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**| RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## **Fidelity, Spirit, and Truth an Amalgam of Historical Translation and Contemporary Lexicography: A Scoping Review**

**Diether Bernardino Bautista<sup>1</sup>, Jan Christian Gomez Garcia<sup>2</sup> ✉ and Ramil G. Ilustre<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Philippines*

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

**Corresponding Author:** Jan Christian Gomez Garcia, **E-mail:** [janchristian.garcia.g@bulsu.edu.ph](mailto:janchristian.garcia.g@bulsu.edu.ph)

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**| ABSTRACT**

This scoping review studies the relationship of past translation studies to present-day lexicography. Different scholarly articles and journals about the two disciplines have been collated and meticulously studied in order to come up with a direct conclusion. It has been discovered that through the amalgamation of the articles and journals, cohesion and similarities were discovered. Translation has a strong historical background, and so is lexicography, but as the timeline between the two was separated, certain connections became vague. With the propensity for being equivocal, related articles were tediously read, and it has come to light that the relationship between translation's history and present-day lexicography is indispensable. The derivatives of the studies that were utilized in this scoping review can definitely be of the essence to future studies and promote translation and lexicography's function in language learning. The two principles are both seen to be crucial and vital to the learning of language, thus making them strong foundations of vocabulary, meaning-making, and word adaptation and variation.

**| KEYWORDS**

Translation, Word-for-Word Translation, Sense-for-Sense Translation, Fidelity, Equivalence, Religion, Holy Book, Dictionary, Lexicography, Idioms, Phrasal Verbs, Adjectives, Machine Translation, E-dictionary

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### **1. Introduction**

Translation and Lexicography are integral to the development of language. The history of translation has been long studied by well-known theorists, and different styles and techniques have been used and discovered since time immemorial. With the foundations set by the individuals who studied translation religiously, this body of language has become stronger than ever. Being studied by students and professionals from all over the world, translation has indeed become an essential part of language learning. Lexicography, on the other hand, also plays a vital role in the acquisition of knowledge in terms of language. The creation of the first dictionary was indeed a milestone in the world of language development. Since then, the production of dictionaries, thesaurus, electronic dictionaries or e-dictionaries, etc., has become a global phenomenon. With different publishing houses releasing new versions of dictionaries, the advancement and discovery of new vocabularies have become non-stop. An important element of learning a second or foreign language is vocabulary knowledge. The vocabulary size is also important. One of the elements influencing language proficiency is learning a word; on the other hand, it implies knowing several characteristics of a word.

To bridge and connect the history of translation to contemporary lexicography is a big challenge to take, for there is a scarcity of available studies that actually show how historical translation is connected with contemporary lexicography. Translation and Lexicography are two disciplines that certainly have much in common and which can be helpful for one another. However, this relationship is not –nor has been– as smooth as one would wish Varantola (1998: 180). The most skilled dictionary users are also the most demanding, distrustful, and difficult to satisfy than linguistically less sophisticated users, who frequently have very simple problems to answer. As a result of their frustration, language specialists will reject dictionaries as insufficient. Dictionary producers,

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who are similarly unhappy, say that their detractors do not comprehend the impact that space limits have on the amount and type of information that dictionaries can contain. They are also believed that because few users read the opening material, they have unreasonable expectations about the coverage of their dictionaries Varantola (1998: 180). According to Reinhard R. K. Hartmann (1989a: 18), he would want to encourage people to become more aware of the available but sometimes underutilized communication avenues. Translators, translation theorists, dictionary compilers, and metalexigraphers in German-speaking nations do not read the works of their French colleagues, and the same is true for English and American professionals in these subjects. Translators neglect lexicographers, and monolingual lexicographers, dismiss their bilingual colleagues' work, and those working in so-called broad fields ignore those working in so-called technical specializations. People can only operate effectively in society if they maintain order in their own homes.

Nevertheless, with enough understanding and knowledge about the two principles, one can see how these two display a cohesion that learners can actually understand and relate to. Historical translation and contemporary lexicography are two very interesting disciplines to study. The timeline of each principle may not overlap with each other, but the idea of looking at their common ground is a thought-provoking test to take. Bringing into light the relevance of past translation studies and present-day lexicography will indeed help people understand how meaning-making, vocabulary, and word conversion work.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Fidelity**

Bible, Quran, and other sacred texts were mainly used as a medium in the history of translation. For Christians who believe in and pursue its teachings, "the Bible is more than a historical document to be preserved." and it is more than just a cherished and admired classic of English literature. With this being said, these texts were translated into many languages. Moreover, fundamentals in translation like fidelity, spirit, and truth were given emphasis and importance by these known translators.

