



# The Impact of Multilingualism on Translation Strategies

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**Abstract:** *In the current era of globalization, cultural and linguistic exchange has grown at an unprecedented rate. These changes have also had an impact on the field of translation. At the heart of these changes are linguistic concepts such as descriptive translation, bilingualism, multilingualism, and code-switching (speaking alternatively between two or more languages). This article explores one of the above concepts – multilingualism – and its importance in translation. It discusses the significances of conveying the text correctly, taking into account both the reader and the content of the text, and preserving the originality of the text through new translation methods or directly conveying its meaning. The same time, the results of the survey on the importance of the multilingualism are also analysed and presented.*

**Keywords:** *Multilingualism, Language, Translator, Context, Translation, Culture, Methods, Meaning, Element, Text, Reader, Field, Exchange, Source, Terms, Foreignization, Domestication.*

## Introduction

In the context of increasing globalization and intercultural interaction, multilingualism has become a defining feature of contemporary communication. The coexistence and interaction of multiple languages within individuals and societies significantly influence linguistic practices, including translation. As a complex cognitive and socio-cultural phenomenon, multilingualism not only shapes language competence but also affects how meaning is interpreted, negotiated, and transferred across languages.

Translation, traditionally viewed as a process of transferring meaning from a source language to a target language, is deeply impacted by the multilingual background of both translators and communicative contexts. Multilingual individuals possess unique cognitive advantages, such as enhanced metalinguistic awareness, flexibility in language use, and sensitivity to cultural nuances. These factors contribute to the development of diverse translation strategies, enabling translators to navigate linguistic and cultural differences more effectively.

The relevance of this topic lies in the growing need for accurate and culturally appropriate translation in multilingual environments, where texts often contain elements from multiple languages and cultural systems. In such contexts, translators must go beyond literal equivalence and employ adaptive, functional, and context-sensitive strategies to ensure effective communication. Multilingualism thus expands the range of possible

translation solutions while also introducing new challenges, such as code-switching, hybrid language forms, and the preservation of linguistic identity.

From a theoretical perspective, translation strategies are influenced by various factors, including linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, and the communicative purpose of the text. Multilingualism enhances the translator's ability to select appropriate strategies, such as borrowing, calque, adaptation, or modulation, depending on the specific context. At the same time, it raises important questions about the balance between fidelity and creativity, as well as the role of the translator as a cultural mediator.

The aim of this study is to examine the impact of multilingualism on the selection and application of translation strategies. It seeks to identify how multilingual competence influences decision-making processes in translation and to analyze the advantages and challenges associated with translating in multilingual settings.

Thus, exploring the relationship between multilingualism and translation strategies contributes to a deeper understanding of translation as a dynamic, context-dependent process shaped by linguistic diversity and cultural interaction.

## Methodology

Multilingualism plays a crucial role in translation process because the translator understands the connection between not only two languages, but also various languages and cultures. Being aware of multiple languages enables the translator to comprehend accurately the undercover meaning, context and culture-bounded metaphors. "If we consider multilingualism as "the companionship of two or more languages" while translation is traditionally defined as the "substitution of one language for another, then translation and multilingualism are inextricably connected". (Grutman, 2009) At the heart of these changes lies the phenomenon multilingualism. Surprisingly however, until recently translation and multilingualism were seldom considered in relation with each other and Grutman (2009) continues to initiate an obvious dichotomy between the two. As a result of linguistic and cultural boundaries, translators frequently encounter source text that includes cultural, social, and stylistic collocations. For this reason, the treatment of multilingualism has appeared as an important and challenging issue in translation strategies.

The primary questions that the translator encounters:

1. How can the target culture understand the multilingualism in the source text?
2. For the purpose of readability, should all foreign language components be translated?

The difficulties mentioned above will be covered in detail in the sections that follow.

## Result and Discussion

### What is multilingualism?

Firstly, the concept of multilingualism requires elucidation. The use of many languages, either by a single speaker or by a group of speakers, is known as multilingualism. It is commonly referred to as bilingualism when there are only two languages. The world's population is thought to be more multilingualism than monolingual. (Tucker, G. Richard, 1999) Diverse translation theories provide differing viewpoints on this matter, highlighting

elements like the translator's goal, the readers function, and the translator's duty as a cultural mediator. Translators make the use of different strategies to overcome the complication in cross-linguistic text. The degree to which translators adapt a text to the target culture is determined by two translation strategies: domestication and foreignization.

### Domestication and Foreignization

The process of closely aligning a text with the culture of the language it is being translated into, sometimes at the expense of information from the original text, is known as "domestication". (Gile, Daniel, 2009) In this style, the translator aims to make the text familiar to the reader and elements of the original culture are adapted to the local culture. Culture-specific terms are replaced with equivalents.

