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| REVIEW ARTICLE

## Literature Translation through Discourse and Register Analysis Approach: A Systematic Review

Danica Ignacio<sup>1</sup> ✉ Reynalyn Temporas-Salundagit<sup>2</sup> and Ramil G. Ilustre, Ph.D, DTESOL<sup>3</sup>

<sup>12</sup>*Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Philippines*

<sup>3</sup>*Professional Lecturer of English, Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Philippines*

**Corresponding Author:** Danica Ignacio, **E-mail:** [danica.ignacio.x@bulsu.edu.ph](mailto:danica.ignacio.x@bulsu.edu.ph)

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| ABSTRACT

This scoping review studies how translation works through discourse and register analysis approach. In translation, different translation types have been successfully practiced. In interlingual translation, translating means beyond the word-for-word translation. In literature translation, the translation process demands improvement, especially in classical literature that needs to be understood in a target foreign culture. This systematic review aims to study how translation processes work and how discourse and register analysis approaches can improve translation products. Discourse analysis deals with how language communicates and holds its social and power relations. Discourse analysis aims to understand and investigate sentences and discourse through their underlying social and cultural context. Through the metafunctions of language, register variables such as the field, tenor, and mode, as well as through comparative analysis of the source text and the target text, translation products could be more efficient for the target audience. Hence, it can ensure translation quality. The conclusions of this systematic review could lead to future studies to improve translation quality through discourse and register analysis approach.

| KEYWORDS

Translation studies, translation, discourse analysis, register analysis, literature translation

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### 1. Introduction

Translation is vital in converting a text from one language into an equivalent version in another language; hence, highly evolved transnational societies can be developed through translation, despite cultural differences or similarities. (Ibrahim & Mansor, 2019). Translation facilitates the transmission of ideas and equipment that are essential in our daily lives. Hence, we see the great value in improving translation processes and products. Efficient translators are needed to create universality among classical arts that are foreign to certain languages.

Translation is not just needed in communication. In fact, it is also vital in the teaching-learning process. Literature translation of classical works written in foreign languages is necessary for language learners. Using translation in lessons plays an important role in teaching. Helps students to understand the connection between languages and explores the potential of both of them. It is a necessary and natural activity because in many common places, foreign words are met, and they need to be decoded (Becla, n.d.).

Translation includes the process of translating meaning from one language to another while taking into account a variety of factors. Words, context, and grammar rules should all be considered as well as culture, writing customs, and difficult-to-translate words or utterances. Hence, various translation theories contributed to the development of translation. It can be divided into four phases (Sutopo, 2019), namely: literature theory of translation which centralizes the art and aesthetics of translation; linguistics theory of translation, where translators pay attention to the lexical, language meaning, and pragmatic concepts of translation. Meanwhile, translators focus on the transfer of cultural messages and disputes on author-centered domestic and foreignization translation tactics during the culture theory of translation. Special translators focus on the acquisition and application of professional

knowledge and talents during the last phase of the professional theory of translation. To be competent in translation, translators have greater professional knowledge and talents in the translation sectors.

Translation is more than the replacement of the source text materials with the target text. There are so many different factors to consider. One of the approaches to the translation that first came to emergence is the discourse and register analysis approach. Discourse analysis is a discipline that concerns the study of the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. In other words, Discourse analysis is a branch of applied linguistics that investigates the study of language in use. (Farahani, 2013).

Under the discourse analysis approach, Michael Halliday published his systematic functional linguistics model. Halliday states that language is the study of how people exchange meanings through the use of language. Systemic functional theory views language as a social semiotic resource where people can accomplish their purposes by expressing meanings in context. Halliday wrote, "the value of theory" lies in the use that can be made of it, and he has always considered a theory of language to be essentially consumer-oriented. SFL language as social semiotic is the social interpretation of language and meaning. (Arnold, 1978).

