



Translation of the English Written Newspapers to the Yoruba Language by Radio Newscasters in Oyo State

Agboola, Elizabeth Abiade

Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo

Abstract

The study of translation is a well-established field of scholarly activity. The discipline has taken its position in academia as a subject of serious research and study. Although translation has been practised and discussed for millennia, but Yoruba translation of newspapers' headlines by radio news casters has not enjoyed scholastic research. Therefore, this research work centers on the translation of the English written newspapers to the Yoruba language by radio newscasters in Oyo State. Data are collected in the months of July and August, 2022 from The Punch, Nigerian Tribune and The Guardian Newspapers; the three commonly used newspapers by the selected Radio Stations. Three Radio Stations in Oyo State; Splash F. M. 105.5, Parrot F. M. 101.1 and Fresh F. M. 105.9 are purposely selected because of the time news are cast in order to avoid too much time overlapping. The theoretical frame work for this research is Nida's functional translation theory and The Communicative Approach. The result of the study shows that, the use of figurative expressions, proverbs and insertion is common to Yoruba news casters or translators. Also, there are omissions, misinterpretation, inadequacy and lack of accuracy in the interpretations of some texts.

Keywords: Translation, English Written Newspapers, Yoruba Language, Radio Newscasters, Oyo State.

Introduction

Translation is an activity of enormous importance in the modern world and it is a subject of interest not only to linguists, professional and amateur translators and language-teachers, but also to electronic engineers and mathematicians.

According to Malmkjær and Windle (2012) quoting Larson, (1984), it is conventionally suggested that to perform their job successfully, translators should meet three important requirements: The source language, the target language, and the subject matter. Based on this premise, the translator discovers the meaning behind the forms in the source language and does his best to produce the same meaning in the target language using the forms and structures of the target language. Consequently, what supposed to change are the form and the code and what should remain unchanged is the meaning and the message.

Translator and interpreter trainees must also acquire a good understanding of the history, theory and culture of the translation and interpreting disciplines, so that they

will gain a sense of themselves as professionals practising an ancient profession which has played a central role in the development of peoples, languages and cultures, and which is the subject of a significant body of research.

Statement of the problem

Conventionally, it is suggested that to perform their job successfully, translators should put into consideration three important phenomena: The source language, the target language, and the subject matter. The translator should understand perfectly the content and intention of the author whom he is translating. The translator should use the right cultural words of the country because if the translator does not use them correctly the translation will be misunderstood. The translator should have a perfect knowledge of the language from which he is translating and equally excellent knowledge of the language into which he is translating. The question now is that do the Yoruba radio translators of the newspapers' headlines observe all

these? This paper sets to examine if the news casters are aware of these facts and as well put them into consideration when doing their oral translation.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this paper is to carry out a research on the translation of the English written newspapers to the Yoruba language by the Nigerian radio newscasters. To achieve this, the study:

1. Examines if there is adequacy and accuracy in the translation of the news headlines from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL).
2. Identifies approaches that are used by the radio newspapers translators.

Research Questions

1. Do the radio newspapers' casters translate the news headlines from SL to TL accurately and adequately?
2. What are the approaches used or adopted by the radio newspapers' translators?

Literature review

What is translation?

Munday (2009) quoting Roman Jakobson gives three definitions of translation. Intralingual translation or rewording is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of other signs of the same language. The second is Interlingual translation or translation proper is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of some other language. While the third he called Intersemiotic translation or transmutation. This is an interpretation of verbal signs by means of signs of nonverbal sign systems. Having done this, he gives his definition of translation as "The process of transferring a written text from SL to TL, conducted by a translator, or translators, in a specific socio-cultural context". This definition is applicable to this research work because socio-cultural context is considered against solely linguistic approach.

To Catford (1978), translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another. It is the

replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). It can as well been referred to as a text in one language that represents or stands for a text in another language.

