

3. Genre Translation

- ▶ *In the domain of Translation Studies, what are the implications of the term **genre**?
- ▶ The term genre means:
 - ▶ **A. literary genres**; drama, poetry, novel, short story (and recently flash fiction)
 - ▶ **B. other well-established types of texts**; multimedia texts, religious texts, children's literature, tourism texts, technical texts and legal documents.
- ▶ (any type of text)

3. 1. Drama

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*What are some research topics in the domain of 'drama translation'?

A. Is the play translated to be performed on the stage or to be read?

(Performability versus Readability: since the mid-1980s, in Theater Translation there has been an open discussion regarding the theoretical polarization between the notions of *performability* and *readability*.)

B. What kind of translation is required for performance?

C. *(Trans) location*: the location of the foreign play in the target culture.

D. *Performability* (or playability): which ranges from body language to choice of props

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Drama Translation

actor/actress

perform

Stage

Act I, II, III, IV, V

Scene i, ii, iii, iv, v, ...

- playwright

mise-en-scene

soliloquy

dialogue

- dramatist

Yini
realism

“translation from page to stage”?

*What are some research topics in the process of “translation from page to stage”?

- A. The role of different **participants** such as the translator, director, actors and other participants
- B. do research on a stage performance of **a drama**
- C. comparing **different translations** of the same play
- D. Studying the biography and translation strategies of a drama **translator**

A good thesis in this area is: ➤

“The Intersemiotic Translation Study of Shakespeare’s play, *Macbeth* and its stage ➤ performance directed by Reza Servati according to Peircean model” by Zahra Bahrami from Islamic Azad University Shahr-e-Ghods Branch.

3.2 Poetry

*Why are poetic texts good when research time is limited?

-Because poems are **short**.

*What are some major research topics in the domain of poetic translation?

A. Should a poem be translated **to a poem**?

do different **poetic aspects** (music, figures of speech, emotional aspects, imaginative aspects...) have proper equivalence in the TT?

B. The translation of poetic features such **as rhyme, rhythm, meter, cadence,**

C. The translation of figurative language and **figures of speech** such as metaphor, simile, irony, etc.

D. Can only **poets** translate poems? Are most of the poetry translators poets?

E. The **strategies** and methods for translating poems

3. 3. Prose Fiction (Novel, Short Story, Flash Fiction)

*What are the three major areas for research in the domain of translating prose fiction?

A. Translation of a particular **aspect** (for example the translation of narrative perspective, the translation of culture-specific terms, the translation of humors and so on.

B. Studying the life, works and translation strategies of a particular **translator**

C. The **reception** of a translated text

Prose Fiction

- ▶ *While doing research on prose fiction, it is recommended to focus on **the first chapter** or the opening scene. Why?
 - ▶ - Because the first chapter or the opening scene sets the tone for the whole work; provides the perspective
 - ▶
- ▶ *In the domain of research on **the reception of a literary work**, what are some research topics?
 - ▶ -How do **critics** review the translated works?
 - ▶ -Which **criteria** are used for assessing the success or failure of a translation?

Mini- Project

- *Mini- Project: Who are the contemporary Iranian prose fiction translators? Find a contemporary fiction translator and ask him about the way he translates, his contracts, etc. Write a questionnaire for this purpose.*

3. 4. Religious Texts

• What are some major **research topics** concerning the translation of religious texts?

- ▶ **A.** The **gap** (cultural, temporal, religious) between the source **society** and the target society
- ▶ **B.** Debate over whether sacred texts (such as the Bible or the Holy Koran) should have **literal translation** (because every word is holy) or **free translation** (because the holy text is supposed to be meaningful for the target society)
- ▶ **C.** To compare different translations of a particular sacred text into one language. For example the Holy Koran is translated by many different translators into English. Arberry, Yusif Ali, Tahereh Saffarzadeh and many others have translated Koran to English. We can choose one aspect and compare/ contrast their translations.
- ▶ To compare different translations of a particular sacred text into one language, how can we **narrow down** the topic?
- ▶ -By focusing on just one aspect

3. 4. Religious Texts

D. The influence of a particular event (political, social, historical, cultural and so on) on the translation of a particular sacred text. For example:

*What was the influence of **the Reformation** on the translation of the Bible?

