THE PLACE OF TERMINOLOGY IN TRANSLATION

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ABSTRACT

Translators often find it difficult when exposed to certain texts like scientific or technical texts because of myriad of a terms involved. This then leads to living many gaps unfilled in the translating process. For this and other reasons, the researchers embarked on a research work that dealt on terminology and its place in translation. Definitions were given, books were consulted and various processes of term formulation were explored. Some terms were analyzed and grouped based on their different fields and domains. Translation strategies were examined and given so as to enable translators fill in gaps normally found in the target language(s). These, in other words, ensure that translators overcome all the teething problems encountered during translating processes especially when dealing with scientific   and technical texts. Finally, the researchers observed that terminological courses need to be taught in translation classes. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended borrowing, new word creations, coinage and even adaptation as a means of solving the terminological problem mostly found in our indigenous languages.

INTRODUCTION

Large majority of documents today were designed for special communications like business, commercial, science and technology texts that contain many terms. These terms are mostly seen in specialized fields. In other words, corpus of terminology may also include non-linguistic items like formulae, codes, symbols, graphics etc. On these are the main vehicles through which facts, opinions and knowledge are represented and conveyed.

The study process and importance of terminology is not restricted to science and technology alone but also vital to Law, Public Administration, Medicine, Biology, Banking and Finance, Health etc. In fact, terminology study is a multi-faceted subject that depends on the perspective from which it is approached and the affiliation of person discussing it. This is to say that terminology is not connected to information retrieval in any way but is focused on the meaning and conveyance of concept. The terms used in an information retrieval context are not the same as the terms used in the context of terminology hence they are not always technical terms of art.

For comprehensibility and specificity of a term, terminology should be based on theoretical principal and consist primarily on analyzing a concept and its structure in a given domain. It also must involve the identification of these terms assigned to the concept as well as establishing a correspondence between terms in various languages. As a discipline, terminology is related to translation. For a translator to be able to create terms when an

equivalence is not found in the target language, he must have undergone some training in theory and practice of terminology. In this work, terminology is seen as the study of term primarily with organizing them (the terms) in the context in which they belong. Such context might include military, political, religions, scientific and technical terms.

LITERATURE REVIEW

As the issues of translation and terminology are gaining ground, attentions of notable authors, scholars, theorists, translators and terminologists have been attracted. All these people have their different views and definitions.

The New Encyclopedia defines translation as, "an act or process of rendering what is expressed in one language or a set of symbols by means of another language or set of symbols". The same encyclopedia sees terminology in its general sense as simply referring to, "the usage and study of terms as words, compound words, symbols, formulae, codes etc generally used in a specific domain or context".

The above definition by the encyclopedia shows that translation and terminology have a very strong bond that holds them together hence one exists as a result of the other. Again terminology (term) may also be referred to as a more formal discipline which systematically studies the labelling or designating of concepts particular to one of more subject field or domains of human activity through the means of research and analysis of terms. This then helps in the purpose of promoting and documenting words in their correct usage. In these, one thing is certain, thus: the creation of new terms by translators (neologism) which draws translators to terminology courses.

For neological creations, Dubic (1978:6) claims that, "Neologism is a new formulation of terms in a language where there is a vacuum or no available term(s)". What the above is trying to explain is that in this time of technological advancement, new terms, symbols, ideas, concepts or words are likely to be finding their ways into our indigenous languages as a result of borrowing due to language contact. This then helps in the richness of vocabularies our indigenous languages .

Terms are words and compound words that are used in specific contexts. While words as we know are their importance carry meanings and form the essential part of communication. Hence an ambiguous term has been known to engender miscommunication which in its turn may have any number of potential damaging consequences. As Petit (1974) states in Ezeuko (1998:46), indicates that "Terminology is seen as the systematic study of terms used in naming class of concepts, objects and general principle governing this study".

Anyaehie (1997:1) in his tripartite classification regards terminology as a science, practice and also a product. But Petit sees to it as a discipline or an area of study. Still on the web, terminology is regarded as the study of terms primarily concerned with organizing them by the context in which they are used. These contexts may include: Rail, military, political, religious, scientific, technical or financial terminologies etc. To Dubic (1978), terminology is: The act of identifying, analyzing and if need be of creating the vocabulary of a given technique in a concrete situation of functionability or usage in a manner as to respond to the expression need of the user.
Therefore, in trying to note what and what that made up terminology, three major points have to be noted. Firstly, proper terminology is concerned with the relationship between

concepts and their designations instead of with designations alone or with the objects they represent. Again, a designation does not necessarily have to be a word or phrase as it often is. These terminological resources could comprise drawing, codes, formulae, symbols etc instead of words. And finally, terminology is inextricably linked with specialist or peculiar knowledge and hence with special language(s) for special purpose (LSPs). The common problem of terminology is that its work and importance and indeed its very nature is poorly understood by a layman. In other words, this is to say that many people simply do not have the idea of what terminology entails.

