محاضرة 8

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أ.م.د. محمود ابراهيم حمدان.

**Formal Correspondence, Equivalence, and Transference**

**FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE (& Translation Shifts):**

Languages can be similar in certain aspects in general, but they normally manifest much more differences for the very fact that they are different linguistic systems. Indeed, it is a well-known fact that different languages differ in the areas of lexis, grammar, phonology, graphology, as well as in their formal and contextual meaning.

A formal correspondent in Catford's words (1965) is "any T.L. category which may be said to occupy, as nearly as possible, the 'same' place in the economy of the T.L. as the given S.L. category occupies in the S.L" It is not easy, however, to establish formal correspondence even between languages that are genetically or culturally related. For Instance, the sign "brutal appears in both English and French, but its signification in French is equivalent to the denotation of another English sign "serious" The sign "vertragen" appears in both Dutch and German but with different signification since it signifies "slow down" In Dutch, whereas It designates "endure" in German.

In French, the sign "large" appears as It does in English; but with a different denotation since In French It signifies "wide" In Spanish, the lexical Item "largo" is not the equivalent of "large" in English, but the equivalent of the English sign "long" Both the English term "butter and the Italian term "burro" refer to the product made from milk which is eaten for human consumption, but In fact they do not have the same meaning, nor are they translation equivalents since "burro" in Italy is unsalted, light colored, and used for cooking; whereas "butter in Britain is more often salted, has a yellow color, and is spread on loaf, (McGuire, 1980). Such similarities can easily mislead the inexperienced translator and become pitfalls for them. In English one takes a walk, in French one makes a walk, and in Spanish, one gives a walk. In English one takes an examination; in Italian one gives an examination; and in French, one suffers an examination.

If such differences and pitfalls exist between pairs of related languages (whether genetically. culturally), one expects the situation to be much more difficult when the S.L. and the T.L. are genetically as well as culturally unrelated as is the case with English and Arabic.

**The lexical Item "cousin**" in English can have eight different Arabic equivalents (contextual meanings in accord with the situation and type of kinship relationship):

Cousin: العم ابن) i.e. son of the father’s brother).

Cousin: العم بنت) Daughter of the father’s brother).

Cousin: الخال ابن) Son of the mother’s brother).

Cousin: الخال بنت) daughter of the mother’s brother).

Cousin: العمة ابن) son of the father’s sister).

Cousin: العمة بنت) daughter of the father’s sister).

Cousin: الخالة ابن) son of the mother’s sister).

Cousin: الخالة بنت) daughter of the mother’s sister).

Such differences reflect different cultural structures (kinship relations). There are many linguistic differences on the level of grammar too between English and Arabic. For instance, Arabic does not make use of the passive voice when the agent is known, whereas English does use the passive. Arabic has a definite article only (but no indefinite articles as does English). English as many other European languages distinguish between the singular and the plural only (with regard to number), whereas Arabic draws a distinction between the singular, the dual, and the plural (i.e., Arabic is a three-number system). Arabic has a tendency to use long sentences, but English tends to use much shorter sentences. In English gender does not affect the verb, nor the adjective; but it does affect them in Arabic, etc.

**Formal correspondence** cannot be established between the items or categories of two or more languages unless the items and categories in question are found to function or operate similarly in the structure of higher rank units in the grammatical structure of such languages: The rank-scale in English is: Sentence Clause Group Word Morpheme.