

The Role of Text Analysis in Political Translation with Reference to Kurdish and English

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Abstract--- *The current research study is an investigation into the role text analysis in the political translation, the method of conducting pre-translation process, and the way it influences the translated product, the issue of this research is that most of the translators do not consider text analysis or pre-translation analysis prior to the work of translation .Text analysis here means pre-translation process which is the most vital factor of the initial stage of translation ,as the quality of translation will be demonstrated good or bad depending on the way how exactly the pre-translation process is done. So all the obstacles and problems of translation will be solved by focusing on the challenging actions involved in the process of translation, the present study is an attempt to figure out and recommend real solutions to such issues. Pre-translation process is a process that contains many important actions before starting the translation. To enrich thia research appropriate journals, articles, essays, and books have been obtained and scrutinized in order to collect required data which were then analyzed through field interviews with professional translators. For this reason one speech of the ex-president of the United States (Barak Obama) translated into Kurdish by a translator and the mistakes of this translation is designated and the correct translation is suggested instead. According to the obtained results, the biggest problem is that few translators know about pre-translation process, which affects their work, leading to unprofessional distorted translations. The questions of this research are: do the majority of political translators give more attention to pre-translation process? Do most of political translators have a background concerning the text, the writer, and the purpose of writing this book, article or any written document and political context? Do majority of translators consider the political situation during translation? And the hypothesis are: Most of translators do not take the political situation into consideration. Majority of Political translators do not have a background concerning the text, the, and writer, the book, article or any written document and political context. Most of the translators do not analyze the text before the start of the Political translation.*

Keywords--- *Text Analysis; Political Translation; Pre-Translation Process; Pre-Text Analysis*

I. INTRODUCTION

Text analysis and translation are closely and strongly related, such that the latter cannot be complete without the former. Through text analysis, the translator gains vast knowledge on the subject, idioms, metaphors, phrasal verbs,

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vocabulary, and even the culture that dominates the text. In this regard, translation was defined by Foster (1985) [5] as a mental activity in which the translator tries to render a given linguistic discourse from one language to another.

Translation was also defined as a method or process through which the meaning of a source language is conveyed to and expressed in the target language [7]. Another definition was provided by Catford (1995) [3] who held that translation is the activity of replacing textual materials in the source language by equivalent textual materials in the target language. Moreover, since completed translation depicts different cultures, societies, and civilizations to each other, it has also been referred to as a product [2, 9, 14].

Political translation refers to a type of translation in which a political text is converted from a source language into a target language using political phrases and terminologies Jamil, (2015) [12, 13]. The present study was aimed at identifying the significant steps in pre-translation process and examining the role that pre-text analysis process plays in political translation so as to a highly accepted translation product. Before translation of any types of texts particularly political ones, it is highly significant and inevitable to perform text analysis.

Pre-translation, translation, and post-translation are the three major activities that should be closely taken into account during translation. As pointed out by Gouadec (2007) [6, 10], if sufficient information is collected prior to a translation project, most potential risks and translation problems can be resolved.

Before translating a give text, professional translators opt a suitable translation strategy, and for this purpose they perform pre-translation analysis and the important steps prior to translation are: 1. Read the source text and understand the message behind it 2. Start your research by seeking for the vague words, expressions and phrases 3. Trying to identify who is the reader and what is the text for? 4. Designating the changes to be made depending on the result of the exploration made earlier 5. Finally begin with translation. Meryle .H, (2018,) [9],

[1] In this regard, instead of following a single model, translators need to have perfect knowledge on all analysis models, but they should be able to use an eclectic model according to the given situation or depending on the text to be translated.

As argued by Nadezhda (2016), pre-translation analysis is vitally significant for law students and they need to master it. In order to be able to utilize appropriate translation techniques, discuss the translation difficulties, and introduce the texts step-by-step, translators need to know the theory behind pre-translation analysis. Excessive politeness has been referred to as the universal difficulty of legal and business correspondence translation.

In her research, Matis (2015) [8] pointed out that there are some crucial stages to be taken into account in any translation project, which are pre-translation analysis of the text, quotation, planning, launching, monitoring, and closing, and without considering these stages the whole translation project will be jeopardized. The translation work will be facilitated greatly if these stages are applying before and during translation.