Faithfulness or fidelity has traditionally been used to assess a translator's work. However, fidelity has not remained constant over time and space, and the interpretation of fidelity has varied greatly throughout history. In translation, fidelity refers to how faithful a translator is to an author and his work in terms of producing the source language text as accurately as possible in the target language. Results from the study of Ajunwa (2015) show that fidelity and morality play a critical role in the translation of a pragmatic text of such sensitive nature as the Holy Bible. However, the challenge of being divine in nature compromises the accuracy of the text translation. Moreover, it was stated that no translation is perfect and absolute. Upon comparing excerpts from different bible versions, there are words and expressions that were already obsolete and no longer in use – specifically the King James Version (old English version).

Metaphors in the translation are also one of the difficulties concerning the element of fidelity. In its nature, the meaning of the text in metaphors is implicitly expressed. This is what makes the translation more complex. Prajoko (2012) conducted a translation study about Indonesian metaphors into English translation. Findings turned out that metaphors from Indonesia were successfully translated into English without compromising the fidelity of the text. It is because of the universality of the vehicles. The metaphors are successfully retained and adapted in the majority of renderings. However, some renderings were found less significant because of additional context, conversion of simile, and omission of some vehicles.

### **2.2 Equivalence**

Translation equivalence is one of the two core concepts of translation theory aside from translation function. With this being said, different translators from the 1960s to 1970s in translation studies proposed their views on this matter.

Equivalence in translation is defined as a word or expression in another language that corresponds to the one being translated. It is "an 'equal value' relationship between a source-text segment and a target segment" that "can be established on any linguistic level, from form to function." (Nida, 1964). The fact that equivalence in translation theories became controversial because of different views of translators, out of the critical evaluation of Panou (2013), states that it is still should be emphasized that equivalence is still one of the most important defining axes of translation. It is one of the core factors in translation that should not be neglected.

Language and culture have been interrelated with each other even from the start. Language is part of the culture. Hence, translation has been greatly affected by its own specific cultural connotations. Zhou and Hua (2021) stated that the role of translation for people is to help them understand the text and the cultural life and emotional ways of other countries. Furthermore, findings have shown that in translating culturally loaded words, it is necessary for the translator to pay attention to the preservation of the cultural context in the original text. Word translation can properly demonstrate the thought elements of several ethnic cultures and their emotional modes in order to attain a comparable or approximation equivalence of cultural information and final consequences and increase cultural transfer and exchanges.

In translation, equivalence is one of the central issues that made a lot of noise in terms of translation history. In relation to that, the reader's response was found to be the best comprehensive approach in translation to measure the elements of equivalence of a text. Xu (2016) states that any decision-making and the translator's inventiveness in discovering equivalents should be considered. The reader's assumptions about the context and expressions should be consistent. Any translation should attempt to accomplish equivalence to the Source Text (ST) in terms of the reader's reaction to the text because of the connection between the reader's schematic understanding and the textual realization. The translation quality will be based on the closeness of the set of dynamic interactions among schemata in the Target Text (TT) reader's mind.

The impossibility of having a universal approach to defining equivalence in translation does really exist because of many factors. Odinye (2016) discussed the problems of meaning and equivalence in translation. He stated that in order to render a quality translation, the translator must be knowledgeable enough about the source and target language in terms of phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, idiomatic, religious, and cultural systems of the text.

### **2.3 Word-for-word Translation vs Sense-for-sense Translation**

Translation is an age-old practice necessitated by the fact that groups belonging to distinct language communities have been in communication with one another for a variety of reasons, including social, economic, cultural, and political ones, since the start of human history. There are two main types of translation: Word-for-word translation and sense-for-sense translation.

The premise behind the word-for-word or literal translation is that languages have structural and semantic correspondences and are capable of grammaticalizing meaning across languages. On the other hand, sense-for-sense translation sought to capture the function of the original by devising the target language's domestic pattern of discoursing and thinking. Farghal (2013) stated that these two main translation approaches should not be utilized independently or in a pure form but rather in complementation. By putting these two context-correlated, a satisfactory translation will be achieved.

### **2.4 Religion and Translation**

Language and religion have been linked with each other since time immemorial. Religious beliefs, practices, and even sacred texts were expressed through language. Bible is one greatest contributions of language in religion.

