TYPES OF TRANSLATION

Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source language text by means of an equivalent target language text. The English language draws a terminological distinction between translating (a written text) and interpreting (oral or signed communication between users of different languages). As per this distinction, translation can begin only after the appearance of writing within a language community.

A translator always risks inadvertently introducing source-language words, grammar or syntax into the target-language rendering.

Free translation generally implies that the translator is given greater latitude of expression when translating from an original source language to a target language and is more often not just a paraphrase. The source language grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest target language equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. As a re-translation process, this indicates the problems to be solved.

Free translation produces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Usually it is a paraphrase much longer than the original. A so called 'intralingual translation', often prolix and pretentious, and not translation at all.

Semantic translation means that the central concern of the translation is to convey the meaning of the phrase and sentence (this could be paraphrase or literal depending on what is the balance that the translator aims for)

According to Newmark, ‘semantic translation attempts to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structures of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original’. Semantic translation has a source language bias; it is literal and the loyalty is to the ST (source text) author. It is readable but remains with the original culture and assists the reader only in its connotations if they constitute the essential message of the text. It tends to be more complex, more awkward, more detailed, and tends to overtranslate – it is more specific than the original in transferring nuances of meaning. Semantic translation relates to the word or the word-group.

Semantic translation differs from 'faithful translation' only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the source language text, compromising on the 'meaning' where appropriate so that no assonance, word-play or repetition jars in the finished version. Further, it may translate less important cultural words by culturally neutral third or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents. It may make other small concessions to the readership. The distinction between 'faithful' and 'semantic' translation is that the first is uncompromising and dogmatic, while the second is more flexible admits the creative exception to 100% fidelity and allows for the translator's intuitive empathy with the original.

Literal translation/ word-for-word translation (or "formal correspondence") means the translation aims to have as close as possible word-for-word correspondence between original source language of translation to the target language. This approach (when pursued in
earnest) is often in contrast to semantic or free translation although in some cases, may produce less natural awkward phrases.

This is often demonstrated as interlinear translation, with the target language immediately Matching the source language words. The source language word order is preserved and the words translated singly by their most common meanings, out of context. Cultural words are translated literally.

The main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or to construe a difficult text as presentation process.

**Faithful translation** simply means the translator aims to convey the author's intention of the text (what the author was intending to communicate) as faithfully as possible into another language.

A faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the target language grammatical structures. It 'transfers' cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical 'abnormality' (deviation from the source language norms) in the translation. It attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text realization of the source language writer.

**Idiomatic translation** means that the translation will bring the original source language into contemporary language expression. Idiomatic translation reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

**Communicative Translation**: Communicative translation attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the reader.

**Adaptation**

**Adaptation translation** is about communicating meaning through “adapting” the translation for a particular market or style.

This is the best form of translation. It is used mainly for plays(comedies)and poetry, the themes; characters and plots are usually preserved, the source language culture converted to the target language culture and the text is rewritten. The deplorable practice of having a play or a poem literally translated and then rewritten by an established dramatist or poet has produced many poor adaptations, but other adaptations have 'rescued' period plays.