



# **DBB 408 TRANSLATION STUDIES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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# Basic Steps in Translation

- ▶ **1. Stating the purpose**
- ▶ **2. Register Analysis** (the field of discourse, the tenor of discourse, the mode of discourse)
- ▶ **3. Comprehension of source text**
  - First read a similar text in the target language
  - 3.a. Parsing of the text (grammatical and lexis)**
  - 3.b. Access to specialized knowledge**
  - 3.c. Access to intended meaning**

- ▶ **4. Transfer of meaning**
  - 4.a. Relaying lexical meaning**
  - 4.b. Relaying rhetorical meaning including implied or inferable meaning**
  - 4.c. Relaying grammatical meaning**
- ▶ **5. Assessment of target text**
  - 5.a. Readability**
  - 5.b. Conforming to generic and discoursal target language conventions**
  - 5.c. Judging adequacy of translation for specified purpose**

*A*

Melodie Neil and Jed Martin were old friends.

She knew that he loved her—in a calm settled way rather than any grand passion—and that he would make her a good, kind husband.

In short, when she became engaged to him she knew exactly what she was doing.

So she hated it when that infuriating Keith Scott seemed to go out of his way to suggest that her heart wasn't in the affair.

*B*

Do you feel that you never get a fair slice of the capital cake?

We do, too.

That's why we created 'Portfolio', a brand new concept in saving.

Portfolio is a high interest investment account that makes your money work for you, while still giving you instant access to your capital.

So that way, you can have your cake and eat it too.

*C*

Wash and core the apples, taking care to remove all pips.

Slice finely.

Put them into a fireproof dish with the water, and a tablespoon of the sugar.

Ensuring that the lid is tightly sealed, put the dish into a preheated oven, Gas Regulo 6.

Reduce temperature to 3 after 10 minutes.

Allow the fruit to steam in its own juice for a further 15 minutes.

Spoon out the cooked apples and arrange them attractively in rounds on a serving plate.

Mix juice with the brandy, mulled wine, and rest of the sugar.

Pour over the top, and serve with double cream.

## Non-equivalence at word level and some common strategies for dealing with it

- ▶ Non-equivalence at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalent for a word which occurs in the source text. Different kinds of non-equivalence require different strategies, some very straightforward, others more difficult to handle.

# Common problems of non-equivalence

- The following are some common types of non-equivalence at word level, with examples from various languages:

- **1. Culture-Specific Concepts:**

The source-language word may express a concept which is totally unknown in the target culture. This concept may be **abstract** (ex. a religious belief/a social custom) or **concrete** (ex. a type of food). Such concepts are often referred to as **'culture-specific'**.

**Example: «airing cupboard»** (a heated cupboard where clothes, sheets, etc. that have been washed and are almost dry are put so that they can become completely dry)

An example of a concrete concept is **airing cupboard** in English which is unknown to speakers of most languages.

# An airing cupboard



► **2. The source-language concept is not lexicalized in the target language**

The source-language word may express a concept which is known in the target culture but simply not lexicalized (there is no target language word to express it).

**Example: *landslide*** has no ready equivalent in many languages, although it simply means 'overwhelming majority'.

► **3. The source-language word is semantically complex**

Languages automatically develop very concise forms for referring to complex concepts if the concepts become important enough to be talked about often.

**Example: *arruação***, a Brazilian word which means 'clearing the ground under coffee trees of rubbish and piling it in the middle of the row in order to aid in the recovery of beans dropped during harvesting'



# arruação



► **4. The source and target languages make different distinctions in meaning**

What one language regards as an important distinction in meaning another language may not perceive as relevant.

**Example:** Indonesian makes a distinction between going out in the rain without the knowledge that it is raining (**kehujan**) and going out in the rain with the knowledge that it is raining (**hujan-hujan**). English does not make this distinction, with the result that if an English text referred to going out in the rain, the Indonesian translator may find it difficult to choose the right equivalent.

► **5. The target language lacks a superordinate**

The target language may have specific words (hyponyms) but no general word (superordinate) to head the semantic field.