As a discipline, terminology is related to translation, alongside which it is often taught in the universities and translation schools. For a perfect translation work to be carried out, translators are expected to do terminological researches in the study and discussion of the translation. Translation to Bell (1997:17) is, "the replacement of a representation of a text in a second language". Derbelnet, (1977:7) claims that:

> *A good translator is he who can transfer from one language to another all the element of meaning of a passage and only these element while ensuring that they retain in the target language their relative importance, as well as their tonality, and also taking into account the relative difficult presented by the culture to which the source language and the target languages correspond respectively.*

To Newmark (1969:5), "translation is an exercise consisting in the attempt to replace a written message in one language by the same message in another language". In House (2007: 4). Translation is, "... process of replacing a text in one language by a text in another". While Martin Luther (1973) sees translation role as a bridge for carrying across values between cultures. He also claims that translation should not be seen as being passive and mechanical but rather as that, which should be compared to that of an art. Herder(1988) in his own view states that even if translation could be seen as an art, it is not an easy one hence, the translator must be well grounded in the two working language as well as in the science he is translating.

THE PLACE OF TERMINOLOGY IN TRANSLATION

In translation activities, be it literacy, general or sci-tech, translation, the translator often times face the problem of not knowing how to express certain concept, ideas or expressions. In a situation like this, gaps are created in rendering the work and this calls for creating terms to fill these gaps for a complete rendering of the text or work. The translators can then wriggle out from such problems by creating terms. These could be by direct or indirect methods of creating terms or new words where there is a vacuum in the target language.

Though a translator could not be a terminologist since he has been exposed to the theory and practice of terminology. Terminology and translation cannot be separated because they go hand in hand. Terminology as we know plays a huge part in an area of communication situations and is used to discuss a vast number of subjects which involves: Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Agriculture, Geography, Law, Medicine etc. All these fields connote terms.

What the above is trying to insinuate is the relationship that exist between terminology and translation. This is because, once those untranslatable documents keep increasing, the need for terms keep improving and the necessity for the translator to create an equivalent term also keeps speeding. On the contrary, terms do not need to be created randomly by translators to

avoid unnecessary creation of unacceptable terms. This is because, when any term is created and that particular term fails to translate the meaning of the original in the source language, it means that no work has been done. The question now becomes, how does a translator avoid this problem?

In answering the above question, the expert, translator, terminologist facilitates term/word creation. Word formation as we know is the creation of a new word (term). This word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change in the sense that what one person views as a new use of an old word in a language; another person might view as an old word that is identical in its form. It is better to express that not all words are terms but all terms are words used in a specific areas of human endeavour. Therefore it is good to say that terms are specialized words or vocabularies. These terms could come inform of: derivation; borrowing, composition or compounding, back formation, acronym, analogy of form and function, abbreviations etc. In summary, the classic example of someone that needs terminology for the purpose of his work is the translator likewise the language user.

TERM CREATION PROCESSES

Borrowing

Haungen, (1972:56) sees borrowing as, "an attempt to produce in one language patterns previously used in another language". This borrowing which could come in form of intra-lingual or inter-lingual borrowing as types of borrowing could be in different forms like calque, adaptation, outright borrowing or even nationalization. All languages of the world borrow so, Igbo and English languages are not exceptions. These are some of the example of words borrowed from different Igbo dialects into Igbo language and this type of borrowing is an Intra-lingual borrowing hence Bloomfield (1933:11) refers to it as dialect borrowing.

Igbo words	Dialect of Origin	English meaning
Narị	Nsukka (Enugu)	Hundred
Puku	Ụmụahịa (Abịa)	Thousand
Ijeri	Ika Igbo (Delta)	Million
Ọpapa	Enu Onitsha (Anambra)	Groundnut

Inter-lingual borrowing is another type of borrowing by which a term could be created. This borrowing type exists when a language borrows from another; say from source language into a target language vice versa as in the case of English, Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa languages respectively. Below are some of the words borrowed from other languages into Igbo language.

English language	Igbo language
Summer	Sọma
Nurse	Nọọsụ
Stove	Sụtoovu

Yoruba	Igbo	English Meaning
Akara	Akara	Beans cake
Ajasa	Ajasa	Fake
Oga	Ọga	Master

Hausa	Igbo	English Meaning
Mangara	Mangara	A kind of stock fish
Wayo	Wayo	Fraud
Suya	Suya	Meat snacks

Change in grammatical category

New words are being formed simply by changing of their grammatical category. In Igbo language for instance new words are formed by adding these vowels in a verb root not as in:

o/ọ + verb root   ---------------------   gerund e.gosisi, ọgụgụ
m/n + verb root   ---------------------   instrument e.gnkọ, mvọ
i/ị   + verb root   ---------------------   inifinitive e.gisi, igu
e/a + verb root   ---------------------   participle e.geri,arị
u/ụ + verb root   ---------------------   activity verb e.guda, o na-adauda

Agglutination is another process of forming new words from an existing word by adding affixes to them. In English language for example, we have words like:

Shame   +   less   ---------------------   shameless
Un   +   happy   ---------------------   unhappy
Happy   +   ness   ---------------------   happiness
Beauty   +   full   ---------------------   beautiful