- a. The word "Atlas" can be an example.

Silk patterned fabric is the most famous of Uzbek national costumes. Uzbek women wear it during various ceremonies and holidays

"Silk patterned fabric" is used instead of "Atlas".

- b. Another example with "Kimchi".

You can easily find spicy pickled cabbage in every Korean restaurant.

Here domestication is used with "kimchi".

The process of keeping information from the original text while purposefully deviating from the target language's norms is known as "foreignization". (Gile, Daniel, 2009) Foreignization attempts to preserve a kind of exotic flavour. In this method the readers have an opportunity to feel the cultural context of the original text. Realia, idioms and terms often remain in their language.

### Example:

- a. Atlas is the most famous of Uzbek national costumes. Uzbek women wear it during various ceremonies and holidays.
- b. You can easily find kimchi in every Korean restaurant.



Atlas



Kimchi

### Descriptive translation

Instead of following literal translations descriptive translation places an emphasis on communicating the content, intent, and cultural subtleties of the source text. This method is

applied when a term or concept in the source language does not have a direct equivalent in the target language.

*Example:* Navro'z – a springtime celebration, deeply rooted in central Asian culture, this festival embodies the concepts of rebirth and fresh starts.

The translator in translation of “Shum bola” (A naughty boy) had to transcribe the original word and add comments in such places. For example, words such as “chopon”, “choyxona”, “xontaxta”, “qovoq” do not have an English equivalent, so they are given as follows:

- chopon - a traditional male robe
- choyxona” - a teahouse
- xontaxta- a low table for eating and drinking
- qovoq - a large gourd used as a container ((Abdukhafizovna, 2024)

During translation, the choice between domestication and foreignization often based on the target audience and purpose of the of the text. Domestication is widely used in daily life, business or commercial contexts, where translator adjust cultural elements to make the text simply. In such case they provide short clarification in brackets. An opposite to this, foreignization is typically employed in educational, historical, academic texts or literal translation. In this strategy, footnotes are frequently provided to the readers with supplementary descriptions of source text elements that may be unfamiliar. In order to connect theory with practice, a questionnaire was conducted among translators and students whose major is translation. According to the survey result, 53.8% of responses consider that keeping multilingualism in target text, better elaborates on the topic. In the second place, most significant factor is increasing the richness of the text, preferred by 30.8% of respondents. In contrast, 15.4% of the participants chose that it can confuse readers in a text.

### In your opinion, maintaining some aspects of the original language

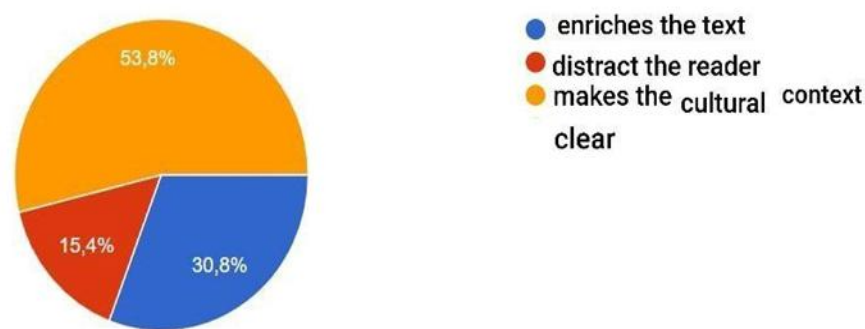


Figure 1.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, multilingualism plays a crucial role in shaping translation strategies and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the translation process. The analysis demonstrates that multilingual competence enables translators to approach texts with

greater flexibility, sensitivity, and awareness of linguistic and cultural nuances. This, in turn, allows for the selection of more appropriate and contextually relevant translation strategies.

The study shows that multilingual translators are better equipped to handle complex linguistic phenomena such as code-switching, cultural references, and hybrid language forms. Their ability to navigate between multiple linguistic systems contributes to more accurate and culturally adequate translations. At the same time, multilingualism encourages the use of diverse strategies, including adaptation, borrowing, and functional equivalence, depending on the communicative purpose and target audience.

However, the research also highlights certain challenges associated with multilingual environments, such as the risk of interference between languages, ambiguity in meaning, and difficulties in maintaining stylistic consistency. These challenges require a high level of professional competence, critical thinking, and cultural awareness on the part of the translator.

Overall, multilingualism should be viewed not as an obstacle but as a valuable resource that enriches the translation process. It expands the translator's cognitive and communicative capabilities, facilitating more nuanced and effective meaning transfer across languages and cultures. Therefore, the integration of multilingual perspectives into translation studies is essential for advancing both theoretical and practical aspects of the field.

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