II. METHODOLOGY

The data of this study is mainly taken from books and articles on translation, political translation and text analysis. The exemplification is primarily drawn from English sources and books that are partly suggested by the

researchers. Therefore it is analyzed through a field interview with fifteen professional translators by asking them also fifteen questions regarding the pre-translation analysis..

A. Tools Used in this Research

Fifteen questions concerning the pre-text analysis or pre-translation process were arranged to ask the interviewees to strengthen the results and achieve a robust conclusion. These fifteen question were arranged according to the guidance of professional college instructors regarding the structure, sequence and the relatedness of the questions to the study.

These fifteen questions were also showed to five jury members designated to give their general ideas about the questions and the way the questionnaire is arranged to make sure that they are properly placed. Hopefully all five of them just replied positively on the way the questions were arranged.

B. Participants

Total of thirty nine professional translators from different academic, political and business fields were designated to ask them the questions related to the research. Moreover, five members of the jury participated to give their opinion about the question before the start of the interview; they hold PhD degrees from different universities all over Kurdistan region.

C. Findings

According to the field interview made with thirty nine “professional” translators the interviewees suggested that pre-translation process must be involved in translation training and must be taught in respective colleges. They reiterated that translation is not a matter of filliping over the word to the target language or not a matter of word for word translation, but it is a matter of delivering the message or the communicative meaning from source language into the target language.

A number of the interviewees also added that sometimes the political situation must be taken care of, because translation is a very sensitive job to do and the translator must be very clever to deal with it. They replied that the text must be read twice or thrice prior to the start of translation to understand the message and also to identify the vague expressions, idioms, terminologies and rare words.

On the other hand, the responses of the all thirty nine translators demonstrated that there is a lack of applying pre-translation process among the professionals regardless of the fresh translators .However, the results of not applying pre-translation process might have been a lot more than it shows in the charts if the translators could answer these questions without fear on their reputations because most of them are working in foreign companies, working as lecturers at Kurdistan universities and even lectures in USA. So, the results of the field interviews are demonstrated below:

The results of the field interviews are demonstrated below in pie charts

1. Therefore 20% of the professional translators are not reading the text prior to translation.

1. Do you read the whole text prior to any work of translation?

40 responses

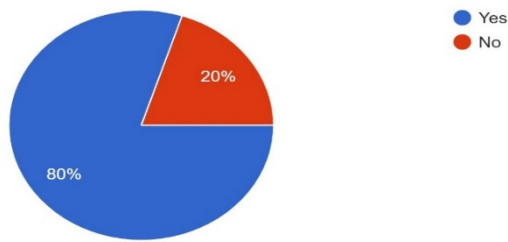


Figure 1

2. 32.5% of the interviewees are not asking about the time, place profession or rank of the audience prior to the translation.

2. Do you ask about the time, place and profession of readers before starting the translation?

40 responses

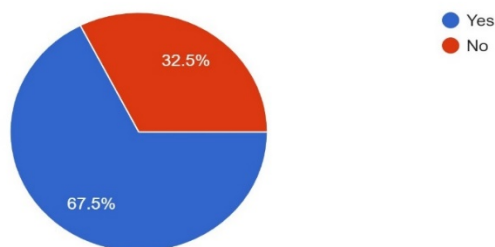


Figure 2

3. 12.8% Percent of the translators are not taking culture and culture values into consideration.

3. Do you take culture and cultural values into consideration during translation?

40 responses

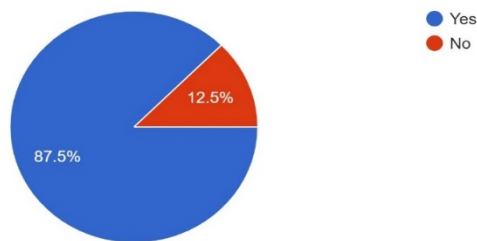


Figure 3

4. 17.9% of the translators are not familiar with the types of equivalence and they do not consider them while translation.

4. Are you familiar with the types of equivalence?

40 responses

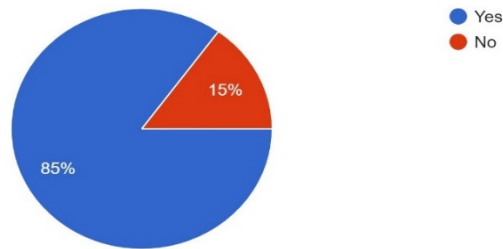


Figure 4

5. 10% of the translators do not consider text genre and audience during translation.