English bible has been translated into different languages. The challenge in translating this text has something to do with its nature – divine. Despite that, many translators stood up to prove their various perspectives in translation. Ifechelobi and Onuoha (2021) conducted a comparative review of different versions of the English bible. Bible versions used are King James Version (KJV), Good News Bible (GNB), and The Living Bible (LB). As per the approach to translation, they used formal, functional, and paraphrasing as the basis for measuring the equivalence of each version. Findings have shown that the King James version has the most formal correspondence among the three. However, the two remaining versions were translated with subtle discrepancies in word arrangements and meanings. In conclusion, numerous versions of translations arose because of their purpose to make it more understandable for the readers and in consideration that language evolves over time. There is no perfect translation and version of the English bible due to acquiescence to equivalence.

Not only the English bible but also the Quran has greatly contributed to the religious beliefs, views, traditions, and way of living of the Muslims. The distinctiveness of the Quran led to the conclusion that it is impossible to be translated accurately because of its nature – divine in origin. Moreover, the Quranic text is structurally and stylistically complex, so the translation is really challenging. One more thing, Arabic grammar and stylistics are way far different from English. With these challenges in translation, what is important is the audience. In the end, the translators need to reach the overall perspective and worldview of the readers to relay the message of these sacred texts in a possible way.

### **2.5 Religion and Lexicography**

The notion of contextualization becomes evident if readers, speakers, and everyone else who engages in the communication recognize that they are not language-users but rather language-makers. We may now work on bringing the Holy Book of Lexicographers the correct type of illumination. The first point to note is that the dictionary does not record so-called "semantic facts" about the language. Because it assigns meanings to signs that do not exist, the "lemma plus gloss" presentation is problematic. As previously mentioned, these are further warped into a basic decontextualized depiction.

This is not to say that a dictionary's purpose should not be to reduce semantic indeterminacy. However, the mechanism of reaching such an aim remains questionable in the segregationist narrative. The integrationist contends that the book integrates a communication method that responds to certain communicational demands. The lexicographer's invention proposes but does not report connections based on perceived communicational demands (Harris, 2010). This argument concerning perception is critical since communication, according to the integrationist, is "a lay perspective (an interpretation) rather than a reality that can be

established from the outside" (Pablé 2019, 2). It is believed that the focus on the lay perspective and glossing needs should have been the beginning point for dictionary reform centuries ago. It is time to abandon taglines like "The definitive record of the English language," as supplied by the Oxford English Dictionary, because dictionaries are neither compendiums nor "complete written constitution[s] of the English language" (Toolan 1999, 105). They should be viewed as "guidelines" offered by lexicographers as tools with the primary goal of reducing semantic indeterminacy.

Lexicographers are language creators, and their ideas about constructing dictionaries influence those judgments as well as users' perceived motives for using dictionaries in the first place. While there is no such thing as a flawless dictionary that can be applied to every user's situation, just explaining such assumptions on the part of the lexicographer can go a long way. Instances of the community's glossing practices might also be included. Given the chronological and geographical limits of the dictionary genre, this is easier said than done, but it is the genre itself that demands revision. Instead of stuffing each entry with a lexical lemma, a gloss, instances of use, and passage snippets, a remark on the assumptions made in presenting a given definition, and another on how this particular term has been glossed by certain dictionary users, should be added.

## **2.6 Idiom Modification**

Idioms are considered to be semantically difficult, especially for individuals who are unfamiliar with them. Idiomatic language is being adapted to suit and be more adaptable in terms of comprehension. Modifications have a significant impact on both the grammatical structure and meaning of the phrase. Lexical changes are detected whenever a terminology is adjusted since word changes are essential in modifying or adjusting an expression. This study's findings show that structural alterations of verb phrase idioms are systematic, following established grammatical patterns. This demonstrates that the limitations driving purposeful changes in the grammatical structure of idioms are identical to those governing conventionalized variants. This is because, according to Cognitive Grammar, idioms are constructions, and constructions represent mental configurations, i.e., events that contain a connection and actors. When utilizing an idiom to describe an event, the speaker may use its conventionalized form(s) or purposefully vary its structure to provide a new perspective on the same event. Variations and modifications so constitute a continuum in which the same mechanisms are at work, but the degree of conventionality varies.

Previous modifications research has focused on semantic limitations, proposing that any changes to an idiom's grammatical structure must be consistent with its figurative meaning (which is why it is argued that some idioms lose their figurative interpretations when syntactically altered). However, this appears to minimize what is going on in deliberate changes to the grammatical structure of idioms. A meaning-based approach to grammar implies that in the non-conventional usage of idioms, semantic and grammatical limitations coexist. The speaker can use an idiom to adapt it to any communication context, but there are only so many ways to do so. Any idiom, it may be argued, can have its grammatical structure deliberately altered. Grammatical forms, like lexical elements, have meanings, according to Cognitive Grammar. As a result, grammar allows language users to express themselves through the employment of idioms in various ways.

