



## *Principles of Translation*

Duff (1989:10-11) proposes some general principles which are supposed to be relevant to all translations.

1. **The translation should reflect accurately the meaning of the original text.** Nothing should be arbitrarily added or removed, though occasionally part of the meaning can be transposed. The following questions will be very helpful.
  - a. Is the meaning of the original text clear?
  - b. If not, where does the uncertainty lie?
  - c. Are any words loaded, that is, are there any underlying implications?
  - d. Is the dictionary meaning of a particular word the most suitable one?
  - e. Does anything in the translation sound unnatural or forced?
2. **The ordering of words and ideas in the translation should match the original as closely as possible.** (This is probably essential in translating legal documents, guarantees, contracts, etc). But differences in language structure often require changes in the form and order of words.
3. **Languages often differ greatly in their level of formality in a specific context.** To resolve these differences, the translator must distinguish between formal or fixed expressions and personal expressions in which the writer or speaker sets the tone.
4. **Many translations do not sound natural.** This is because the translator's thoughts and choices of words are too strongly influenced by the original text. A good way to avoid this is to set the text aside and translate a few sentences from memory in order to get the natural patterns of thought in the target language.
5. **The translator should not change the style of the original as much as possible.** Changes are likely to happen if it necessary such as, many repetitions or mistakes in writing.
6. **Idiomatic expressions** ---- including similes, metaphors, proverbs, sayings, jargon, slang, colloquialisms, and phrasal verbs ---- are commonly hard to translate. To solve this problem, try any of the following.
  - a. Keep the original word between inverted commas.
  - b. Keep the original expression, with a literal explanation in brackets.
  - c. Use a close equivalent.
  - d. Use a non-idiomatic or plain prose translation.

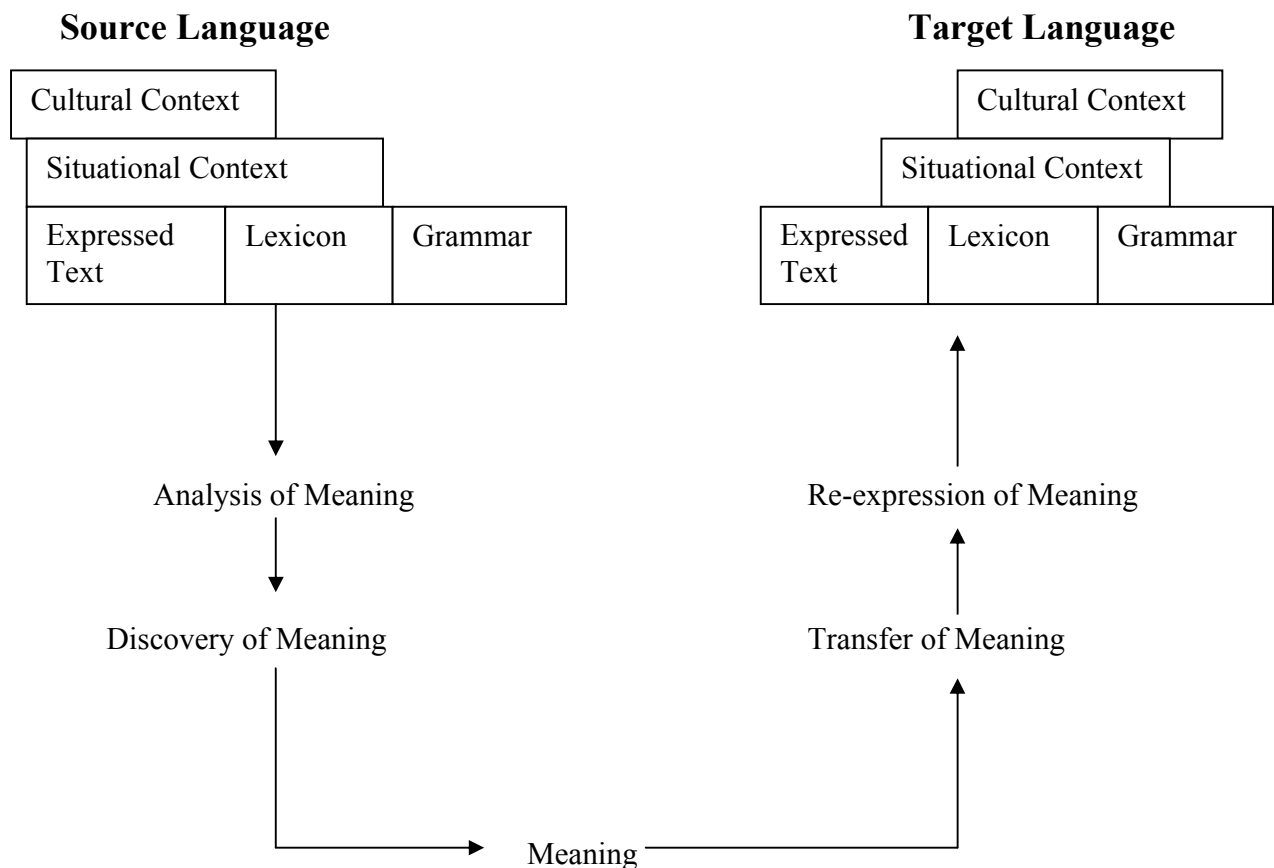
But what is the most essential is that if the idiom does not work in the target language; do not force it into the translation.

Nida as quoted by Hatim and Mason (1990: 16) proposes four basic requirements of translation, namely,

1. making sense;
2. conveying the spirit and manner of the original;
3. having a natural and easy form of expression; and
4. reproducing a similar response

### ***Translation Process***

Tou (TEFLIN, II, 1989: 134) mentions four main stages to be followed by translators in order to move the source into the target, i.e. the analysis of meaning, the discovery of meaning, the transfer of meaning, and the re-expression of meaning of the source into the target. He, however, proposes a model of translation.



## **Bibliography**

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