Halliday's SFL was used for further studies about translation. One is Juliane House's translation quality assessment, where she emphasized the source text and target text comparative model and modification of Halliday's register variables. House suggests that a translated text must not lean too much towards the target audience; instead, it must retain the authenticity of the culture of the source text. Hence, the register analysis of both ST and TT must be analyzed. On the other hand, in Mona Baker's "In Other Words Coursebook", she argued that a translator should use different thematic structures to achieve cohesion and cohesiveness of the translated text, which was supplemented by the theory of Basil Hatim and Ian Mason, where they stated that changes in the modality structure are seen to cause changes in the interpersonal function. All these approaches under discourse and register analysis can contribute to new future studies for the betterment of translation products.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Factors in Translation**

Translation cannot be done overnight, and there are several factors that can affect the translation process. Olha Lehka-Paul and Bogusława Whyatt (2016) stated that personality characteristics are important building blocks for the further development of translation competence and expertise. In addition to this, Mohamed Ali Elsidig Ibrahim and Ahmed Mohammed Abdulrahman Mansor (2019) stated that translation helps people to exchange ideas and equipment that cannot be dispensed with in our daily life. So we need efficient translators who will translate masterpieces of art in such a manner that they are translated. A translator must have knowledge of the language and the culture of the people under study and fluency in the language of the write-up. When the translator is not the same person, the quality of translation is influenced mainly by three factors: the competence, the autobiography, and what is called the material circumstances of the translator, that is, the position the translator holds. One of the hardest parts of translation is translating cognates. According to Arndt Heilmann & Carme Llorca-Bofi (2021), cognates affect reading and typing behavior during translation. Additionally, they observe a moderation effect of translation experience on behavioral measures when cognates are translated literally. Based on the research by Barbara Dragsted (2012), high variability in the target text was also associated with more self-corrections, but they found few traces of tentative solutions being produced and considered and subsequently replaced by other solutions.

### **2.2 Machine Translation**

If you are using a machine as a translator, especially a google translator, you do not have to spend much time correcting translation products by a professional translator, but the translations by google translate need substantial improvement in their quality. Nevertheless, the quality was still below average, and the texts would require extensive post-editing for their function to be met (Alta van Rensburg et al., 2012). To support the statement above, Ridha Anugrah Latief et al. (2020) stated that even though human evaluation is time-consuming, it is still the most reliable method to compare different systems, such as rule-based and statistical systems. There is still no complete good to replace human translation; based on knowledge, a good deal of effort and a lot of interest in keeping an eye on the evolution of these online devices are recommended. Even though google translate provides translations among many forms of text and media, the accuracies vary greatly.

### **2.3 Translation Theory**

According to Wahyu Setia Budi (2015), naturalness in translation is a very important point in relation to translation product quality. Grammar of both languages involved can also be employed to help the sharp analysis of the data. Translation then should make sense; convey the spirit of the manner of the original; have a natural and easy to comprehend the form of expression; and produce a similar response to that of the original. Beyond that, it is expected that some other factors triggering the less natural translation in the target language be partially, if not fully, identified. The contrast between the two languages involved in the translation, the cultural discrepancies, and the nature of the meaning of each word makes the translation process difficult. The use of different registers, styles and targeted readers also seem to have a role in influencing the naturalness of translation. As stated by Anam

Sutopo (2019), the development of translation theories can be divided into four phases. They are the literature theory of translation; the linguistics theory of translation; the culture theory of translation; and the professional theory of translation. During the literature theory of translation, translators paid special attention to the art and aesthetics of translation; during the linguistics theory of translation, translators paid attention to the transfer of grammar, then to language meaning, and finally to pragmatic linguistics. During the culture theory of translation, translators put special emphasis on the transfer of cultural messages and debates on authors-centered domestic and foreignization translation strategies. While during the professional theory of translation, special translators pay attention to the acquisition and application of professional knowledge and abilities. The translators have better professional knowledge and abilities in the translation fields so as to be competent in translation.

#### **2.4 Translation Process and Strategies**

In the translation process, there are three important things that should be noted by translators, i.e., the accuracy of the transfer of messages, the accuracy of the disclosure of the message, and the nature of language translation. In creating a work of translation that has a good quality, not only the role of translators in it, but the role of the reader is also very important as the judge of the translation work he studied. To generate a good translation is not an easy job because every aspect of its translators faces various difficulties that not a whole translation can through it (Nur Kholifatul Illiyin et al., 2019). According to Raden Arief Nugroho (2013), there are different strategies in translation, and of those is micro strategies. Microstrategies outline two spheres of translation, namely translation with a high degree of creativity and non-creative translation. The micro strategies that are included in a high degree of creativity are substitution, permutation, adaptation, paraphrase, addition, deletion, condensation, and explicitation. On the other hand, non creative translation microstrategies are oblique translation, direct translation, calque, and direct transfer.

