

Speech Acts and Translation

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Abstract

The goal of writing this paper is to understand how speech acts function in translation. It is to discover a different definition of translation, as well as the relationship between the two. Acts of speech and translation types, as well as the potential that speech acts are capable of influencing translation quality. Translation is discovered to be not only the process of meaning transference but also the process of intention transference from Source Language (SL) to Target Language (TL) through content analysis (TL). There is also a link between speech acts and translation types. The tendency of translation type relates to literal translation when some utterances are translated with the idea of locutionary act. While some are translated with the intention of being illocutionary, they fall within the category of idiomatic translation. And it's possible that the actions of 'loss' and 'gain' fall under the category of perlocutionary activities. In terms of translation quality, the employment of locutionary act ensures meaning accuracy, but the use of illocutionary act ensures naturalness or acceptance. And, by putting 'loss' and 'gain' into action, the effect of illocutionary force will be realized; it will improve readability translation in connection to pragmatics.

Keywords: Translation, locutionary acts, illocutionary acts , Speech acts, Pragmatics, Perlocutionary acts, Idioms ,Idiomatic translation

Introduction

From the standpoint of orality vs. literacy, Ong (in Hickey, 1998, p. 73) has pointed out that promises, greetings, asserting, threatening, demanding, protesting, and other so-called illocutionary acts might mean very different things in literate and illiterate contexts. On the other side, there is culture and orate culture. It is now widely accepted that pragmatic meaning is not just debatable but also malleable. Across linguistic and cultural divides, as well. According to Hatim (Hickey, 1998, p.73), there has been a push to expand speech-acts theory in a variety of areas. Prompted not only by the need to reconsider spoken communication in face-to-face situations, but also by the need to learn more about it. encounters, as well as the necessity to pay closer attention to textual communication. Exactly as 'textual' To put it another way, translation as a written work can attract people. Studies on pragmatics have gotten a lot of interest. As a result, it is critical to research translation. A

pragmatic examination starting with the statement, translation is the process of transferring meaning. The writer is interested in examining the transition from Source Language (SL) to Target Language (TL). In terms of pragmatics, translation is important. The author believes that it is more than just a metaphor. In translation, the speaker's intention what he or she wants to say becomes increasingly significant.

Chapter One: Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the use of language in social contexts and the ways in which people produce and comprehend meanings through language. The term *pragmatics* was coined in the 1930s by the philosopher C.W. Morris. Pragmatics was developed as a subfield of linguistics in the 1970s. Discover what 20th and 21st century writers and other notable figures have had to say about pragmatics. "Pragmatists focus on what is not explicitly stated and on how we interpret utterances in situational contexts. They are concerned not so much with the sense of what is said as with its *force*, that is, with what is communicated by the manner and style of an utterance. (Finch, 2000:65). Speech acts are central studies in pragmatics; they are the basic or minimal unit of Linguistic communication. (Searle ,969:16) affirms that more precisely, the production or issuance of a sentence token under certain condition is a speech act. (Leech ,1983:5) states that pragmatics studies the intention of utterance; asking what people intends with a certain speech act as well as entail meaning with who or to whom, where, when and how. According to Searle (1969:16), all linguistic communication involves linguistic acts. The unit of linguistic communication is not, as has generally been supposed, the symbol, word or sentence, but rather the production or issuance of the symbol or word or sentence in the performance of speech acts. In linguistic discourse, Pragmatics plays a major role in discourse. When the speaker and the hearer share knowledge about the world, therefore, both the speaker and the hearer will make assumptions according to the shared knowledge. "Pragmatics" refers to the strategies (exploitation of shared knowledge, assumptions about communicative intent, etc.), by which language users relate the dictionary/grammar meaning of utterances to their communicative value in context. "Pragmatics" generally refers to the encoding of particular communicative functions, especially those relevant to interpersonal exchanges, in specific grammatical and lexical elements of a given language. So that all the structures of a language encode two levels of meaning, "semantic" and "pragmatic," both of which must be learnt for communicative competence. (Metaphysics research, 2008).