However, we acknowledge the fact that a text translated in a given language can never be the same as a text in the original language. Therefore, there are principles and criteria of translation. Malmkjær and Windle (2012) identify the following:

I. That the Translation should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work.

II. That the style and manner of writing should be of the same character with that of the original.

III. That the Translation should have all the ease of original composition

These ‘general laws’ may be summed up simply as faithfulness in the sense of conveying the content in full; matching style; and elegance. Translation involves a relationship of equivalence between the ST and the TT. To specify possible types of equivalence,

Translation Techniques

The following techniques are identified by Fawcett (2003) and Munday (2009) while quoting Vinay and Darbelnet (1958): borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence and adaptation, each of which can be applied at the linguistic levels of lexis, grammar and text.

Borrowing

The source-language form is taken into the target language, usually because the latter has a gap in its lexicon, although the technique can be used for other reasons. May be to convey a sound effect or to ensure that a cultural other is not translated entirely out of existence.

Calque

A calque is a literal translation at the level of the phrase. Calques tend to come into the language together with the thing they refer to. Like borrowings, calques

often make their first appearance not in translations but as an element in a newspaper article or in some other form of original literature, since journalists and creative writers tend more often than translators to see themselves as word creators. Although no research has been done to prove this, it seems highly likely that translators will resort more readily to borrowing than to calque, since the guidelines for using the latter are far less obvious than for the former.

Literal translation

This is the rare but always welcome case when a text can go from one language into another with no changes other than those required by the target-language grammar. The translator should not alter this process out of an itch to change things or out of simple fear of the criticism (from the ignorant) that the translation is literal in the pejorative sense of the term.

Transposition

The technique of transposition deals with grammatical changes in translation.

Modulation

This is defined as "a variation in the message, obtained by changing point of view, lighting". Many translators use transposition intuitively but the use of modulation, which requires extensive knowledge of the target language, is far less obvious and more risky. The idea is that the signifier changes while the signified remains the same, and this is achieved by various forms of metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche. Modulation may take place between such things as an abstract and a concrete term, between a part and a whole, or it may reverse a point of view.

Equivalence

Equivalence is essentially defined as the translation of idioms when two languages refer to the same situation in totally different ways. As such, it is not, in their presentation, an especially interesting translation case since it is based essentially on language knowledge. You either know or do not know how to

translate phrases like as thick as two short planks or to have jelly belly. If you do not (and if your dictionary doesn't come to your rescue) then no amount of theory will help. When a translator does fail to spot an idiom and translates its elements separately, we have what is called 'over translation'. The interesting problem with equivalence arises in cases such as literature and advertising when the idiom is motivated (is based on a structural or situational feature) but has no correspondence in the target language. In such cases choices have to be made between translating the basic meaning or attempting to convey some of the flavour of the original.

Adaptation

Adaptation is the final translation technique in this list, and the one most open to controversy. Nida's example of the absurdity of translating white as snow for a culture which has no knowledge of the substance is a typical example of adaptation. This demonstrates the extreme delicacy of resorting to adaptation and the extensive knowledge one needs of other cultures before even thinking of using it. In the extreme case, adaptation leads to what Levy calls 'localization and topicalization' (1969:86), which can be a high risk strategy if it has not been specifically commissioned.

Theories of Translation

According to Mathieu (2015) there are six main approaches within contemporary translation theory: the sociolinguistic approach, the communicative approach, the hermeneutic approach, the linguistic approach, the literary approach and the semiotic approach.

1. The Sociolinguistic Approach

According to the sociolinguistic approach to translation, the social context defines what is and is not translatable and what is or is not acceptable through selection, filtering and even censorship. According to this perspective, a translator is inevitably the product of his or her society: our own sociocultural background is present in everything we translate. This approach is associated

with the School of Tel Aviv and figures such as Annie Brisset, Even Zohar and Gideon Toury.

