



**Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences  
Department of Translation and Interpretation**

**LINGUISTIC DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED  
AND  
METHODS USED IN TRANSLATING NEWS**

Nalân Dirik

Master's Thesis

Ankara, 2009



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TRANSLATING NEWS

Nalân DİRİK

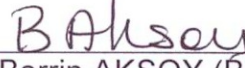
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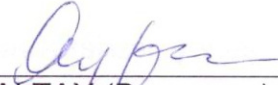
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## KABUL VE ONAY

Nalân Dirik tarafından hazırlanan "Linguistic Difficulties Encountered and Methods Used In Translating News" başlıklı bu çalışma, 11. 06. 2009 tarihinde yapılan savunma sınavı sonucunda başarılı bulunarak jürimiz tarafından Yüksek Lisans Tezi olarak kabul edilmiştir.

  
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## ÖZET

DİRİK, Nalân. *Linguistic Difficulties Encountered and Methods Used in Translating News*, Yüksek Lisans Tezi, Ankara, 2009.

İletişimin altın çağı olarak tanımlanan 20. yüzyılda bazı bilim adamlarının öngördüğü gibi bir bilgi toplumunda ya da küresel köyde yaşamaktayız. Hiç kuşkusuz ki bunun sebebi kitle iletişim araçlarının yaygınlık kazanmasıdır. Küreselleşmenin eşi görülmeyen bir hıza ulaştığı günümüzde, bu hıza yetişebilmek için dünyanın her yerinden en son haberleri hızlı ve sağlıklı bir şekilde alabilmek önemlidir. Bunun da ancak haber metinleri, makale ve köşe yazılarının çevirisiyle mümkün olduğu açıktır. Bunun sonucu olarak, basın alanındaki çevirilere olan talep giderek artmakta, sektör genişlemekte ve alandaki çalışmalar zenginleşmektedir. Bu da basın alanındaki çevirileri ilginç ve zengin bir çalışma alanı haline getirmektedir.

Böyle bir ortamda, dünyanın her yerinden haberler uluslararası haber ajanslarının havuzlarına akmakta ve toplumlar anında bilgi talep etmektedir. Böylece, haber metinleri çevirmenleri ciddi bir zaman baskısı altındadır. Ayrıca, haberlerde kullanılan dilin kendine özgü birtakım özellikleri olması nedeniyle çevirmenler metinlerin doğası gereği bazı zorluklarla karşı karşıya kalmaktadır. Haber metinlerinde kullanılan dilden kaynaklanan bu zorluklar, bu çalışmanın çıkış noktası olmuştur.

Bu çalışmada, haber dilinin kendine has özellikleri incelenmiş, haber çevirisinin çeviri kuramındaki yeri tartışılmış ve haber çevirisinde karşılaşılan zorluklarla birlikte bu zorlukların üstesinden gelmek için kullanılan yöntemler araştırılarak yabancı haber ajanslarından seçilen örneklerle birlikte sınıflandırılmaya çalışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Haber, Basın, Haber çevirisi, Haber dili, Basın çevirisi, Basın dili

## ABSTRACT

DİRİK, Nalân. *Linguistic Difficulties Encountered and Methods Used in Translating News*, Master's Thesis, Ankara, 2009.

After the 20th century which was marked as the golden age of communication, today we are living in an information society or a global village as some scholars suggest. This is, without doubt, due to the prevalence of vehicles of mass communication. At such a time, when the world is globalizing with an unprecedented pace, getting the latest news from all over the world in a quick and healthy way is of great importance in order to catch up with the pace of ever-changing world and it is evident that this is only possible through translations of news items, op-eds and columns. As a result, the demand for press translations is growing, the sector is enlarging and the practices in the field are enriching, which makes it an interesting and rich research area.

In such an environment, news items are flowing from all over the world to the polls of international news agencies and the public demand information on the very spot. Thus, the translators of the news items are under serious time pressure. Furthermore, as the language use in news items has its very special characteristics, translators face some difficulties due to the nature of news stories. These difficulties stemming from the language used in news have been the starting point of this study.