5. Do you consider the text genre, and the audience when you translate?

40 responses

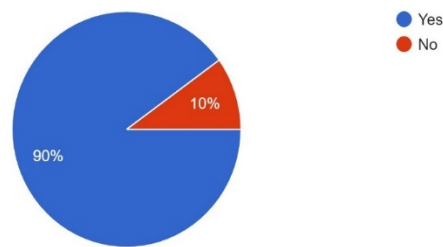


Figure 5

6. 90% believe that text analysis /pre-translation process helps the translator to figure out political terminologies, idioms and political expressions.

6. Text analysis/pre-translation process helps the translator to figure out the political metaphor, terminologies and idioms.

40 responses

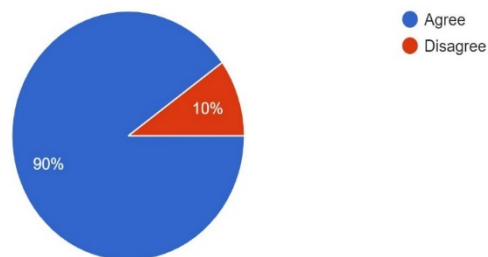


Figure 6

7. 80% believe that text analysis /pre-translation process insures a professional level of translation.

7. Does applying pre-translation process/text analysis insure a professional level of translation?

40 responses

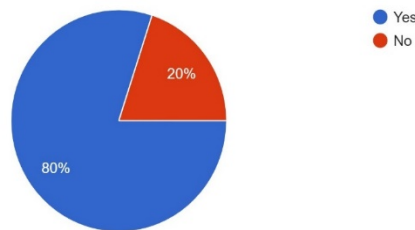


Figure 7

8. 92.5% from the responses shows that text analysis /pre-translation process must be involved in translation training or to be used as a syllabus in translation department.

8. Do you think that text analysis/pre-translation process must be involved in translation training or to be used a syllabus in the process of learning in translation department?

40 responses

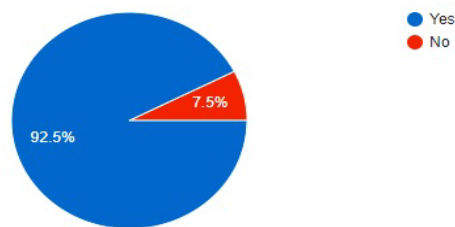


Figure 8

9. Therefore 30% of the “professional” translators are not applying pre-translation process and they don’t know even what pre-translation process is.

9. Do you apply Pre-translation process prior to any work of translation?

40 responses

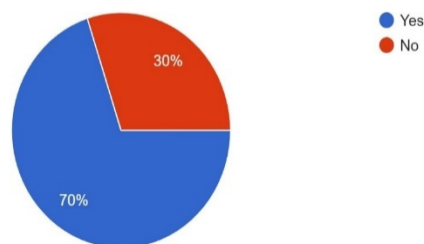


Figure 9

10. 73.1% from the responses insures that pre-translation process/text analysis must be developed in translation training.

10. How likely is that you would recommend the text analysis/pre-translation process to be developed in translation training?

41 responses

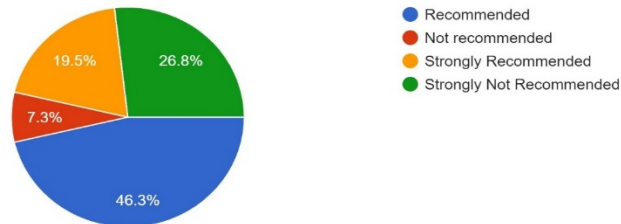


Figure 10

11.95% believed that pre-translation process is necessary.

11. Do you believe that the Pre-translation process is necessary?

40 responses

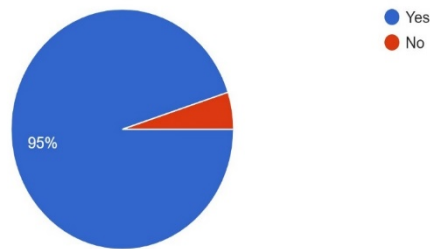


Figure 11

12.57.5% are not collecting information regarding the author of the text.