1.1. Pragmatics and Translation

In 1955, psychologists at Harvard were buzzing with anticipation for Noam Chomsky's talk on his theory of transformational generative grammar. In the same year, British philosopher John Austin gave the prestigious William James Lecture at Harvard. And presenting that was to have an equally strong impact across a broad spectrum of specialties. This was a novel viewpoint that will fundamentally alter our understanding of language and how it functions. Since then, pragmatic inquiry has grown into its own discipline, addressing issues like as "the study of the purpose for which sentences are used and the world conditions in which a sentence may be appropriately utilized as an expression (1972, Stalnaker). This new approach, as well as some of its key tenets, quickly found their way into the translation literature. Al-Sulaiman (Al-Sulaiman, 2014). "Translation can best be defined as a verbal stimulus that has the same effect (or as much of the same effect as possible) on a different verbal community," writes Skinner (1974:95). Roman Jakobson, a Russian formalist, separates translation into three categories: intralingual, intersemiotic, and interlingual. Intralingual translation, often known as "rewording," is the interpretation of linguistic indicators within the same language. The interpretation of linguistic signs using non-linguistic signs is known as intersemiotic translation. Interlingual translation is a type of translation that involves interpreting linguistic signs from one language to another. It can be said that translation is as old as man when seen against the backdrop of Roman Jakobson's three-fold concept of translation. The basic goal of translation is to successfully transmit the original message through a variety of linguistic indicators. The translator is frequently challenged with challenges of contextual meanings while translating a message and its nuances from one language form to another. Translation is linked to both sociolinguistics and semantics. Translation theory, according to Newmark (1981:5), is primarily a branch of semantics, although sociolinguistics has a "constant bearing on translation theory.

Pragmatics is the study of the objectives for which sentences are employed, as well as the real-world circumstances in which a sentence can be used effectively as an utterance. Contextual meaning is utilized and studied in pragmatics to find the "true" meaning. In pragmatics, it's critical to discuss implied and intended meaning, assumptions, people's objectives and aims in communication, and various types of activities. Pragmatics arose from the failure of semantics to adequately explain the sociolinguistic and other non-linguistic components of verbal communication. As a result, pragmatics is a relatively recent topic of research that overlaps with sociolinguistics and semantics. Pragmatics is speech in action, with society or interlocutors dictating the action. When a person's actions are dictated by society, they become more or less irrational. It becomes more or less sociolinguistics, but when it is more of intended meaning, it tends or leans towards semantics.

2.1. Speech acts and Translation

Speech acts are the acts we perform when, for example we make a complaint or a request, apologize or pay someone a complement. The pragmatic analysis of speech acts seize all utterances in terms of the dual function of “Stating “ and doing things ,of having a meaning and a force .An Utterance ,in this view , has ..

1. A sense or reference to specific events, persons and objects
2. A force which may override lateral sense, thus really added effects such as those associated with, say, a request or admonition.
3. An overall effect consequence which may or may not be of the kind conventionally associated with the linguistic expression of the functional force involved .For example “shut the door “ is in a sense an imperative that conceivably carry the force of a request , which intern could be used simply annoy the hearer . (Al-Suleiman, 2013)

To these three aspects of message construction, (Austin:1972) assigned the tables locution, Illocution and perlocution , respectively .In Translation and interpreting , this distinctions have proved extremely important , particularly when force departs from convention , since , or when the ultimate effect defies the expectations based on either facet . In pragmatics-Oriented models of the translation process , the assumption generally entertained has been the act that the act of translation itself can be viewed as an attempt at the successful performance of speech acts .In their quest to achieve” Sameness of Meaning”, it has been argued , translators constantly attempt to re-perform locutionary and illocutionary acts in the hope that the end-product will have the same perlocutioary for in the target language (Blum Kulka:1981) actual examples of pragmatics at work in the general domain of translation can be found in (Baker :1992) .