#### **2.5 Discourse and Register Analysis**

According to Abdul Malik Al Selwi (2019), Michael Halliday was one of the first linguists to pay close attention to the concept of register in the 1960s and 1970. He referred to it as the configuration of meanings that are typically associated with a particular situational configuration of field, mode, and tenor. Halliday then published his systematic functional linguistics model to better analyze translation through the lens of social context. Halliday's SFL is a top-down model. Genre is determined by the socio-cultural environment, and itself determines the other elements in the model where register variables are the first ones. Register analysis is composed of three components of context of the situation according to Halliday: the field explains the subject matter, the tenor includes the participants of the text, or the relationship among the participants of the text. And lastly, the mode refers to the text construction as to whether it is based on written or spoken forms of communication. The field is associated with the ideational metafunction of language and is realized with transitivity patterns. Meanwhile, the tenor is associated with interpersonal metafunction of language that enacts human relationships and is realized by modality, and mode is associated with textual metafunction that is realized with the theme and rheme and cohesion concepts of lexicogrammar. (Darlan, 2017).

#### **2.6 The Role of Discourse Analysis in Translation**

The purpose of Merhdad Farahani's paper entitled "The Role of Discourse Analysis in Translation" (2013) is to examine the concepts and phrases in the context of translation studies. Discourse analysis has greatly influenced the concept of translation. The translator's job is to identify the ST's socio-cultural environment and transfer the message to TT in a way that appears fluent and accurate in terms of the socio-cultural environment; otherwise, the translation will appear nonsense, blurred, and vague, and the production will shift from its initial socio-cultural environment into a very distinct socio-cultural environment. According to Tri Writano (2019), SFL-based discourse analysis can help translators to improve their understanding of the SL texts and to avoid unnecessary shifts of metafunctional meaning. Different types of texts (genres) have different text structures and different grammatical features. It was explained here that after using Halliday's SFL, different types of textual genres have distinct grammatical structures; hence, the target text should be of the same text type as the source text. SFL aids translator comprehension of the source language, preventing metafunctional meaning alterations.

Meanwhile, Catherine Way tried to study the discourse analysis approach to legal translators' training, wherein she describes the use of the discourse analysis approach in legal translator training. It provides trainees with the tools to develop structured analytical processes when facing the translation of legal texts. Traditionally, translation classes revolve around the text to be translated. Through the model of Fairclough's model in 1992, translators are guided through a step-by-step procedure that firstly situates the text within the social process and social events. By using the discourse analysis approach to legal translator training, students find that after only 6-7 weeks, they are capable of moving from one legal field to another, from one text type to another, with increasing confidence and efficiency. (Way, 2015).

Another study by Ningwey Yang argued that based on the findings of the research, it is safe to say that register analysis, to some degree, makes a valuable contribution to translation quality assessment. Michael Halliday proposes register theory and points out its three parameters, three metafunctions, and the dialectic relationship between the semantic system and its elements. Three important characteristic features of SFL can be summed up. Firstly, SFL centers on the sociological aspects of language; Secondly, language is regarded as a form of doing rather than knowing. It distinguishes linguistic behavior potential from actual linguistic

behavior. Thirdly, it gives a relatively high priority to the description of characteristics of particular languages and varieties of languages.

On the other hand, a case study by Tak-Sum Wong and John Lee in December 2019 automatic evaluation shows that translation models that match the required register of the target sentences yield better translation quality and significantly outperform a baseline. It is based on an approach for translation between Chinese dialects that can produce target sentences at different registers. We focus on Mandarin as the source language and Cantonese as the target. Mutually unintelligible, these two varieties of Chinese exhibit differences at both the lexical and syntactic levels, and the extent of the difference can vary considerably depending on the register of Cantonese.