2. The Communicative Approach

This perspective is referred to as interpretive. Researchers like D. Seleskovitch and M. Lederer developed what they called the “theory of sense,” mainly based on the experience of conference interpreting. According to this perspective, meaning must be translated, not language. Language is nothing more than a vehicle for the message and can even be an obstacle to understanding. This explains why it is always better to deverbalize (instead of transcoding) when we translate.

3. The Hermeneutic Approach

The hermeneutic approach is mainly based on the work of George Steiner, who believes that any human communication is a translation. In his book “After Babel”, he explains that translation is not a science but an “exact art”: a true translator should be capable of becoming a writer in order to capture what the author of the original text “means to say.”

4. The Linguistic Approach

Linguists like Vinay, Darbelnet, Austin, Vegliante, and Mounin, interested in language text, structuralism, and pragmatics, also examined the process of translating. According to this perspective, any translation (whether it’s a marketing translation, a medical translation, a legal translation or another type of text) should be considered from the point of view of its fundamental units; that is, the word, the syntax and the sentence.

5. The Literary Approach

According to the literary approach, a translation should not be considered a linguistic endeavour but a literary one. Language has “energy”: this is manifested through words, which are the result of experiencing a culture. This charge is what gives it strength and ultimately, meaning: this is what the translation-writer should translate.

6. The Semiotic Approach

Semiotics is the science that studies signs and signification. Accordingly, in order for there to be meaning there must be collaboration between a sign, an

object and an interpreter. Thus, from the perspective of semiotics, translation is thought of as a way of interpreting texts in which encyclopaedic content varies and each sociocultural context is unique.

Research Methodology

The data for this work were collected from three Nigerian newspapers namely: The Punch, Nigerian Tribune and The Guardian. These newspapers are commonly used by the selected three Radio Stations in Oyo State. The three radio stations were purposely selected for this research because of the time news are cast in order to avoid too much time overlapping. The radio stations are Splash F. M. 105.5, Parrot F. M. 101.1 and Fresh F. M. 105.9. The names given to the Yoruba versions and time of the news are Tifuntedo: 9-10am, Ayekooto: 8-9am and Ajaabale: 8:30-10am respectively. The texts are taken from the months of July and August, 2022: being the period this research took place. The researcher listened to these Yoruba versions of the news and compared the translation with the source texts. The theoretical frame work for this research is Nida’s functional translation theory and The Communicative Approach.

Presentation of Data and Analysis

Newspaper	News Headings	Yoruba Translations
Nigerian Tribune	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PDP running mate crisis: Atiku, Ayu, govns, others to meet Wike. 2. Strike: Redirect presidency, NASS budgets, others to meet ASUU’s demands, SERAP tells Buhari. 3. Ganduje, Sanwo-Olu, Omisore, in Osun for Dyetola, say APC will win big. 4. Lagos residents consume N4.5bn food daily. 5. Youths protest increase in road accidents in Oyo, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lori oro igbakeji ti Atiku mu: Ayu, Atiku, ati gomina ati awon miran won lo ba Wike sepade. 2. Ewo, serapu o soro fun Buhari, oni iwo Buhari o, lo awon owo kan ti e n naa nile ijaba pelu awon allocation ti e n fun ile igbimo asofin e fi ba oun ti egbe ASUU nbere pade. 3. Ganduje, Sanwo-Olu, Omisore naa ni won ko ra won jo lo si ipinle Osun nigba ti won polongo pe Dyetola ni yoo se saa ekeji o. Fun idi eyi, e fakan bale. 4. Dunje ti won gabei ni ipinle Eko, bilionu merin ati abo ni won n naa lori ounjẹ nikan. 5. Awon odo ni ipinle Oyo binu, won si fi ehonu han lori gbonmogbonmo asidenti paapa julo lajuna