According to Larson’s (1984: 15) categories of type of translation to analyze some utterances. The translation of utterances of locutionary acts tends to literal translation, while translation of that of illocutionary acts has a tendency to idiomatic translation. Followings are some examples of utterances that are literally translated. For example “**The gun is loaded**”, Here if we translate this sentence into Kurdish literally or if we take only the literal meaning, we translate this sentence as (ضفكككة نررة يان سواراة) But in the return if we want to translate the pragmatic meaning of this sentence ,in this sentence the person who makes the utterance gives a kind of warning to the other person that the gun is loaded don’t touch it otherwise you could kill/make a serious injury to yourself or others. So this tells that the locutionary act has tendency to literal translation because it focuses on literal meaning and the illocutionary act has tendency to idiomatic translation because it focusses on the pragmatic meaning . On the other hand, during the writing of this paper, we found out that Communicative

translation is also very close illocutionary acts because, 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 readership. In other words, Pragmatic speech acts such as Illocutionary can be resembled to Idiomatic and Communicative translation. In other words in order to illustrate that the idiomatic translation and speech acts are moving in the same stream, the below table will demonstrate that with a number of following translated examples literally and idiomatically:

Translated Idioms Literally and Idiomatically

(English-idioms, 2012)

Table No.1

No.	Idioms	Literal Translation	Idiomatic Translation
1	Put yourself in my shoes	خوت بخترة ناو نيلاووكانم	نؤوةي نؤبئي لئمالم نازانيت به حالم
2	Birds of a feather flock together	تؤيرةكانني نؤريك بئيهكؤوة كو نؤبنؤوة	مئنؤئل سئرفئئأخي خوي نؤدوزيئؤوة
3	Let the sleeping dogs Lie	با سئطة خؤوتؤوةكان ئالبدئؤوة	كاي كون بئبا مئكة
4	Break the ice	بئفؤةكة بشكينة	شؤكريك بشكينة
5	Let the cat out of the bag	ئشيلئكة لئناو جانتاكة دؤرؤة دؤرؤة	نؤؤوي لئ بن بؤرؤية بيهينة سئر بؤرؤة
6	Only mountains can't meet	تئنها شاخؤةكان ناتوانن كو بئبئؤوة	ضاو بئضاو ئؤكؤويئؤوة
7	Give knaves an inch they will take a yard	بئك ئبئنج بؤة بؤ قولبرؤةكان نؤوان ياردؤيئك نؤبئن	بؤ عؤرؤب مئلي مئرحبا هؤم نؤؤواو هؤم نؤبا

8	She spilt the beans	ثاقلة مة نبيية كانى رذاند	نهبيية كة تي در كاند
9	No pain no Gain	ئازار نية دة سكوت نية	دوم به دانيشتن مالى ويرانه
10	You reap what you sow	تو نةوة ئهدور ينةوة كة توت كر دووة	ضى بضيني نةوة ئهور ينةوة

3.1. What is Speech Acts?

Speech acts are actions performed via utterances. This concept was proposed by John Langshaw Austin in 1962 one of the founders of pragmatic and later developed by John R. Searle in 1969, both are philosophers of language, they believe that language is not only used to inform or to describe things, it is often used “to do things”, to perform acts. In other words actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts. **Assumption of speech act**, two assumption attributed to Searle and Austin: Speech is action and Language is used to do things not only to describe in state of affairs. (Levinson, 1983).

There are three types of Speech acts, (Levinson, 1983)

- 1. Locutionary act:** the act of uttering a sentence with certain meaning and reference.
- 2. Illocutionary act:** is the utterance with a particular force or significant or speakers intention, like making a statement, offer, promise, warning and threat.
- 3. Perlocutionary act:** is the act of causing effective on the hearer or the audience

Examples

- I turning off the light.
- Locutionary act; having meaning, reference.
- Illocutionary act; a kind of threat
- Perlocutionary act; effect on son , may be to annoy the boy .
- The gun is loaded.
- Locutionary act; having meaning, reference.
- Illocutionary act; be aware of

- Perlocutionary act; the effect is to frighten.