12. Do you collect information regarding the author of the text?

40 responses

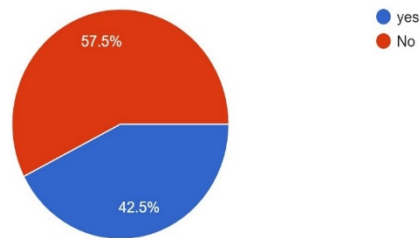


Figure 12

13. 92% claimed that their translations are as close as the original.

13. Do you think that your translations are as close as the original?

40 responses

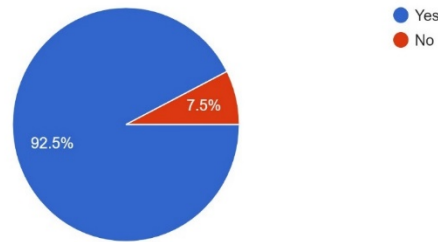


Figure 13

14. 70% believed that considering the political situation is necessary.

14. Do you consider the political situation during the translation process?

40 responses

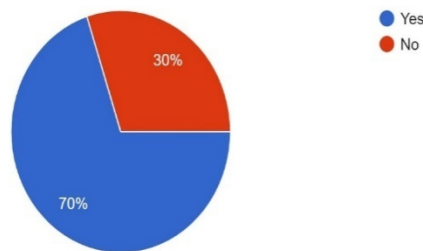


Figure 14

15. 82.5% believed that text analysis /pre-translation process guarantees a good product of translation.

15. Does the text analysis/pr-translation process guarantee a good product of translation?

40 responses

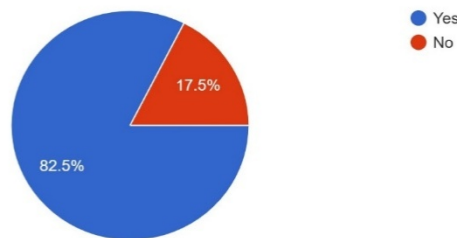


Figure 15

III. DISCUSSION

The findings confirm that there is a lack of information regarding pre-translation process and text analysis. However, the translators that are chosen to interview with are performing translation for years and considered as professionals, but their responses were really un-expected. If we would have asked the fresh translators or legal

translators the same questions, the results would have shocked the translator's community. Because those who work as legal translators do not know what pre-translation process is, and even what the definition of translation is. As they have a ready translation drafts of IDs, Certificates, marriage certificates, official letters and many more. So they just change the name of the applicant, ID number and print it out. Furthermore, the translators must be aware of each and every characteristic of pre-translation process to avoid making big errors in their translation that can cause them lose their job. So according to the responses of the interviews a number of the interviewees also added that sometimes the political situation must be taken care of, because translation is a very sensitive job to do and the translator must be very clever to deal with it. They replied that the text must be read twice or thrice prior to the start of translation to understand the message and also to identify the vague expressions, idioms, terminologies and rare words. The responses of all questions showed that there is a huge gap in the translation filed and need to be covered, because this field is really significant and needs special arrangements to overwhelm the related issues.

A. Analysis of Obama's translated Speech

In the following table, translation of four paragraphs of Obama's speech about the crisis in Iraq on 7/8/2014 are determined to not match the exact intended meaning of the text. Therefore, the text are re-translated and revised by applying pre-text analysis accurately to find out the true intended meaning of the speaker. The in English version of the speech was taken from BBC. Obama, (2014)

English Version	Highlighted mistake	The corrected Kurdish version
President Obama [11] Makes a Statement on the Crisis in Iraq on 7.8.2014:9:30pm	سەرۆک ئوباما له بەرواری ۲۰۱۴/۷/۸ کاتژێر ۹:۳۰ ی پاشنیوهێرووتیهکی لهسەر کارهسات له عێراق پێشکەش کرد	له ریکتۆتی 2014/7/8 لێکاتنمێر 9:30 ی ئیواره سەرۆک ئوباما وتیهکی ئیکش کرد لهسەر کارهساتهکهتی عێراق
Today I authorized two operations in Iraq -- targeted airstrikes to protect our American personnel, and a humanitarian effort to help save thousands of Iraqi civilians who are trapped on a mountain without food and water and facing almost certain death. Let me explain the actions we're taking and why.	سەرۆک: ئیواره باش. نهمرۆ رینگام به دوو نوێراسیۆن له عێراق دا - هێرش ناسمانی نامانجار بهمهههستی پاراستنی کارمهندانێ نهمریکیمان و ههولێکی مرویی بۆ رزگارکردنی ههزاران خهڵکی مهدهنی عێراقی که له چیاپهک بهینی نان و ناوگهمارۆ دراوان و بێگومان تووشی مهگ هاتوون. با باس له کردارهکانمان و هۆکارهکانیان بکهه	ئیواره باش! ئهرو ریطام به دوو نوێراسیۆن دا له عێراق, هێرش ناسمانی نامانجار بۆ ئاراستنی کارمهتد ئمریکهکانمان, وه ههروهها ههولێکی مرویی بۆ پارمتهی دان و رزگارکردنی ههزاران هاوڵاتی مهدهتی که طهمارۆ دراوان بهی خواراک و ناو خهریکه رووبهرووی مردنێکی مسوطه دهبنهوه. ریطام ئیدهن باسی نهو ضالاکیانه بکهه که نهتجامی دهدهین و بووسی ؟