In this study, the special characteristics of news language or discourse have been examined, the place of news translation in the theory of translation studies has been discussed and the difficulties encountered in translating news along with the methods applied to overcome these difficulties have been sought for and tried to be classified with randomly chosen examples from foreign news sources.

**Key Words:** News, Press, News translation, News language, Press translation, Press language.

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## **ÖZGEÇMİŞ**

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Translation of news items has become a rapidly growing field in recent years due to developments in communication technologies and globalisation process. However, there are a limited number of research and academic studies in this field. Thus, this thesis aims at giving an overview of the translation of new items, with emphasis on the difficulties translators encounter and methods they use or develop to cope with these difficulties. In this respect, it aims at drawing attention to this specific field of translation and actual practices in this field.

In this regard, Chapter 1 is composed of an introductory part dwelling on the aims, research questions and limitations and thus drawing the general framework of this study.

Chapter 2, first of all, is devoted to an overview of the definition, topics, types and values of news. This section of the second chapter is, in fact, planned as an introduction to understand the nature of news language or discourse, which forms the latter section of this chapter. This section will focus on the production of news language/discourse and the roles of its producers as well as international news flows in order to observe the translation process of news items. The characteristics of news language/discourse and readability are the other key headings of this chapter. They are directly linked to the main chapter of this thesis, Chapter 4, in that they will both guide us to find out the difficulties of translating news items and evaluate the translation, final text as a product. Thus, target text will also be evaluated according to these characteristics and its satisfaction of these characteristics will be discussed.

Chapter 3 aims at bringing translation studies and news translation together. No theory has been developed specifically for the translation of news items within the scope of translation theories so far, however as the basis of news and the reason for translating news items is “ensuring communication” and “appealing to the target, the readers”, news translation is especially relevant to functionalist and target-oriented approaches in translation studies. In this respect, in this chapter, these two approaches will be briefly presented and news translation will be evaluated within the framework of these approaches. Hence, another aim this study pursues is to investigate to what extent general translation theories can shed light upon the academic aspect of news translation and the practices in the field. Lastly, in this chapter, a new concept in news translation, transediting, will be shortly touched upon with reference to its investors so as to attract attention to one of the rare academic studies in this special field of translation.

After this theoretical information on news, news language and the place of news translation in news studies; a practical study will be carried out in Chapter 4 with the extracts from news stories. The main aim of this chapter is to analyze the difficulties encountered while translating news and to consist a basis for the evaluation of their translations to determine what kind of methods have been used or developed to deal with these difficulties. In this chapter, authentic news items and their professional translations will be introduced to the reader. All examples have been chosen randomly from the leading newspapers and news agencies of the British and American press for a period of one year between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. Their translations have been gathered from the closed-circuit news system of the Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate General of Press and Information (DGPI).

In this thesis, the difficulties encountered during translation are examined under four main categories: lexical, syntactic, semantic and stylistic. Equal

number of examples are chosen for each category so as to be able to get more sound results as for the methods developed or used to cope with these difficulties and to be able to determine how frequently each method is used. Apart from the quantitative results, this study aims at qualitative results about the use of news language/discourse in translated news items and the place of news translation in translation studies as well. Thus, translations will be evaluated according to the theoretical information provided in these fields as well.

Chapter 5 covers the conclusion. A synthesis of what has been studied in the previous chapters is aimed at in this part of the study, as a combination of the analytical study on the difficulties and methods in the translation of news items. The answers for the main research questions of this study – What are the difficulties encountered in news translations from English to Turkish?, To what extent they are related to the characteristics of news language/discourse?, How do translators deal with difficulties they encounter?, What are the characteristics of news language/discourse?, How is it shaped?, Does it affect the translation process? and lastly What is the place of news translation in translation studies? - are also sought for. The chapter also includes some recommendations for future studies in this specific field of translation.

## CHAPTER 2

### NEWS AND NEWS LANGUAGE

#### 2.1 NEWS

##### 2.1.1 What is news?

Although news is a very common concept we use in our daily lives, no consensus has been reached on its definition. A lot of attempts have been made to this end, some of which are rather serious while the others are simply not.

