

COMPARATIVE TYPOLOGY OF FOREIGN AND MOTHER TONGUE IN THE SCIENCE OF TRANSLATION AND FOREIGN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODS AND SUBJECTS

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The intricate dance between foreign and mother tongues in the realm of translation has captivated scholars for centuries. This interplay is not merely a matter of linguistic mechanics but also a reflection of cultural nuances, cognitive processes, and the very essence of human communication. This article delves into the comparative typology of foreign and mother tongues within the science of translation, exploring the nuanced relationship between language teaching methods and subject matter. It examines how these concepts intertwine to shape the translator's skillset and ultimately influence the effectiveness of cross-cultural communication.

Introduction. Comparative typology, a branch of linguistics, analyzes the structural similarities and differences between languages. In translation studies, this discipline offers invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in bridging the gap between source and target languages. Comparative typology is a significant branch of typology and linguistics that studies languages in comparison with each other in order to establish similarities and differences between languages. As a rule, teachers use students' mother tongue when other methods of explaining of foreign words such as direct demonstration (demonstration or illustrative visibility), synonyms-antonyms, and conjecture on word-building elements (suffixes, prefixes, wordbuilding, conversion), foreign interpretation of the meaning. For a person who learned more than one language at the same time in early childhood, the mother tongue is the language this person spoke most often at home before starting school. The person has more than one mother tongue only if they learned these languages at the same time, and still understands them. A first language is the

mother tongue or native language of a person while a second language is a language a person learns in order to communicate with the native speaker of that language. The first language is like an instinct which is triggered by birth and developed with the experience of being exposed to it.

Structural Differences and Translational Challenges

- **Grammatical Structures:** Languages vary significantly in grammatical structures, such as word order, verb conjugation, and noun declensions. For instance, English is an SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) language, while Japanese is an SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) language. These differences pose a significant challenge for translators, who must navigate the intricacies of grammatical restructuring to maintain meaning and clarity.
- **Vocabulary and Idioms:** Each language possesses a unique lexicon and idiomatic expressions that often defy direct translation. An idiom like "kick the bucket" in English does not have an exact equivalent in many languages, requiring translators to find creative solutions that convey the intended meaning.
- **Cultural Connotations:** Words and expressions can carry cultural baggage, often reflecting historical, social, or religious contexts. Translators must be sensitive to these connotations to avoid cultural misinterpretations or unintended humor.

Structural Similarities and Translational Opportunities

- **Universal Linguistic Principles:** Despite differences, languages share fundamental principles, such as the existence of nouns, verbs, and adjectives. This common ground allows for a degree of predictability in the translation process.
- **Loanwords and Shared Heritage:** Languages often borrow words from each other, reflecting cultural and historical influences. This shared vocabulary simplifies the translation process in certain areas.

Foreign Language Learning: A Foundation for Translation

Mastering a foreign language is a cornerstone of successful translation. This process involves acquiring a comprehensive understanding of the language's grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances.

Methods of Foreign Language Acquisition

- **Traditional Grammar-Based Methods:** Focus on explicit instruction of grammatical rules, vocabulary memorization, and written exercises. These methods provide a strong foundation in linguistic structure but may not always foster fluency or natural language use.

- **Communicative Language Teaching (CLT):** Emphasizes practical communication skills, real-life scenarios, and interactive activities. CLT encourages students to develop fluency and confidence in using the foreign language in authentic situations.
- **Audio-lingual Methods:** Relies on repetition, pattern drills, and oral practice. Audio-lingual methods aim to develop fluency and pronunciation but may neglect grammatical accuracy or cultural understanding.
- **Immersion Programs:** Provide a total immersion experience in the target language and culture. Immersion programs are highly effective in developing fluency and natural language acquisition but may require significant time and resources.

The Role of Proficiency Levels

The level of proficiency in a foreign language directly impacts a translator's ability to produce accurate and culturally sensitive translations.

- **Beginner Level:** Limited vocabulary and grammatical understanding. Translators at this level may struggle with complex texts and require significant assistance.
- **Intermediate Level:** Grasp of basic grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. Translators at this level can handle simpler texts but may still require support for more complex content.
- **Advanced Level:** Thorough understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. Translators at this level can handle a wide range of texts with a high degree of accuracy and fluency.

Mother Tongue: The Anchor of Translation

While foreign language proficiency is crucial, the translator's mother tongue serves as the bedrock of the translation process. It provides the foundation for understanding the source text, expressing the translated meaning, and ensuring the target text's clarity and coherence.

Mother Tongue Proficiency and Translation Quality

- **Linguistic Awareness:** A deep understanding of the mother tongue's grammar, vocabulary, and idiomatic expressions allows the translator to accurately capture the nuances of the source text.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** The translator's knowledge of the target culture, often deeply intertwined with their mother tongue, helps them to adapt the translation to the intended audience.
- **Stylistic Control:** A strong command of the mother tongue's stylistic conventions enables the translator to produce a natural-sounding and engaging target text.

The Intersection of Language Teaching Methods and Translation Subjects

The relationship between language teaching methods and translation subjects is multifaceted and highly influential in shaping the translator's skillset.

Bridging the Gap Between Language Learning and Translation

- **Integrating Translation Practices:** Integrating translation exercises into foreign language curricula can bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing students with early exposure to the translation process.

- **Developing Cultural Awareness:** Language learning programs should emphasize the cultural context of the target language, preparing students to handle cultural nuances in translation.

- **Focus on Specific Translation Skills:** Translation programs should incorporate specialized training in specific translation areas, such as literary, technical, or legal translation, to equip translators with the necessary skills.

The Influence of Language Teaching Methods on Translation Practice

- **CLT and Translation:** CLT's focus on communication skills can enhance fluency and natural language production, essential for effective translation.

- **Grammar-Based Methods and Translation:** While not as directly applicable to translation practice, grammar-based methods provide a solid foundation in linguistic structure, which is vital for accurate translation.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Comparative Typology of Languages

- **Language Diversity:** The world is home to thousands of languages, each with its unique complexities and challenges. The comparative typology of languages is an ongoing process, with new insights constantly emerging.

- **Technological Advancements:** Machine translation tools are rapidly evolving, raising new challenges and opportunities for human translators. While machine translation can assist with certain tasks, it cannot fully replicate the nuanced understanding and cultural sensitivity of human translators.

- **Cultural Sensitivity:** The translation process requires a deep understanding of the target culture, which can be complex and multifaceted. Translators must navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect.

Conclusion. The comparative typology of foreign and mother tongues in translation science is a fascinating and ever-evolving field of study. Understanding the linguistic structures, cultural nuances, and pedagogical approaches that shape the translator's skillset is crucial for enhancing cross-cultural communication. By fostering a deeper appreciation for

the interplay between languages and cultures, we can unlock the full potential of translation as a powerful force for connecting people, ideas, and communities across the globe.

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