**Example:** Russian has no ready equivalent for **facilities**, meaning 'any equipment, building, services, etc. that are provided for a particular activity or purpose'.

► **6. The target language lacks a specific term (hyponym)**

Languages tend to have general words (**superordinates**) but lack specific ones (**hyponyms**).

**Examples:**

**house – superordinate term**

*bungalow, cottage, croft, chalet, lodge, hut, mansion, manor, villa, and hall* are **hyponyms**

**jump - superordinate term**

*leap, vault, spring, bounce, dive, clear, plunge, and plummet* are **hyponyms**

► **7. Differences in physical or interpersonal perspective**

Physical perspective may be of more importance in one language than it is in another. Physical perspective has to do with where things or people are in relation to one another or to a place.

**Examples:**

***come/go, take/bring, arrive/depart*** etc.

Japanese has six equivalents for «**give**», depending on who gives to whom:

***yaru, ageru, morau, kureru, tadoku, itadokui, kudasoru***

► **8. Differences in expressive meaning**

There may be a target-language word which has the same propositional meaning as the source-language word, but it may have a different expressive meaning.

**Examples:**

English verb **batter** has some kind of expressive meaning (if people are battered, they are regularly hit and badly hurt by a member of their family or by their partner)

On the other hand, Japanese has a more neutral term for that. verb **tataku**, means 'to beat'.

► **9. Differences in form**

There is often no equivalent in the target language for a particular form in the source text.

**Examples:** Certain suffixes and prefixes in the source language and no counterpart suffixes and prefixes in the target language.

employer/employee

trainer/trainee

boyish/greenish

## ► 9. Differences in frequency and purpose of using specific forms

When a particular form has a ready equivalent in the target language, there may be a difference in the frequency with which it is used or the purpose for which it is used.

Examples:

English uses the continuous **-ing** form for binding clauses much more frequently than other languages which have equivalents for it, so over using the equivalent of this form causes unnatural style.



## ► 10. The use of loan words in the source text

The use of loan words in the source text poses a special problem in translation. It is not always possible to find a loan word with the same meaning in the target language.

Example: consensus

Konsensusa varamadılar.

Loan words also pose another problem for the translator : the problem of **false friends**.

**False friends** are words or expressions which have the same form in two or more languages but convey different meanings.

► **Examples:**

chips: a long piece of potato cooked in oil.

crisp: a very thin, flat round of potato cooked in oil and eaten cold.

Tr. cips

- ▶ In dealing with any kind of non-equivalence, it is important to assess its significance and implications in a given context. We have to try to convey the meaning of key words which are focal to the understanding of a text.
- ▶ **Semantic field of war:**
- ▶ -attrition
- ▶ -sudden-death
- ▶ -barbed-wire entanglements
- ▶ -defence
- ▶ -threat

## The translations below are all from translations into English by people whom English is not their native language:

► ***On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:***

Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

► ***On the menu of a Polish hotel:***

Roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion.

► ***On the door of a Moscow hotel room:***

If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

► ***In an Acapulco hotel:***

The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

► ***In a Norwegian cocktail lounge:***

Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

► ***In a Copenhagen airline ticket office:***

We take your bags and send them in all directions.

► ***In a Bangkok dry cleaner's:***

Drop your trousers here for best results.

► ***In a Budapest zoo:***

Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

<b>DİLPAÇA</b>	Meat Soup
<b>DOMATES ÇORBA</b>	Paunch
<b>SÜZME MERCİMEK</b>	Lentil Soup
<b>Dönerler</b>	
<b>PORSİYON DÖNER</b>	Returns Servings
<b>PİLAV ÜSTÜ</b>	Over Rice
<b>İSKENDER</b>	Alexander
<b>ETİ BOL İSKENDER</b>	Very Alexander
<b>KARIŞIK İSKENDER</b>	Alexander Confused
<b>SANDVIÇ DÖNER</b>	Rotating Sandwich
<b>YARIM EKMEK DÖNER</b>	Half Of Bread Turns
<b>DÖNER DÜRÜM</b>	Return Wrap

