated, based on the critic's standard. The main question for this phrase is over the quality and the extent of the semantic elements. Consider whether any improper translation has occurred because it is inevitable, or how the translator has managed the improper translation, and whether it is acceptable.

2.7.5 The Translation's Future

The critic also assesses the work's potential importance within the target language culture. Was it in fact worth translating? What kind of influence will it have on the language and culture?

2.8 PROBLEMS AND MISTAKES IN TRANSLATION

In the book "Theory and Strategies of Translation (ทฤษฎีและกลวิธีการแปล) by Dung-ta Supol (ดวงตา สุพล, 2541, น. 65-83) stated that problems in translating are divided into three levels.

2.8.1 Cultural Level

This problem occurs because the translator does not know the culture of the original text or he/she knew but cannot relay it to the reader clearly or understandably.

2.8.2 Language Structural Level

Sentence structures of languages vary. If the translator does not arrange the message in the order of the TL sentence structure properly, it may cause misunderstanding or confusion. A word may perform functions in various ways,

depending on the word's position in the sentence, and that makes its meaning different.

2.8.3 Semantic Level

- Noun

Unlike Thai, English has countable and uncountable nouns. Some words can be both countable and uncountable, depending on its context and meaning. In English, countable nouns also need articles to precede the nouns but when the message is translated into Thai, articles are required periodically. For instance, the article "the" which is used for specifying people, places, and things must be translated into Thai by adding an indicator "นั้น" which means "that". Meanwhile, the article "a, an" can be omitted.

Besides, to show plurality, English and Thai have a different structure so when translating Thai into English, the translator needs to notice whether a noun is singular or plural.

- Verb

The use of passive voice is rare in Thai thus it is more natural if the sentence structure in the translated text is re-ordered. In English, the change of word form is also made in order to perform the speech of time whereas in Thai there is no such change.

- Pronouns

When translating pronouns from English into Thai, the translator has to analyze what or whom the pronoun refers to. The translator may identify the wrong noun. In addition, Thai people do not use pronouns as often as the English do. Thai usually consists of noun repetition or uses other nouns that have the same reference.

- Adverbs

The translator has to clearly interpret which verb or adjective an adverb modifies in a sentence.

- Punctuation marks

On the one hand, when translating English into Thai, some punctuation marks are cut out because Thai does not have many. On the other hand, if Thai is translated into English, such marks need to be used in the sentence. The translator has to know when and where to use the marks.

The mistakes in translation can be described as follows:

- Mis-translation

The meaning in the translated text is different from that in the original.

- Over-translation

There are possible additional meanings to a TL text. However, some of these mistakes happen because the translator intends to give a clearer message or transfer feelings and tones from the source text.

- Under-translation

In this case, some of the meaning in the source text is missing.

- Inappropriate word choice

Sometimes, a word in the source language contains various meanings so the translator has to carefully choose a word that has a meaning that is equivalent to the meaning of the original message.