	barricade Ibadan-Ijebu Ode road.	Ibadan- ijebu ode, didi ni won di oju ona, ti sunkere-pakere oko si waye.
The Punch	<p>6. Gunmen abduct two Edo Catholic priests, six Enugu residents.</p> <p>7. APC and PDP have failed, Osun desires new hands.</p> <p>8. 20 directors jostle to replace fired AGF.</p> <p>9. Varsity education not for everybody, says Umahi.</p> <p>10. Sheathe your swords, Bode George tells Atiku, Wike.</p> <p>11. 2023: wrong choice will consume Nigeria, says Obasanjo.</p>	<p>6. Awon agbebonkorajagun ni won tun ji awon meji gbe o to je aladari fun ijo katoliki, koda awon mefa miran ni won tun fon nile hau ni ipinle Enugu.</p> <p>7. Egbe oselu APC ati PDP oun ni won ti kuna o ti won si ti ja awon eyan ni tanmon ni ipinle Osun.</p> <p>8. Ogun eniyan nja gudugudu, won nwa bi awon o se ropo amofin.</p> <p>9. Eto eko nile eko fasiti ni orile ed yii ko wa fun gbogbo eniyan, awon perete lo wa fun.</p> <p>10. Eti ida yin wonu ako, eje ki alaafia joba ninu oselu PDP: Bode George si Atiku ati Wike.</p> <p>11. Obasanjo ro tikeretikere, tolорritelemu orile ede Naijiria la papo pe ki a la oju wa ki a ma s'ibo di, ka ma si aladari yan ni odun 2023.</p>
The Guardian	<p>12. NDLEA intercepts N4.5b heroin as ex-BRT driver excretes cocaine at Lagos airport.</p> <p>13. Again, Ohanaeze, Afenifere blast Buhari over insecurity.</p> <p>14. FG frees Dariye, Nyame, 159 others.</p> <p>15. WAEC releases 2022 WASSCE scores, withholds 365,564 results over malpractice.</p> <p>16. Nigeria, three others top World Bank debtors' list.</p>	<p>12. Ajo ti NDLEA (awon ti ngbogun ti ogun oloro) nawo gan egbo igi heroin ti owo re to bilionu merin ti ole idamarun naira ni papako ofurufu Eko.</p> <p>13. Egbe Ohanaezeti soro wipe ki enikeni ma di ebi ru awon lori oro aabo lorile ede yi.</p> <p>14. Dariye ati igbakeji re ti gba ominira won logba ewon.</p> <p>15. Gbogbo eyin obi ti eni awon omo ti won se WAEC ni bi osu melo kan seyin, won ni esi idanwo naa ti jade o.</p> <p>16. Orilede Naigiria wa lara awon meta ti oruko won wa niwaju, ti won le tenbo sibe pe won je gbese lagbaye.</p>

Examination of Translation adequacy and accuracy in the Selected Texts

Translation adequacy covers cases where there is no one-to-one equivalence and no readily definable contextual correspondence in the form of a collocation. In these cases the translator departs from the wording of the original, and from

the dictionary offerings, to use one of four translation techniques: Compensation, Antonymic translation, Logical derivation and Concretization (Fawcett 2003). Such is the case of the radio news casters when it comes to translation of the news headings in Nigerian's Newspapers. For instance, texts presented above show the use of the translation of the basic meaning or attempting to convey some of the flavour of the original. There is lack of translation adequacy and accuracy in texts 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Literal translation of Accountant-General of the Federation as "oga agba patapata fun eto isuna/ isirowo lorilede Nijiria" in text 8 would have been appropriate instead of "amofin" (judiciary) for AGF. Also, in text 12, a very essential element/clause "ex-BRT driver excretes cocaine" was omitted, the translation only covers "NDLEA intercepts N4.5b heroin at Lagos airport. There is total misinterpretation of context in what is presented in text 13 when "Again, Ohanaeze, Afenifere blast Buhari over insecurity" is translated as "Egbe Ohanaezeti soro wipe ki eniken ma di ebi ru awon lori oro aabo lorile ede yi" which means "No one should blame us over insecurity in this nation: Ohanaeze group/party". The oral translation of text 14 only captures FG frees Dariye and his deputy (Nyame) but does not capture "159 others". Just like text 12, text 15 lacks accuracy as details are withheld in the translation. The headline gives the number of results withheld because of malpractice while the translation only informed parents of the release of 2022 WAEC results. Lastly, the omission of 'bank' (ile ifowopamo) in the translation of 'world bank' in text 16 is obvious.

