محاضرة 9

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

If an English prepositional item is found to be a formal correspondent of a French prepositional at the word rank (assuming that both linguistic systems have the same number of ranks on the rank-scale), this has to be proved at the higher rank on the scale (Le. the group) since the word is but a constituent of the group, (a preposition may function as a qualifier in the structure of the nominal group) If the groups in which the preposition under discussion is a constituent proved to be similar, one has to go up the scale one step further, i.e., to the clause to see whether they still are similar their function. The next step would be to check such similarity at the sentence rank. It one finds that they are formal correspondents at the sentence rank as well, the similarity of such Items (or categories) has to undergo an ultimate test, that of equivalence. Unless it is found that they (the Items supposed to be formal correspondents) are translation equivalence as well, such similarity of form is not to be considered a case of real formal correspondence (Catford 1965).

A higher degree of compatibility, however, between formal correspondence and textual equivalence may be noticed between languages that are typologically and genetically similar; whereas a higher degree of incompatibility between formal correspondence and textual equivalence may be noticed when comparing languages that are typologically as well us genetically different.

As mentioned elsewhere, related languages (genetically as well as culturally) may show many essential differences. For Instance, English articles are not masculine or feminine as is the case with the French and German ones which are classified into masculine, feminine, and neutral. The examples that have been mentioned may suffice to throw light on the difficult task of the translator, whether he works with languages that are related, or not related. the translator should give priority to textual equivalence, but if such equivalence could be matched with formal correspondence as well, his work will be marked with efficiency and faithfulness to the original text. He should never, however, sacrifice equivalence for the sake of formal similarity since such similarity is not a genuine case of formal correspondence but a pitfall that he should do his best to avoid if he is to produce a good and acceptable work. Let us consider the following instance of formal similarity but non-equivalence between Arable and English: S.L (Arabic): وجوه تسود يوم T.L (English): On the day when faces become black.

Despite the fact that the two English and Arabic color expressions seem to be quite similar, yet they are not in fact translation equivalents since the Arabic expression denotes disgrace whereas the English one signifies fury. When the translator departs from formal correspondence for the sake of achieving textual equivalence between the S.L. and the T.L. material, this in fact constitutes what is called translation shifts, (i.e., departure from formal correspondence in search of equivalence).

The main translation shifts that may take place in total translation are of two main kinds:

I. Category Shifts.

2. Level Shifts.

C. **Category Shifts** are usually divided into:

a. **Structure-shift:** e.g. The boy went to school (S.P.C.) .(C.S.P (ذهب الولد الى المدرسة Blue car (M.H.) (.M.H (سيارة زرقاء The structure of the English sentence Is (S.P.C.), whereas the structure of the Arabic equivalent sentence Is (P.S.C.).

As for the nominal group "blue cars", Its structure in English is (M.H.), that is the modifier precedes the head, whereas in the case of its Arabic equivalent, the order is the opposite.

**b. Class-Shift:** i.e., the equivalent T.L. Item is a member of a different class compared with that of the S.L. item: e.g.: green cars (M. i.e., modifier). خضراء سيارات) Q. i.e., qualifier). Inspite of the fact that both items "green" in English, and "خضراء "

In Arabic are members of the grammatical class "adjective", yet the English one operates as a Modifier in the nominal group structure, whereas the Arabic one operates as Qualifier In the nominal group structure. This is why it is considered to be a case of (class-shift).

**c. Unit-Shift:** By unit-shift is meant shifts at the grammatical ranks, i.e. the translation equivalent of an S.L. Item at a certain grammatical rank happens to be an T.L. Item at a different rank. e.g.: البيت الى الشاب ذهب the young man went home. The English lexical Item home which is at the word rank has its translation equivalent at a different grammatical rank, that of the group. This is a case of unitshift.

**d. Intra-system translation-shifts**: i.e., shifts in such grammatical systems as number, article, etc. e.g.: John and Ali went out. علي و جون غادر They will be back before midnight. الليل منتصف قبل سيعودان The Equivalent of Arabic dual in English is the plural. When it is the case that a singular in language is given a plural equivalent in another language or vice versa for instance, one may call such shifts intra-system shifts. The same is applicable to other systems such as the article. For instance: English (S.L.) A man is an animal. Arabic (T.L) الانسان حيوان The equivalent of the English indefinite article “A” in This instance happens to be the definite article in Arabic, whereas the equivalent of the second indefinite article “an” in the same sentence happens to be zero.