



**Translator's communicative competence: perception inside analytical
and synthetic abilities**

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Translator's communicative competence: perception inside analytical and synthetic abilities

D. L. Abuzyarova¹, S. S. Takhtarova¹, Vera A. Mityagina², Anna A. Gureeva²

1 Kazan federal university, institute of international relations, history and oriental studies

2 Volgograd state university, institute of philology and intercultural communication,

info@ores.su

Abstract

This paper considers the aspects of the translator's communicative competence within the scope of its analytical and synthetic abilities which were chosen as the subject of study by the reason of their tremendous importance for a person's development in whole, and, translator's professional competence, in particular.

It is revealed that the analytical ability as one of the components of the translator's communicative competence is based on perception process as penetration of the communication participants' cognitive world and the hermeneutic observation connected with a thorough understanding of the communicant's language identities and the temporal states determined by the interaction environment of each communicative act.

The degree of freedom of an interpreter when choosing linguistic means of harmonizing the communicative intentions of partners depends on the knowledge of conformity, as well as on the necessary methods for achieving modal congruence.

When, at the stage of detection, a perception image is created, the final stage can be fulfilled, which, in fact, can be considered as a stage allowing the translator to "compensate" non-concurrence of the communication participants' cognitive models. Analytical and synthetic abilities must be viewed as a basis for a translator's communicative competence, and perception as a shaping component of its information and analytical component.

Key words: translation, interaction, communicative competence, translator's communicative competence, analytical ability, synthetic ability.



1 INTRODUCTION

The study of interaction issues in the global space requires thorough analysis of the components of the communicative competence of actors involved in various interaction processes. This topic has been attracting scholars' interest for a long time [3, 4, 8]; thus, the current state of linguistics, communication theory and translation studies reflects the non-decreasing demand for a careful study of the communicative competence notion [1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9]. This paper considers the peculiarities of the translator's communicative competence, in particular, as the age of global intercultural and inter-lingual interaction space sets the translator's language identity as a factor of top priority in the mediated communication process.

Interaction is always a social process, thus translation is socially determined as it involves different languages and, what is obvious, representatives with different cultural backgrounds. Rui Rothe-Neves [12] has expressed the opinion on the idea that "the performance of a good translator is very dependent on a given time and place". From Rui Rothe-Neves' view, "in the absence of a "gold standard", when the question "What makes a good translator?" is asked, it is perhaps more important to inquire into the socially shared representations of a translator's work, than to inquire only into the intrinsic qualities of translators" [12, p. 126]. So, what makes a good translator with a "good" communicative competence is rather situational and we must consider this "time and place" space revealing the translator's communicative competence.

2 METHODS

We used the method of analysis, comparative and statistical methods.

3 DISCUSSION

Individuals express different readiness to communicate, their ability to enter and participate in a communicative act initiated by another party depends of a plenty of factors, some interactants show remarkable abilities to open a talk and start communicate and others modest ones. This fact, in some issue, makes communication process complicated.

Such combination of a person's "communicability" and "communicativeness" constructs a communicative competence which is, thus, the reason and the result of interaction processes in various contexts. Communicative competence is based on a combination of analytical and synthetic skills. Expanding our knowledge of communicative competence and its components we should construct a base for its understanding taking the explanation of a person's analytical activity given by Richards J. Heuer Jr. in 1999: "Analytical skill is the ability to visualize, articulate, conceptualize or solve both complex and uncomplicated problems by making decisions that are



sensible given the available information.” [10]. These skills, as Richards J. Heuer Jr. writes, include performance of the ability to use logical thinking to break complicated problems into their constituent parts”. The author's intrinsic metaphor for analytical thinking is not just a nice illustration of its essence but also a thorough explanation of it: “Thinking analytically is a skill like carpentry or driving a car. It can be taught, it can be learned, and it can improve with practice. But like many other skills, such as riding a bike, it is not learned by sitting in a classroom and being told how to do it. Analysts learn by doing.” [10].

While addressing the communicative case, we extract and apply the following definition: the essence of a communicant's analytical skill is the ability to adequately accept, transform, produce and transfer information necessary for interaction participants for making it possible to use and apply in a “competent” manner the communication topics and carry out a correct estimation of both topics and perspectives of relations with an interaction partner; so, the adequacy of analytical “work” appears in how communicants fulfill their aims.

