Translation: Science, Art, or Skill?

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Abstract:

Because translation is a branch of applied linguistics, we cannot ignore the importance of linguistic proficiency when we translate a text from one language to another. So, translators should exhibit certain linguistic skills and extensive knowledge of both languages: the source language and the target language. In addition to that he/she should be familiar with the culture of the country where the text is originated and be able to express himself/herself in the target language.

In this paper I will tackle the issue of translation with the emphasis on the four aspects of language: syntax, semantics, phonology and even morphology as well as the cultural and sociolinguistic aspects of the language when translating a text from the SL into the TL. In order to achieve such an acceptable translation, one should note that translation is not just a word-for-word translation, but it is a science, an art, and a skill that the translator has to acquire in order to come up with an appropriate translation for the text to be translated. Translation requires that the translator has such talent and intelligence to be able to tackle with the text in hand to convey the intended meaning with certain degree of proficiency in writing and speaking as well.