(The Reformation started initially in Germany by Martin Luther with his 1517 work Ninety-Five Theses (on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences). The Reformation movement intended to reform the Roman Catholic Church so Luther's theses debated and criticized the Church. Luther started the movement and John Calvin, Huldrych Zwingli, and other early Protestant Reformers in 16th century Europe continued it.)

E. Which socio-historical, political or cultural events influenced the translation of the Holy Koran from Arabic to English (or other languages)?

F. The role of a particular translation in the development of the target language.

* For example, the role of the King James Bible on the development of English Language.

Mini-Projects

- ▶ **Mini-Project I: Who are major translators of the Holy Koran into English? Search their biography. Are they Muslims? How did they become familiar with the Holy Koran? How long did it take for them to translate the sacred texts? Who supported them?**
- ▶ **Mini-Project II: Which major social, political, historical or cultural events influenced the translation of the Holy Koran to English? Who were the major pioneers?**

3. 5. Children's Literature

- ▶ Before we deal with research topics in this area, we need to answer the following questions:
- ▶ (The answers of the following questions can make a good introduction for your research work)
- ▶ *What is the **definition** of Children's Literature? Are there different definitions in the SL and TL?
- ▶ *What is the **function** of Children's Literature? Are there different functions in the source society and target society?
- ▶ *What **genres** do come under the heading of Children's Literature? Are the classifications the same in the source literature and target literature?

Children's Literature

- ▶ **What are the common **approaches** to Children's Literature?
- ▶ Formerly **prescriptive approach** was common. But now **descriptive approach** seems more appropriate.
- ▶ Mini-Project: Gote Klingberg in *Children's Fiction in the Hands of Translators* refers to five potential research areas of Children's Literature. What are these five research areas?

3. 6. Tourism Texts

- ▶ *Which type of text does offer a high degree of **cross-cultural** and **linguistic contact**?
- ▶ -Tourism texts
- ▶ *What are some potential **research topics** in translation of "Tourism Texts"?
- ▶ A. **How much** translation is done in a particular locality? Do these translated materials meet the needs?
- ▶ B. What are the translation **needs** of a particular locality?
- ▶ C. What **strategies** are appropriate in the translation of materials for tourists? Is a target text and target culture -oriented approach more appropriate?

3. 7. Technical Texts

- ▶ *What is the very broad definition of **Technical Translation**?
- ▶ -The translation of specialized texts in science, technology, biology, physics, chemistry, medicine, economics and other disciplines.
- ▶ *Concerning *Technical texts*, what is the denotation of **multilingual documentation**?
- ▶ -The translation of business texts

What are some potential research topics concerning the translation of technical texts?

- ▶ A. problems of **style** and **clarity**
- ▶ B. **Conventions** of the specialized texts (particular structure and grammar that maybe used in some specialized texts. E.g. in scientific texts passive construction are more common than active constructions; how is English passive translated to Farsi?)
- ▶ C. The **expectations** of target readers is in a particular culture
- ▶ D. The problem of **patent**; is it lawful to translate every kind of document or do some documents need official permission? What kinds of documents d need legal permission?
- ▶ E. Training **technical translator** (this is a kind of applied research)
- ▶ F. The **historical role of translators** in the dissemination of a particular field of study, particular information or knowledge.



*What are the prerequisites of **technical translation**? (Or, who can translate technical texts? Can any translator translate technical texts?)

-For translating technical texts, the translator needs to know **the subject** and **the technical terms**. For example, for translating medical texts, the translator should necessarily be familiar with medicine and know the meaning of technical terms in the field of medicine or medical terms. That is the very reason just physicians (or those who have studied Para medicine or similar fields) can properly translate medical texts.

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