Compounding
Compounding is also a process of new word formation. Some of the examples are as follows:

Earth + quake   ---------------------   earthquake
Foot   + note   ---------------------   Footnote
Ekwe + ntị   ---------------------   Ekwentị (mobile phone)
Ndụ   + Okpụ   ---------------------   Ndụọkpụ (long life)

SOME ENGLISH TERMS AND THEIR IGBO EQUIVALENCE

Health Terms

English language	Igbo Language
Jaundice	Ọchananya
Cramp	ụtanwangwele
Bloating	afọokuko
Fits	akwụkwụ
Tingling	izizi
Craving	ịdọakpịrị
Choking	mgbado
Belly	afọ
Stomach	akpakwulu

General Terms

Culture	Omenala
Custom	Ọdịnala

Tradition	Ọdịbendị
Conflict	Dọgadọga
Quarrel	Mbaọgụ
Riot	Ọgbaghara
Fight	Ọgụ
Abomination	Arụ
Taboo	Nsọala
Demonstration	Ngaghariwe
Combat	Nwakpaọgụ
Disaster	Mbibisị

Linguistic Terms

Applied linguistics	Lingwistiik mbamụrụ
Abbreviation	Ndebiri
Acronym	Aha mkpirisi
Ad hoc	Ndanaọgbọ
Embedding	Nkwonkwo
Language policy	Atụmatụasụsụ
Mythological	Akụkọokike
Review	Ntụlegharị
Theory	Atụmatụ

Technical Terms

Bubbles	ụfụfụ
Crude oil	mmanụala
Coal	unyiala
Lake	ezu
Spring	mgbanankume
Stream	iyị
Sea/ocean	anyịm
Well	ụmị
Tap	Taap
Rain water	mmirimgbaafuru

IMPORTANCE OF TERMS

Term plays a key role in production and dissemination of documents, in work flow. As an academic discipline, it offers concepts and methodologies for high-quality, effective knowledge and representation of concepts that can be used both by language specialists and by domain specialists after appropriate training. Terms serve as a basics for the increment in the number of tools for the identification, extraction, ordering, transfer, storage and maintenance of terminological information and other types of knowledge.

Terminological resources are also valued in the collections of names or other representations as in the area of standardization and harmonization activities, and as in the input (or out put) of a wide range of application discipline and domain. In the lexical level, terminology helps in the knowledge of different domain dictionaries relate certain related but different in their senses as in:

Polysemy - This involves terms/lexemes with the range of multiple meaning. For instance 'eye'. This can be the eye of a man as well as the eye of a needle.

Synonyms - These are words with the same meaning but different spellings. Example uwe, akwa, efe- (cloth).

Homonyms - These are words with the same spelling and the same pronunciation but different in meaning e.g   ọcha - fair, iyi – stream, ọcha - clean, iyi – curse.

Homophones - These include words or terms with the same pronunciation but different in spellings. Example, son - sun.

Homograph - They are words with the same spelling but different in meaning and pronunciation, e.g

> Row /r∂w/
> ROW /raw/
> ákà =   hand
> aká =   beads

Unless in terminological study, the lack of clear division into sense reflects the slippering nature of general language words compared to the more precise nature of terminological meaning. While lexicography has a number style labels its aim is to distinguish between informal slang and vulgar expressions. Terminology distinguishes between different communicative situations, although in a rather different ways. The terminological work concerned mainly with the terms that characterize communication between subject expert and a layman, lawyer and client or even between doctors and patients.

Similarly, in translation field, terminology as a discipline of term based on theoretical principle offers the translator with the technique to:
  I.   analyzing the concept and concept structure used in a field or domain of activity.
  II. identify the terms assigned to a concept.
  III. establish correspondence between languages.
  IV. compiling terms on papers or in databases.
  V.   creating new terms as required.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This research work explored and examined the concepts of term in terminological study as regards translation. These include different terms used in specific domains, processes involved in these term formations /creations, importance of these terms and also what terminology and translation are all about. Researches have shown that as through the international activities and multinational trade existed well before now, yet new qualities have been emerged. Not only that raw materials sourced and products sold on a supranational scale are now increasingly developing, but so also are the manufactured marked for a global audience, global competition and global co-operation, all in which make global communication.

In all these, how and what is the translator going to do for him to be able to get the appropriate term that will serve as an equivalence to the target language when there is a new concept are being taken care of in this work. As we know, the Igbo language as one of the Nigerian indigenous languages could not afford to provide indigenous equivalent terms found for every new concept and symbols probably because some of these new concepts are not of

Igbo cultural background. Although in the cultural arena, the development had been traced to what is called 'global village' which greatly increase social and cultural contact, but then, the rapid technological development in general and the rise in the whole new fields, industries, discipline, domain etc have led to the shortening of terms in indigenous target languages. This is to say that the total amount of specialists' knowledge is currently through to be doubling every now and then depending on the field concerned. For these, the researcher recommended borrowing and creation of new terms as a means of solving the problem of term scarcity during translation.

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