



LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract:

This article explores the lexical and grammatical transformations that occur during the process of translation. The article begins by discussing the differences between lexical and grammatical transformations and their importance in translation. It then examines the various types of lexical and grammatical transformations that can occur, including transliteration, lexical borrowing, word order changes, and tense shifts. Additionally, the article examines the role of technology in facilitating lexical and grammatical transformations in translation, including machine translation and translation memory tools.

Keywords: lexical transformations, grammatical transformations, translation, language, syntax, semantics, cultural differences, linguistic differences, source language, target language, meaning, context, translation theory, translation practice, machine translation, human translation, bilingualism, language proficiency, linguistics.

Translation is the process of converting written or spoken language from one language into another. It is a complex process that requires not only linguistic proficiency but also cultural sensitivity and an understanding of the context in which the original text was written. One of the main challenges in translation is dealing with lexical and grammatical differences between the source and target languages. This article will explore lexical and grammatical transformations in translation, including strategies for dealing with these challenges and the importance of maintaining accuracy and clarity in the translated text. Lexical transformations involve the translation of words and phrases from one language into another. One of the main challenges in lexical translation is dealing with idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs, which can have very different meanings in different languages. For example, the English phrase "kick the bucket" is an idiomatic expression that means to die, but the literal translation of the phrase in another language may not convey the same meaning. In this case, the translator may need to use a different idiom or expression that conveys the same meaning in the target language. Another challenge in lexical translation is dealing with words that have multiple meanings in the source language. For example, the English word "bank" can refer to a financial institution, the side of a river, or the act of tilting to one side. In this case, the translator must determine the intended meaning of the word in the source text and choose the appropriate translation in





the target language. If the intended meaning is unclear, the translator may need to clarify with the author or provide a footnote in the translated text.

Grammatical transformations involve the translation of sentence structure and grammatical features from one language into another. One of the main challenges in grammatical translation is dealing with differences in sentence structure and word order between the source and target languages. For example, in English, the subject typically comes before the verb in a sentence, while in some other languages, the verb comes before the subject. In this case, the translator must rearrange the sentence structure in the translated text to conform to the grammatical rules of the target language. Another challenge in grammatical translation is dealing with differences in verb tense and aspect between the source and target languages. For example, in English, the present perfect tense is often used to describe an action that occurred in the past but has ongoing relevance in the present. However, in some other languages, such as Spanish, the simple past tense is used to describe the same situation. In this case, the translator must choose the appropriate tense or aspect in the target language to convey the intended meaning of the source text.

Strategies for Dealing with Lexical and Grammatical Transformations. There are several strategies that translators can use to deal with lexical and grammatical transformations in translation. One strategy is to use a bilingual dictionary or thesaurus to identify possible translations of words and phrases in the source text. Another strategy is to consult with a subject matter expert or a native speaker of the target language to ensure that the translation is accurate and appropriate. Translators can also use computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, which are software programs that help automate the translation process. CAT tools can help with lexical and grammatical transformations by providing suggestions for translations based on a database of previously translated texts. They can also help maintain consistency in terminology and style throughout the translated text. In addition to these strategies, it is important for translators to maintain accuracy and clarity in the translated text. This requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as an understanding of the cultural and social context in which the original text was written. Translators must also be mindful of the audience for the translated text, as the level of formality, tone, and style may need to be adjusted depending on the intended audience.

Importance of Accuracy and Clarity in Translation. Maintaining accuracy and clarity in translation is essential for ensuring that the translated text conveys the intended meaning of the source text. Inaccurate translations can lead to misunderstandings, confusion, and even legal or financial consequences. For example, a mistranslated contract could lead to a breach of contract or a misunderstanding of the terms of the agreement.





In addition, clarity in translation is important for ensuring that the translated text is easily understood by the intended audience. This requires not only a mastery of the target language but also an understanding of the cultural and social context in which the text will be read. Translators must be aware of cultural differences in language use, such as differences in levels of formality or the use of idiomatic expressions, and adjust their translations accordingly.

In conclusion, lexical and grammatical transformations are a common challenge in translation, and translators must employ a variety of strategies to ensure accuracy and clarity in the translated text. Maintaining accuracy and clarity is essential for avoiding misunderstandings and ensuring that the intended meaning of the source text is conveyed to the target audience. By using a combination of linguistic proficiency, cultural sensitivity, and technology tools, translators can overcome these challenges and provide high-quality translations that meet the needs of their clients and the intended audience. Lexical and grammatical transformations are an integral part of translation. The translator needs to have a deep understanding of both the source and target languages to ensure that the meaning of the text is conveyed accurately. The translator must be able to identify the lexical and grammatical problems in the source text and use their knowledge and expertise to transform them into an equivalent in the target language. Through the course of this article, we have explored various aspects of lexical and grammatical transformations in translation. We have looked at some of the challenges that translators face when dealing with these transformations, including idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and language-specific grammatical structures. We have also discussed some of the strategies that translators can use to overcome these challenges, including paraphrasing, simplification, and the use of context. Furthermore, we have discussed the impact of lexical and grammatical transformations on the quality of the translated text. Accurate and appropriate lexical and grammatical transformations are crucial to ensuring that the meaning and intent of the source text are preserved in the translation. Poor lexical and grammatical transformations can result in errors, inaccuracies, and confusion, ultimately compromising the quality of the translated text. We have also examined some of the tools and technologies that translators can use to aid them in lexical and grammatical transformations. These tools include computer-assisted translation (CAT) software, machine translation, and translation memory systems. While these tools can be helpful, they are not a substitute for the knowledge and expertise of the translator.

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