

# English Language and Translation II

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Language - 2024-25

Translation Module

Lesson 3

Translation as a Product

# Translation as a Product

- Interlinear translation/literal translation: bias to the ST (and the SL)
- Grammatical transposition: replacing grammatical structures in SL with different structures in TL (e.g. Nominalisation)
- Communicative translation: ST uses a typical expression in the SL, TT uses a typical expression in the TL (e.g. culturally bound terms)

# Translation as a Product

- Interlinear translation/literal translation: bias to the ST (and the SL)
- Literal
- Faithful
- Idiomising translation: respects ST content but uses typical TL expressions, sounds, rhythm, etc.
- Free translation: bias to the TT (and the TL)

# Equivalence

- Descriptive: ST and TT features that directly correspond regardless of resulting quality of TT
- Prescriptive: accepted/standard/canonic TT version of ST
- Dynamic/functional (Nida): equivalent effect/meaning (cf. formal equivalence – grammar, lexis, phonology, etc.)

# Equivalence

- NB Equivalence cannot be seen as normative and seeking to achieve sameness. Even the idea of the 'same effect' would be difficult to verify
- Equivalence indicates a counterpart, something different, but with points of resemblance, i.e. 'minimise difference' rather than 'maximise sameness'
- Since the SL and TL are generally different, translation will entail difference, i.e. loss

# Translation loss

- Incomplete replication – loss of textually or culturally relevant input
- Difficult to avoid as the single perfect translation does not exist; most translation(s) is/are some form of compromise
- Only regretted if it prevents successful implementation of the translator's strategy, i.e. TT 'not fit for purpose'

# Translation loss: examples

- Different meanings, sound, rhythm
- Foreignness of loan words
- Lexical, semantic modification, e.g. 'box'
- 'Exotic terms', e.g. English 'legalese', loanwords
- Non-reflection of ST structures, e.g. connotations and collocations

# Translation loss: exercises

(i) Which of the following TL proverbs incurs the least translation loss of the proverb 'Chi tardi arriva male alloggia'?

- (a) Beggars can't be choosers.
- (b) The early bird catches the worm.
- (c) First come first served.



## Translation loss: exercises

(ii) Translate the text below, then analyse any translation loss incurred in your translations, and the implications arising.

Il ristorante, la trattoria, l'osteria, la pizzeria sono luoghi importanti dell'identità romana. Un tempo li si trovava a Trastevere, dove accade ancora di consumare ottimi pasti funestati però da venditori di carabattole di ogni tipo.