## **2.7 Phrasal Verbs and English Adjectives**

The compositional nature of selected related PVs and provided a comparative motivated account of their meaning and use by demonstrating all of the steps involved in the process (i.e., retrieving corpus data, assigning semantic frames to corpus examples, annotating valence patterns in frame semantic-syntactic terms, identifying distinct phraseological patterns for each PV LU, tracing the underlying conceptual motivation), eventually underpinning the findings. The comprehensive case study of the walk/run away/off with something construction demonstrated that by emphasizing conceptual and phraseological similarities and differences across PVs, we may expand existing online dictionary entries for PVs that are currently addressed in a fragmented manner (separately from the main verb entry and from other related PVs, usually with no links between related senses). Although applying such an approach to all PVs mentioned in monolingual dictionaries would be time- and labor-intensive, systematic study and representation of the rationale driving a collection of the most common PVs would be a practical and promising endeavor in EFL lexicography.

Given Lakoff's [1987: 346] remark that "it is easier to learn something that is motivated than something that is arbitrary," the suggested method for describing and disambiguating PV LUs can be beneficial not just in the setting of pedagogical lexicography but also in EFL education (e.g., in designing Data-Driven Learning tasks for raising awareness of motivated patterns in PVs). Future research should look at the efficacy of teaching materials developed along these lines, as well as whether and to what degree dictionary users would enjoy or benefit from such portrayal of PVs. The primary goal of the research discussed in this article was to explore how adjectives with extremely similar meanings are occasionally found in combination, as well as what domains of meaning are involved. This is, without a doubt, an unusual usage of adjectives, but it deserves to be described. Possible explanations for such recurrence have been proposed, ones that attempt to go beyond the relatively broad concept of 'intensification.'

Other grammatical configurations, such as 'adv + adv' combinations employed in conjunction with verbs, may also lend themselves to such research. Methodologically, the study is difficult, particularly in the early phases, due to the relatively small number of common items and the lack of semantic annotation in corpora. The key issue in data analysis is 'meaning,' which is always the considerably more difficult side of the form-meaning coin. The study is exploratory, as the title suggests. Further research into the individual semantic areas outlined above, but in bigger corpora, would be beneficial in determining whether there is a link between semantic repetition and text type. Furthermore, the many semantic fields depicted are obviously only part of the tale, and it would be nice to have a broader, clearer view of which regions of meaning are engaged and why some are included but not others.

### **2.8 Machine Translation**

It has been examined how five key characteristics affected the quality of neural machine translation. The use of tokenization and Byte Pair Encoding (BPE) results in a significant increase in the BiLingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) score. Larger monolingual corpora are more beneficial for BPE training. Lowercase does not appear to give a big enough benefit to compensate for missing capitalization in proper names, abbreviations, and sentence openings. The study demonstrates that topic and register compatibility between the training corpus and the system's intended use is critical. This indicates that a general-purpose translation system must be trained on a large representative parallel corpus of texts in various styles and registers, as well as a diverse set of themes. It's worth noting that these results are based on single research that used Russian-English translation. All of the claims need to be validated for other language pairings, which is something that should be worked on in the future. There is a suggested method for improving statistical machine translation (SMT) quality by leveraging superficial linguistic information from source and destination phrase pairs. We see moderate increases in BLEU for 5 of 19 features: length ratio of source and target phrases (in words), average token length ratio, punctuation count ratio, mean frequency of target words according to a broad domain frequency list, and source and target word mean frequency ratio. It is intended to examine scoring and normalization strategies further in order to increase feature performance. It should also be investigated how the combination of successful characteristics affects translation quality.

### **2.9 E-dictionary**

The current study about electronic dictionaries seeks to determine how beneficial strategy training using pocket electronic dictionaries has been for non-English major English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners enrolled in an English reading class. The study was designed based on the findings of a previous study (LET Kansai Chapter Collected Papers 15:109–119, 2015), which concluded that a 10-week reading task combined with dictionary strategy training could positively affect participants' attitudes toward learning and that the dictionary strategies and reference skills were well retained. As a result, the participants in this study were given: (1) metacognitive tasks as an outside-of-class activity; (2) a collaborative learning environment with peer evaluation; and (3) an explicit presentation of the techniques and reference skills using a projector. The findings indicated that non-English majors performing these tasks may have preserved the methods and reference abilities. Furthermore, their attitude toward studying English seems to have improved in the current study.