<b>Dilim Yaş Pasta</b> Age slice of pie	<b>7.50 TL</b>
<b>Ekler</b> Adds	<b>7.50 TL</b>
<b>Kup Dondurma</b> Ice Cream Cup	<b>7.00 TL</b>





**NEKAR ÇAI DANIŞESI**

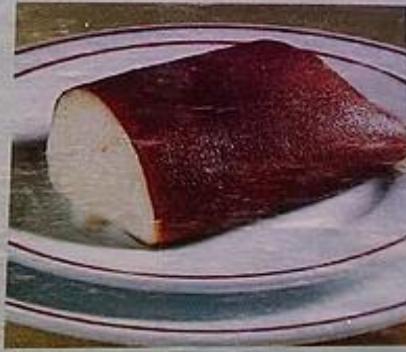
**EŞİTLERİ (TYPES OF DESSERT)**

**LAÇ**  
(Pudding)



5 TL

**KAZAN DİBİ**  
(Bottom Of Win)



**AİL**



Sik

(Cheese encased in a SKIN, butter, oil)

**Günün Çorbasi** (Soup of the day)

**Fındık Lahmacun** (Nut lahmachun)

**İçli Köfte** (Sensitive meatball)

**Çiğ Köfte** (Fresh meatball)

**Kuruluk Antep Dolması** (Dry Antep dolma)

**Patates Tava** (Chips)



Sizgaren   Situation Type	
ADANA DÜRÜM	ADANA STATUS 5,50
URFA DÜRÜM	URFA STATUS
KUZU ŞİŞ DÜRÜM	LAMB SHISH STATUS 7,00
TAVUK ŞİŞ DÜRÜM	CHICKEN SHISH 5,00
ÇÖP ŞİŞ DÜRÜM	NEEDLE CASE STATUS 7,00
CİĞER ŞİŞ DÜRÜM	LIVER NEEDLE CASE STATUS 6,00
SUCUKLU KAŞARLI DÜRÜM	SAUSAGE CHEESE STATUS 4,00
KÖFTE DÜRÜM	MEATBALLS STATUS
KİMYON SPESİYAL DÜRÜM	SPECIAL STATUS
Sosları ile dürümde kaşar ve ızgara köfte	
VEJETERYAN DÜRÜM	VEGETAREAN STATUS
ÇİĞ KÖFTE DÜRÜM	RAW MEATBALLS STATUS

Karades Tava	7.000.000	Anchovy Carades
Karades Güveç	7.000.000	Güveç Carades
Karades Söğüş	7.000.000	Söğüş Carades
<b>GÖZLEMELER</b>		<b>OBSERVING</b>
Dejirli Gözleme	3.000.000	Cheese Observing
Kıymalı Gözleme	3.000.000	Mince Observing
Potatesli Gözleme	3.000.000	Potato Observing
Şade Gözleme	3.000.000	Plain Observing
<b>TATLILAR</b>		<b>DESSERTS</b>
Künefe	3.000.000	Künefe
Şiirleç	2.500.000	Rice Pudding
Kazan Dibi	2.500.000	Kazan Dibi
Vadi Tatlısı	—	Valley Dessert
Yaş Pasta	—	Cream-cake
Açık	—	Ice Cream
Döner	—	Döner
Iskender	—	Iskender
Karışık Kebap (L5)	1.000.000	Mix Kebap
Inegöl Köfte	1.000.000	Inegöl Meat Ball
<b>TAVALAR VE KAVURMALAR</b>		<b>FIRIYING ROASTING</b>
Gurbel Tava	1.500.000	Gurbel Firyng
Çoban Kavurma	450.000	Çoban Roasting
Meatları Kavurma	450.000	Saute Meat Corked
Kurban Kavurma	950.000	Victim Roasting
Vadi Şuc Kavurma	950.000	Valley Sheel Iron Roasting
Et Şote	950.000	Meat Saute

- ▶ In some cases, these texts have gone wrong because the translator was unaware that he/she was dealing with idioms.
- ▶ In other cases, the translator has unwillingly produced an idiom that has a different meaning from the one that the combination of words would logically suggest.