### **2.7 Cohesion in Translation**

Discourse and register analysis approach also paved the way for more coherent translation products. Redundancy has been the issue of debate among linguists and translation theorists in particular. The issue of redundancy is deeply rooted in the culture of all languages, and it's realized in the process of translation. This can be seen when translation occurs between languages that differ greatly in culture, language systems norms, traditions, etc. However, any substitution of a word in one language by units that are longer in the target language is to be called by some theorists as redundancy (Karimi, 2009; Shunnaq & Farghal, 1999). The idea of whether repetition has any relation to the writing quality of the text has remained an issue that intrigues a number of scholars in linguistics and in writing studies. Michael Hoey (1991), Halliday and Hasan (1976) are two prominent works in presenting a detailed and thoughtful analysis of repetition occurrences in the text.

The study of Hmoud Aloitabi (2015) uses a model of lexical cohesion proposed by Witte and Faigley (1981), which itself is based on the taxonomies of cohesive ties presented by Halliday and Hasan (1976). The model deals with lexical cohesion and its subclasses, namely, repetition (same type, synonym, near-synonym, super-ordinate item, and general item) and collocation. The corpus includes five argumentative essays written by students in the field of English language literature. The results showed that the paper that received the lowest rating in terms of the writing quality was the one that included the largest number of repetition occurrences of the same type. The study concludes by arguing that repetition may not be considered as monolithic and suggests that every type of repetition needs to be examined individually in order to determine what enhances and what deteriorates the writing quality. Hence, supports the idea of cohesion stated by Mason and Basil and its pragmatic concepts.

### **3. Methodology**

The methodology of a scoping review involves the stages of (1) checking for existing reviews/protocols, (2) identifying your research question, (3) defining inclusion and exclusion criteria, (4) searching for studies/literature, and (5) selecting studies/literature for inclusion based on predefined criteria, (6) extracting data from included studies/literature, (7) evaluating the risk of bias of included studies, and (8) present results and assess the quality of evidence (Jessica Kaufman, 2011). The analysis drew on Google Scholar, Research Gate, Directory of Open Access Journals, and other sources. The search was mainly focused on studies, literature, and journals. 23 articles were included, and to determine what literature should be included in a systematic review, inclusion, and exclusion criteria were established.

### **4. Results and Discussion**

Translating literature is one of the hardest to translate. It is because when someone is writing a piece of literature, there are several factors that were considered by the author. It includes the following: background of the author, attitude or feelings of the author, and also the settings when the author is writing the text. There are some applications that can be used to translate easily, such as google translator. But, the result is not that accurate because it is just artificial intelligence. On the other hand, if a person or translator translates a text with his/her intelligence, it will become more accurate.

In addition, the discourse and register analysis approach to translation can be a necessary approach to translation. Since language has social and power relations, translation products should take the social context into consideration. Especially in translating literature for the learning process, for instance, if the register variables are not determined or modified, tendencies are either covert or overt translation. According to Mona Baker in her equivalence at word series, it is fundamental for translators to make sure that the translated products will not lean too much towards the target audience and, therefore, must maintain the cultural context of the source text. Likewise, Julianne House argued that a translator must have examined the translation quality of translated texts through the comparative analysis of the ST and the TT register variables, which were both under the discourse and analysis approaches.

### **5. Conclusion**

The text's context both shapes and is shaped by it. This interaction is triggered by a process known as "textualization," which affects both the production and reception of texts and, on the one hand, involves a set of procedures and a diverse range of products collectively known as text. Textualization requires a high level of cohesion and coherence. Without these two, the writer's biggest

challenge would be comprehending a piece of text. The meaning relations that exist inside the text and define it as text are referred to as cohesion. Cohesion and coherence are culturally relevant elements that might vary from language to language. It is the translator's responsibility to first identify these culturally particular components in the source text and then translate them into the target language in such a way that the message appears clear and understood; otherwise, the translation will appear ludicrous and ambiguous.

As mentioned above that, coherence and cohesion in the translation are culturally relevant elements, and discourse and register analysis could best address these concerns in translation products and processes. Hence, discourse and register analysis approaches are suggested to be practiced in literature translation in most teaching and learning settings as they can help the teachers in the selection of coherent words to translate source texts to target texts. Understanding and taking into consideration the social and cultural context of each literature to be discussed in the classrooms are integral in order to producing better translation products. For instance, the original text of *Les Misérables* was originally written and performed in French, but then it was translated into 21 languages, including English. With the use of discourse and register analysis approach to translation, the audience of the target language could better comprehend the context of the original work since the TT and ST were not just translated in words but were also interrelated by social and cultural context.

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