The major findings matched with those of Koyama (2015); nevertheless, there are minor discrepancies between the two investigations. The students' various majors should be given special consideration: English in Koyama (2015) and social studies in the current study. In contrast to the previous study, individuals in the current study were not necessarily motivated to learn English. Furthermore, the dictionary training in the current study was substantially longer and divided into two sessions. These distinctions may have an impact on the outcomes.

Despite the variations in the outcomes of the two previous research, the findings of the current study demonstrate that dictionary training in reference abilities and techniques might be an incentive to create a desired EFL learning environment. Throughout the training, participants approached the allotted activities with enthusiasm and volunteered to give a class presentation with a thorough discussion on each essay. They were thought to examine an E-dictionary on the spur of the moment. At the same time, these metacognitive activities aided in the memory of a complex cognitive process required for dictionary consultation. This is consistent with the findings of Fraser (1999) and Nyikos and Fan (2007). These exercises may also aid in the internalization of reference skills and techniques learned. Furthermore, the collaborative learning environment, as well as the assigned activities, appeared to aid in the memory of a complicated cognitive process such as dictionary consultation (e.g., Tono 2001). These actions and activities appear to be required to account for the impact. Based on the facts stated above, it might be concluded that dictionary training aided the pupils. As a result, it can be determined that efficient usage of an E-dictionary provides scaffolding for L2 learners (van Lier, 1996). The current study is believed to throw light on a novel element of dictionary use in EFL instruction. However, it should be noted that more data collection on a large number of condition cases is required. More trials should be conducted in the future.

### 3. Methodology

A scoping review approach includes the following stages: (1) defining the research topic, (2) finding relevant studies, (3) study selection, (4) charting the data, and (5) compiling, summarizing, and reporting the results (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). To discover appropriate sources, the following keywords were used: Translation, Word-for-Word Translation, Sense-for-Sense Translation, Fidelity, Equivalence Lexicography, Idioms, Adjectives, and Phrasal Verbs, Machine Translation, and E-dictionary. The sources discovered by the study came from Google Scholar and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The search was mostly limited to works published in dissertations, peer-reviewed journals, and relevant research on grammar acquisition in second language learners. Both Google Scholar and DOAJ were used to select sources for relevance in order to focus on widely cited sources, peer-reviewed research, or collaborative research. Inclusion criteria were devised to identify the literature to be included in this systematic review. Twenty articles were chosen based on their relevance to translation and lexicography.

### 4. Results and discussion

Translation and lexicography, as foundations of language, discourse, and vocabulary, are essential for completely comprehending terms. An individual may learn about a term and how to use it in conversation by reading the definition provided in dictionaries. The significance of the research undertaken for translation and lexicography is undeniable since the two have indelible functions in language acquisition. The rich historical past of translation only adds to its significance in the language, and it also demonstrates that its position in the body of knowledge is undeniably beneficial. Contemporary lexicography is today seen as a linguistic basis since new words discovered are added to the vast universe of language. Lexicographers have demonstrated care for fulfilling the requirements of translators in the best way feasible. Translators have frequently expressed sorrow about the inadequacy of lexicographic materials for their requirements but have neglected to provide concrete proposals for change to lexicographers. A fluid interaction between the two sides, who are always condemned to misunderstand one other, has been lacking. In this regard, it is crucial to note that lexicographers have historically been more interested in doing so. There is a lack of bidirectionality in research that targets both fields. In reality, studies on the use of dictionaries in translation constitute the vast majority. There have been few studies on the use of translation or translations in lexicography. It is our goal that the essays in this issue will help to the big communal job of opening up new research areas.

### 5. Conclusion

The past and the present may not have intersected, but the lessons of the past will forever be the guide of the present. The history of translation and the people who have untiringly studied its development will always be recollected as the evolution of language will never stop. With the present techniques of meaning-making and the publishing of dictionaries and other books about language being presented to a new breed of learners, the progression of language shall constantly see a bright light. The history of the translation shall always be the pillar of lexicography.

The position of translation and lexicography in the books will never be questioned. Its help in the development of language as to what it is today indispensable. The principles of both translation and lexicography uphold the standards of language. As the world progress, so thus the development of new words. The lexicon of people will always remain in constant advancement. Dictionaries will continue to be published. With the world being more connected now than ever, translation shall persistently be used as a way of communication to understand and unite communities. The history of translation has always been the backbone of learning and understanding how people from all over the world were able to give meaning, pay attention, learn to understand and emanate comprehension to different languages. Under the turf of the multiple studies made to fully understand the relevance of translation to lexicography, one common idea that can be uprooted and be shown to people is its ability to adapt to the changing world. Translation, together with lexicography, will remain in the constant quest to acclimatize to the needs of the present and future generations to come.

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