A simple but curious definition of synthetic ability is given by Sternberg: the synthetic skill is aimed at seeing problems in new ways and escaping the bounds of conventional thinking [13]. Applying it to a communicative competence we should make it broader and more thorough concerning the terms of interaction process: the essence of a communicant's synthetic ability is concentrated in skills and approaches of efficient “use” of information got as a result of a hermeneutic analysis of the interaction participant; the volume of analytical and synthetic abilities of a communicant is “calculated” from the interactants' intentions fulfilled in the interaction act and the level of their efficiency.

We suppose that one of the features of a communicative act is its involuntariness: its topic, form, subject and strategy of talking depend on endogenous (intrapersonal) and exogenous (interpersonal) factors which can be revealed due to “decoding” of a “code” which consists of four changing variables:

- facts and persons that create and shape social-individual biography;
- micro-social processes within a special life environment;
- macro-social processes;
- state and perspectives relevant for the special communicative situation of communicants' social relations.

The analysis of a certain interaction must be, in this way, oriented towards the comprehension of perceptions and relations between its actors, topics and linguistic means determined by these



relations. This analysis concerns, for certain, the communicative signs used in the interaction; however, it assumes considering the topics which are avoided, which linguistic means are not used on purpose.

Social structuring of a communicative competence is determined by the mechanisms of evident and hidden control, which function as a knowledge of social distance, determined by differentiation of labour and social differentiation adopted by the society.

A professional competence of a translator as a transferor of intercultural interactions is a complex phenomenon as it is connected with shaping of a special communicative consciousness. From this perspective, in the context of current research of communication processes, thus, the demands for the mediator's work, the traditional opposition of the translator's special, technological knowledge, skills, abilities and cross-cultural erudition is likely incomplete and inadequate.

4 SUMMARY

The success of translation depends on the translator's ability to properly and adequately reveal the communicants' cognitive diapason and on how properly the translator determines the level of familiarity of the mediated communication partners, concerning communication on its subject and common for the communicants "horizon of expectations", what, thereafter, leads to the realization of the communicants' intentions, and, as a result, a successful communicative act. That follows as the choice of an adequate translation strategy and technology is the translator's priority task.

The translator in the foreign cultural space of a mediated communicative act is not a language identity in its full scale and must compensate not only "non-concurrence" of his/her cognitive models but also the interaction partner's non-concurrence. That is not an easy task because the lacunae in cognitive communicative models are revealed in communication, aimed at maximum realization of personal parameters and communication within one and the same culture – the difference in social status, age, civil position, etc.

5 RESULTS

Turning back to the translator's analytical and synthetic abilities as basic components of the communicative competence, we should note that the abilities are the highest levels of a person's development, which is the condition for success, making knowledge, skills and abilities serve the activity and in the aspect of the translator's professional occupation – serve efficient intercultural / interlingual communication.

Among the features of the translator's analytical ability is necessary to determine perception process as an ability to penetrate to the communicants' cognitive world and also the hermeneutic



observation connected with an accurate understanding of the communicant's language identity and its temporal states determined by the interaction environment of each communicative act.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The translator's perception must be considered, in the terms of understanding his/her analytical ability, as a task to concentrate on receiving the "code", decode and interpret it for creation of an utterance which, as a piece of puzzle, meets the "horizon of expectations" of the communicants. At the stage of information interpretation and creation of this utterance the analytical ability of a translator transforms into a synthetic one having realized its features.

The translator's perception as one of the means of the translator's analytical abilities can be presented, in this way, as a system of stages:

- 1) receiving information;
- 2) detection, that is perception;
- 3) creation of new information.

When, at the stage of detection, a perception image is created, the final stage can be fulfilled, which, in fact, can be considered as a stage allowing the translator to "compensate" non-concurrence of the communication participants' cognitive models.

Analytical and synthetic abilities must be viewed as a basis for a translator's communicative competence, and perception as a shaping component of its information and analytical component. The proposed pairs of formula expressions have limited application, but they can be successfully used as the main base material for changing the search translation based on the sociological and cultural determinism of a communicative pragmatic approach to translation.

This study is part of a large long-term personal contribution. The practical value of the work lies in the fact that its theses can be used in university courses in the theory of communication, translation theory and the theory of intercultural communication, as well as in the theory of successive interpretations. Research materials can be used in the teaching of sequential translation, in the implementation of intercultural projects, as well as in the development of special courses and seminars on various topics of communicative linguistics, communication theory and practice, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. The results of the research can be useful for translators in practice, for students of relevant fields of study, as well as for researchers working on issues of intercultural communication, translation and interpretation.



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