

A TRACEABLE TRANSLATION PROTOCOL FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY TEAMS WORKING WITH BILINGUAL CLIENTS: THE COLLATION AND ANALYSIS OF EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DATA



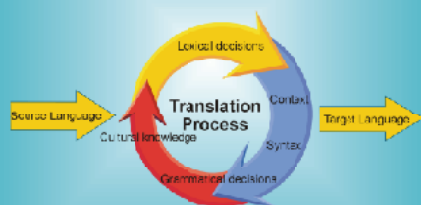
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1. Translation: an art or a science?



The choice... is between translating word-for-word (literal translation) or meaning-for-meaning (free translation). Pick the first and the translator is criticized for the 'ugliness' of a 'faithful' translation ; pick the second and there is criticism of the 'inaccuracy' of a 'beautiful' translation. Either way it seems, the translator cannot win...' (Bell, 1991)

2. Modes & styles of translation in SLT clinics

Free translation or meaning-for-meaning where the message conveyed is the most important element

- Case history taking
- Discussions and decision making with clients / carers
- Giving advice and reassurance

Literal translation where the form and shape are also considered:

- Assessment
- Devising therapy activities
- Developing therapy / advice programmes
- (Elements of) Outcome measurements

3. Aims of the translation protocol

- To allow true comparisons of assessments over time by preserving and valuing the original mother tongue used
- To collect data on code switching
- To form a basis for discussion during debriefing with the monolingual therapist.
- To inform therapy decisions.
- To provide an accurate record of the child's utterances
- To preserve the lexical choices made by the child (the words used).
- To preserve the syntactic form the child used (sentence and phrase structure, word order).
- To preserve morphological features (word endings, grammatical functions).
- To highlight strengths and weaknesses which may be altered or lost by direct translation (Anglo-centric attrition).
- To produce the nearest English sentence which reflects the child's utterance.

4. Examples of translation protocol in use

MIRPURI target sentence	dʒənani	ʈari	marni	'pi	
Mirpuri to English literal translation	lady	clap	doing + female	is + female	
Child's utterance	mummy	is	tara	karni	'pi
Mirpuri to English literal translation	mummy	is	this	doing + female	is + female
English free translation	mummy	is	doing	this	

URDU target sentence	lerki	iʃara	kar	rahi	'he
Urdu to English literal translation	girl	point	do	doing + female	is
Child's utterance	voʃ	point	kar	rahi	'he
English literal translation	They + female marker from verb to be = 'she'	point	do	doing + female	is
English free translation	(she)	is	pointing		

The above examples demonstrate that English and Pakistani Heritage languages such as Mirpuri and Urdu are not exactly equivalent. Even in these simple examples, subject-gender agreements on the present progressive mean that confusion over the translation of this morpheme could inadvertently credit the child with the use of the female pronoun unless BOTH styles of translation are employed (Urdu example). Code switching (and the grammatical nature of code switching) is easily seen in these examples.