Identification of Approaches Used by the Radio Newspapers' Translators

Obviously, from the data collected, the radio newspapers' translators are conversant with the use of The Communicative Approach which is referred to as interpretive. To this perspective, language is nothing more than a vehicle for the message but meaning is germane and must be translated, not language.

For example, the translation of text 9 gives interpretation of the statement said by the Imo state governor by adding 'it is meant for minority' (eniyan perete lo wa fun). The use of let peace reign (eje ki alaafia joba) in text 10 also shows

this. Text 11 is a complete interpretation of the statement said by Obasanjo: the intended meaning. This is the case of the unsaid said.

Compensation is another translation technique used in the texts. This comprises the use of pun, reduplication, adjective/adverb insertion, proverbs and vice sayings. Texts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 11 are example of these techniques. The use of inserted words such as 'ewoo, iwo Buhari, fun idi eyi e f'okan bale, gboi, fon nle hau, and gudugudu are seen in texts 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 respectively. When translated to English (you see, you Buhari, for this reason, put your mind at rest, and the other three descriptive adjectives), they are nowhere to be found in the source text.

There is reduplication of words in the target text which is not in the source texts. They are used as adverbs and verbs to show intensity of an event or an action. 'Gbomogbomo asidenti, sunkerepakere oko (text 5), gudugudu (text 8) and tikeretikere, tolorigilemu in text 11.

Discussion

The variation between languages in the different components and relations of word meaning has two consequences for translation. Firstly the meaning that is transferred will be decided by situation and context, not by the dictionary, and secondly, the transfer will nearly always involve some form of loss or change (Fawcett 2003). Such is the case as seen in the analysis above. The translation is done based on the situation and context because the Yoruba newspapers' broadcasters make use of ad-libitum /adlib in their presentations. Catford (1978) says, "The SL [source-language] and TL [target-language] items rarely have the same 'meaning' in the linguistic sense; but they can function in the same situation". This buttresses Palumbo (2009) submission that sense is meaning that derives from the interaction between what is actually said, the intention of the speaker, the level of shared knowledge between the interlocutors and the context in which the communication takes place. In interpreting, the sense of a text is arrived at through a process of deverbalization, which is then followed by re-expression in the TL.

The result of this research agrees with Palumbo (2009) submission that the process of translation is seen as involving three stages: *comprehension*, i.e. the

extraction of the ST author's intended meaning; *re-expression*, or the *reconstruction* of the text in the TL; and *verification*, i.e. a check on the accuracy of the proposed TL solution. The translators here used the process of comprehension which entails an interpretative analysis of the text and re-expression perfectly well but somehow failed in the aspect of verification. This is guess to be so because of the ad-libitum approach they use.

Conclusion

Translation theory recognizes that different languages encode meaning in differing forms therefore, translators have to find appropriate ways of preserving meaning while using the most appropriate forms of each language. Translation theory includes principles for translating figurative language, dealing with lexical mismatches, rhetorical questions, the inclusion of cohesion markers, and many other topics crucial to good translation. The predominant purpose is to express as exactly as possible the full force and meaning of every word and turn of phrase in the original. Based on this premise, what is supposed to change are the form and the code and what should remain unchanged is the meaning and the message. Screen translators increasingly have to deal with what many consider to be offensive language because 'the audience will be more offended by written crudeness than by actual oral usage (Munday 2009). We conclude by saying translation is important to disseminate information.

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