4.1. Taxonomy of Speech Acts

Searle divides illocutionary acts into five basic types.

1. Directive: It is conversation between **1st and 2nd** person here the speaker tries to make the hearer to do something, with such words as: ask, order, command, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit, advise, demand etc.

Ex: Give me your pen.

- Leave the town immediately.

2. Comissive: Here the speaker commits himself or herself to the future course of action, with verbs such as: guarantee, promise, swear, refuse, threatening etc.(speaker is important) . (Levinson, 1983)

- Ex: I will repay the money.
- I swear to tell the truth.

3. Representative: Here the speaker asserts a proposition to be true, using such verbs as: affirm, believe, conclude, deny, report, state. etc. (Levinson, 1983)

- Ex: The earth is round.
- I think, he is saying the truth.

4. Declarative: Here the speaker alters the external status or condition of an object,

Situation or context solely by making the utterance. . (Levinson, 1983)

- **Ex:** Class dismissed.
- You are fired.
- We find defendant not guilty.
- I named this ship queen Elizabeth.
- Also called social acts someone has an authority to do things.

5. Expressive: Here the speaker expresses an attitude to or about a state of affairs,

Using such verbs as: thanks, congratulate, apologize, praise etc. . (Levinson, 1983)

- Ex: I am sorry for being late.
- What a great day!
- Congratulation
- I thank him for his presents.
- I criticize for speaking aloud.
- He apologize for coming late.

Chapter Two: What is Translation?

There are numerous definitions of translation but when it comes to talking about contemporary western translation theorists of the linguistic group, in addition to Catford and Nida, Newmark is the person that must be mentioned. Newmark emphasizes on text analysis, from the viewpoint of him, the meaning of the text is extremely abundant. Focusing on text is the pillar of his theoretical framework. What is translation? According to him, “often, though not by any means always, it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.(Newmark, 1988). Translation is the communication of the meaning of a source-language text by means of an equivalent target-language text. (Bhatia, 1992). The English language draws a terminological distinction (not all languages do) between translating (a written text) and interpreting (oral or sign-language communication between users of different languages); under 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. On the other hand, such "spill-overs" have sometimes imported useful source language calques and loanwords that have enriched target languages. Translators, including early translators of sacred texts, have helped shape the very languages into which they have translated, (Christopher ,1983). According to (Larson, 1984) translation is classified into two main types, namely form-based translation and meaning-based translation. Forms-based translation attempts to follow the form of the source language (SL) and it is known as literal translation, while meaning-based translation makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the SL text in the natural forms of the receptor language. Such translation is called

idiomatic translation. A literal translation sounds like nonsense and has little communication value (Larson, 1984). The literal translation can be understood if the general grammatical form of the two languages is similar. (Larson, 1984) says that idiomatic translations use the natural forms of the receptor language both in the grammatical constructions and in the choices of lexical items. A truly idiomatic translation does not sound like translation. It sounds like it was written originally in the receptor language. Therefore, a good translator will try to translate idiomatically.

2.2. Types of translation

Although there are different types of translation but we will concentrate on the below ones due to its relation to the types of speech acts

- **Literal translation:** in which the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.

- **Idiomatic translation:** it 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.(Newmark, 1991)

- **Communicative translation:** it 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 readership Newmark (1988b: 45-47). Newmark (1991:10-12) writes of a Continuum existing between “semantic” and “communicative” translation. Any translation can be "more, or less semantic—more, or less, communicative even a particular section or sentence can be treated more communicatively or less semantically. Both seek an equivalent effect. Zhongying (1994: 97), who prefers literal translation to free translation, writes that, In China, it is agreed by many that one should translate literally, if possible, or appeal to free translation. (Newmark ,1991).

