Ten top problems of translators

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Introduction

Structural variations between languages, cultural differences, compound words… In this article we will go through both the main structural problems in translation and the main challenges of translation faced by Translators, Clients and the Industry as a whole. Although we cannot give a solution that fits every single problem of translation entirety, we might help you mitigate their impact with some tips extracted from experience. Without further ado, this is our Top 10 on the major translation problems and their solutions:

1. Structure of the Language

The structure of sentences in English and other languages may be different. This is considered to be one of the main structural problems in translation.
The culture practised by the speakers of each language may also be vastly different. In many languages, certain terms may be completely absent… This is one of the most common challenge faced by a translator on its daily basis, also one of the main reasons why translation is difficult.
For example, in English the adjective is placed before the noun, but in French the adjective comes after the noun. In Arabic and some other languages, the subject pronoun is part of the verb, and that determines the subject gender and the voice of the sentence.

2. Cultural Differences

The culture practised by the speakers of each language may also be vastly different; Often, colloquialism is woven into formal language, making the translator's task very difficult indeed. The larger the region where the language is spoken, the more the dialects there are likely to be, and the more colloquial words you are likely to find – except in technical documents translations, legal document translations, or translations of medical transcripts.
For example, the British are famous for their dry, biting sarcasm, which is their brand of humor. However, this kind of sarcasm may not be appreciated in not just a country speaking a different language, but even another country where they speak English.
Then the problem arises as to how to translate accurately without hurting sentiments or angering the target audience. Culture is also considered to be a structural translation problem.

3. Compound Words

A compund word is a combination of two or three nouns and adjectives. They could be closed of three forms – closed form, like notebook; hyphenated like long-distance, or open form like fighter pilot. Some compound words are pretty straightforward, and mean exactly what they say – like afternoon; some mean only half of the term, like say bellboy, and some mean nothing of their original words – for example deadline. In such cases, it can get very tricky for the translator.

4. Verbs made up of two words

In English there are several verbs that are made up of two words – usually, a combination of a verb and a preposition. For example: break up, break down, break into, break in, break off,

break apart, break away; these all mean different things, though the common verb is break. Here the preposition which follows immediately after gives it a completely different meaning. It is highly unlikely that translating the two words into the target language will give you the same meaning!

5. Missing Terms

Missing terms are very common translation issue. In some languages, certain terms may be completely absent – this has also to do with culture, as those objects may not be used by the people, or those actions or activities may not be permitted or simply not performed. This is a potentially difficult situation for the translator, and poses another important structural problem worth of discussion. Let's suppose the term child adoption has no related word in another language, because such a thing just doesn't take place in that area!

6. Words with Several Meanings

There are several words in the English language that have different meanings based on the way they are used in the sentence. Words are sometimes spelled alike and pronounced alike, but have different meanings, like break (a plate) or take a coffee break. Words that have the same spellings but different pronunciations like to lead a conference, or a lead pencil. There are also words that have different spelling but have the same pronunciation, like break and brake, grate and great, and so on. There are hundreds of such words in English, and also idioms, metaphors, similes and so on. However, those words may be different in other languages

7. Lack of Technical Knowledge

Regarding technical knowledge, translators are first and foremost, linguists; though they do have good knowledge of certain subjects, they are usually not the top experts in the field. In fact it's very rare that you find a say, doctor, who is also an expert linguist. Translators usually specialise in certain niches, and gain subject matter expertise. But sometimes that may not be enough for some types of specialized translation; some documents may be full of technical jargon, or talk about specific procedures or activities in detail. This can pose a problem for translators.

8. Limited Time

Limited time is the most common problem that translators face every single day, because most clients need the translated work quickly; they have no time to lose. If it is a straightforward document, then you may be able to finish it within the deadline. But when it is a technical or legal document full of technical terms or if there is a lot of dialect and colloquialism involved, it could take longer. This can be very stressful for you as a translator, when your client is breathing down your back to get the translated documents

9. **Personal Challenges**

Personal Challenges, as opposed to linguistic challenges, are those arises because of the environment around the translator. All the challenges we discussed above are linguistic challenges. There are many benefits on being a translator, but sometimes some of those benefits may also bring problems. For example, being a translator involves a very independent working schedule. This means you can work anytime you want, even from home, but you still have deadlines and time requisites. If you do not handle your working time correctly you might find yourself working 24/7. Apart from those, a translator may face several other challenges in their line of work. These include

but are not limited to: proper internet access, competition from other translators, competition from machine translation, and the dilemma of pricing your services appropriately.

10. **Quality Vs Expense**

This is the most common translation problem faced by clients who need Translation Services: The biggest challenge for the client when facing a translation is to strike a balance between cost and quality. It is especially important in the case of translations of technical or medical manuals, or legal documents. You can barely afford to have any mistakes or near mistakes in such documents, as it could lead to misinterpretation by the readers and wrong usage – and that could result in damage to the equipment, or harm to the user; which could in turn have even further ramifications, like loss of reputation for the manufacturer, legal hassles and so on. Ergo, you want a very precise translation.
This could lead to serious translation problems, and solutions must be found cautiously. However, the persons with expertise in such translations may be busy professionals who are much sought after, and they may charge high rates for these documents.

In certain cases, the person or company in need of the translation may not have a very high budget for the same. This is a classic dilemma faced by the customer, so make sure you know how to evaluate the quality of a work of translation.

Key words: translators, problems, professionals , quality, knowlegde.

Conclusions: 1. Close cooperation between author and translator helps to improve the quality of abstracts of research articles.

2. Authors and translators of research articles to be published in English should be aware that English is a writer-responsible language,the author must make the text readable so that the audience does not have to make extra effort to comprehend.

3. Researchers need to learn the norms of academic writing in English, so these topics should be covered by courses available to postgraduates.

4.The use of structured abstracts can aid non-native speaker researchers in writing better abstracts of their manuscripts.

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