<p>3. I said United States would be prepared to take targeted military action in Iraq if and when we determined that the situation required it.</p>	<p>گوتم نهگەر و هەر کات و ابزانین که بارودوخهکه ههنگره، ولاتهیه کگرتوهکان نامادهیه که کرداری سه‌ریازی نامانجدار له عیراقدای نه‌نجام بدات</p>	<p>وتم نه‌تقوة یه‌کطر توه‌کانی نه‌میریکا ناماده ده‌بیت بو نه‌نجامدانی نو‌تتراسیونی سه‌ریازی نامانجدار نه‌تقتر یان هه‌رکاتیک ده‌رکقوت که بارودوخهکه نه‌یوستینی .</p>
<p>4. In recent days, these terrorists have continued to move across Iraq, and have neared the city of Erbil, where American diplomats and civilians serve at our consulate and American military personnel advise Iraqi forces.</p>	<p>له ره‌زانی رابردودا نه‌م تیرۆریستانه دریزه‌یان به‌پیشه‌هوی له عیراقدای داوه و له شاری هه‌ولیر نزیك بوونه‌ته‌وه که له‌و شاره‌دا سیاسی‌ه‌تمه‌دار و خه‌لکانی مه‌ده‌نی نه‌میریکی له کونسولخانه‌که‌مان نیش ده‌که‌ن و کارمه‌ندانی سه‌ریازی نه‌میریکی راویژکاری هه‌یزه‌کانی عیراقدای ده‌که‌ن</p>	<p>له‌م ردانته‌دا نه‌م تیرۆریستانه به‌ردقوام بوون له‌تیشره‌تو بکردن به‌رقوه عیراقدای وه‌تروه‌ها نزیکیو نه‌توه له شاری هه‌ولیر، له‌و شوینه‌تی که دیبلۆماتکاره نه‌میریکی‌کان و خه‌لکانی مه‌ده‌نی که له کونسولخانه‌که‌مان کارده‌که‌ن وه‌تروه‌ها ستافی سه‌ریازی نه‌میریکی که راویژکاری هه‌یزه‌کانی عیراقدای ده‌که‌ن .</p>

The original text is translated by a freelance translator Aziz, (2019)

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Translation can never be complete without text analysis, as text analysis is an inevitable process that is performed prior to the translation work. The role of text analysis / pre-translation process in political translation can be studied at colleges with the availability of pre-translation process education packages along with the guidance of experts in this field .On the other hand, political translation is a real hard job to perform, as it drags the translator into extremely sensitive situations. Political texts /speeches are hard to translate, as politicians try to be as imprecise as possible, and they use abstract, general, metaphoric, vague and hazy language that are deliberately composed to have a huge effect on the audience. Therefore, text analysis or in other word pre-translation process helps the translator to detect vagueness, difficult expressions, political terminologies. The results of the interview reiterated that there is a lack of knowledge amongst the translators concerning text analysis/pre-translation process, a large proportion from the translators do not follow and consider the pre-translation process due to the absence of the translation departments along with specialized instructors in this field .

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Text analysis /pre-translation process should be considered during translation.
2. Text analysis /pre-translation process should be taught in the universities of Kurdistan in a precisely.
3. A translation department must be established again as its been shut down from years from now

4. Kurdistan Universities must bring translation and pre-translation syllabus packages and even specialized instructors from the well-known American and European universities for developing of translation field in this region.

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