- **Pragmatic Translation:** Is a term used to pay attention to translation which pays attention to not only to the denotative meaning ,but also to the way utterances are used in communicative situations and the way and the way we interpret them in the context. As Stated by (baker :1992) Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics devoted to “study the meaning not as generated by linguistic system but as conveyed and manipulated by participants in a communicative situation .’this means that pragmatic translation will for example attempt to convey the connotative meaning ,allusion , and interpersonal aspects of communication such as implicature, tone register and so on. (AL-Sulaiman: 2013)

Chapter Three: Finding and Discussions

When working on this research, important points have been explored .one of them is that the locutionary act is compatible to literal translation as they are sentences with certain meaning and reference, second one is that the illocutionary act is identical to idiomatic, communicative and pragmatic translation as it focuses on the exact contextual meaning. Therefore, the findings can be illustrated by explaining a number of idioms that has been translated literally and idiomatically. The first translated idiom in the below (table No.2) is “**put yourself in my shoes**” so the literal translation of this idiom will be sarcastic in Kurdish ,this way “**xot bkhara naw pelawakanm**” means place yourself in my shoes , but if we take an equivalent/idiom in the TL /Kurdish, it will give us the exact pragmatic meaning .However the lexical items , word order and grammatical structure are different but the functions of both source idiom and the idiom in the target language are the same. In addition , more examples are demonstrated below and will show that how pragmatic meaning of the idioms in both SL and TL have the same function with natural and contextual meaning, in spite of the differences between the lexical items ,grammatical structure and word order.

Table No.2

<i>Idioms in SL /English</i>	<i>Literal translation in KL</i>	<i>Idioms in the TL/Kurdish</i>
1. Put yourself in my shoes	خوت بخرة ناو ئيلاوكانم	خوت بخرة جي من
2. Birds of a feather flock together	تغيره كانى ئتريك بئيكه كوة كو ئبئقوة	مئنجئل سترقئناخي خوي ئدوريتقوة
3. Let the sleeping dogs Lie	با سئطة خوتوقان ئالبدئقوة	كاي كون بئبا مئكة
4. Break the ice	بئقوة كة بشكين	شئكريك بشكينة
5. Let the cat out of the bag	ئشيلئكة لئاو جانتاكة دئركة دئقوة	ئقوة لئ بن بئقوة بئهينة ستر بئقوة

Conclusion

It is true that there is close relationship between translation and pragmatics. As the work of translation is not only the process of meaning transference but also the process of intention transference from Source

Language (SL) to target Language (TL). Meaning can be grasped from what SL says, and the intention can be caught from what SL intends. It is also true that speech acts are in relation to types of translation. The locutionary and illocutionary acts work to it. When some utterances are translated with the idea of locutionary act, the tendency of translation type belongs to literal translation. While some others which are translated with the idea of illocutionary act, it belongs to idiomatic translation. And, some could be an idea that loss and gain is a written action through the process of speech acts. Since it is an action as a result of the effect of what SL says or intends, it is possibly true that the action of loss‘ and gain‘ belongs to perlocutionary acts. By virtue of the idea above, in relation to quality of translation, the use of locutionary act will perform the accuracy of meaning while that of illocutionary act will lead to naturalness or acceptability. And, the effect of illocutionary force will be realized into action by making loss and gain, it will increase readability. Illocutionary acts has a strong relationship with Idiomatic translation ,communicative Translation and Pragmatic translation, because they all focus on naturalness ,accuracy and the real meaning behind the sentence .In other words, approximately the mentioned three types of translation they all go through the same stream with Illocutionary acts . In our view, virtually every translation, or in particular interpretation, has with it a pragmatic element at one level or the other. Speech acts and events are common features to the two. A good knowledge of pragmatics can enrich the study and practice of translation. Drawing from his knowledge of pragmatics, the translator could, through properly contextualized situations, capture and translate appropriately the non-linguistic dimensions of verbal communication. The basic difference is that translation deals with different languages

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