First of all, about the etymology of the term “news”, there are two different ideas. De Quincey says “Mails from the North – the East – the West – the South – whence according to some curious etymologists, comes the magical word NEWS”, whereas Sheehan claims the word “news” comes from the Latin word *nova*, “which originally meant ‘new things’ and later ‘new tidings’” He goes on to say that an antonym for the word would be ‘humdrum’ and that implicit in the word ‘tidings’ is communication. He also reminds that the word was once spelled ‘newes’ and considered plural” (1972: 1,2).

Some other definitions of the term “news” are as follows:

M. Lyle Spencer, considered to be a pioneer in education for journalism defines news as “any accurate fact or idea that will interest a large number of readers; and of two stories the accurate one that interests the greater number of people is the better” (Sheehan, 1972: 1).

Stanley Walker of the New York Herald-Tribune says “news is more unpredictable than the winds. Sometimes it is the repetition with new characters of tales as old as the pyramids, and again it may be almost outside the common experience” (Hough, 1988: 3).

Joseph Pulitzer, 19th century publisher of the New York World, had his own definition of news: “stories that were original, distinctive, romantic,

thrilling, unique, curious, quaint, humorous, odd and apt-to-be talked about” (Hough, 1988: 3).

Charles A. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, defines news as “anything that will make people talk”, turning his eyes on the readers (Hough, 1988: 3).

Arthur McEwan, editor of the San Francisco Examiner is quoted as saying that “news is anything that makes a reader say ‘Gee, whiz!’” (Hough, 1988: 3).

Turner Catledge, a former managing editor of The New York Times calls news as “anything you can find out today that you didn’t know before” (Hough, 1988: 3).

Less serious definitions of the news are as follows:

As Sheehan tells, a publisher in the Pacific Northwest once defined news as gossip, and one wag said news is anything that breaks one of the Ten Commandments, and if it breaks the fifth or the ninth it is great news (1972: 1).

Lastly, one of the most widely known definition of news is that “it is news when a man bites a dog”, which clearly highlights the unusual and interesting as the main aspects of the news.

### **2.1.2 Topics of the news**

Then, what does the news tell us about in fact? Despite the difficulty in drawing out a single and widely accepted definition of the term, it is easy to outline its main preoccupations. Hartley groups these around and within six major topics:

1. Politics: Defined as government, parliament and the policies, personalities and disputes that make up the context of decision-making.

2. The economy: Defined as (a) companies and the City – their performance, their figures and their management; (b) ‘government figures out tonight’ – the economy as a statistical model of trade figures, imports and exports, unemployment, wages, inflation, prices and so on.
3. Foreign affairs: Usually the relations between governments and especially those involved in an issue concerning ‘us’ (i.e. the British Government); also reports on wars, coups, earthquakes and so on.
4. Domestic news: They fall into ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ stories. Hard stories are characterized by *conflict* (violence). Soft stories include *humour* and *human interest*. The major areas of ‘hard’ news are industrial relations (strikes), race relations, crime, single issue campaigns (nuclear power, abortion, vivisection, conversation and so on), social welfare (education, housing and so on). ‘Soft’ news often occupy the tailpiece of news bulletins, where the newsreader settles more comfortably, smiles, softens his or her tone and perhaps even goes so far as to make a joke.
5. Occasional stories: Stories about disasters, celebrities and topical talking points of the day.
6. Sport: Accented towards male, professional, competitive sport (1990: 38,39).

The concepts of hard news and soft news are widely used by journalists and editors and are often labelled as the levels of news by them. Hough makes a clearer distinction between these two levels:

“Hard news is the serious news: fires, accidents, murders, disasters, deaths, the results of elections, the results of battles and the outcome of wars. Soft news is the light stuff: features, human interest stories, news of weddings, sports, leisure activities and entertainment” (1988: 3).

Crump, on the other hand, takes a step further and rates hard news as stories of primary or urgent importance, whereas he labels soft news as of secondary importance (1974: 47).

## **2.2 NEWS LANGUAGE/DISOURSE**

“In the news are carried the stories and images of our day. News is determined by values, and the kind of language in which that news is told reflects and expresses those values.” says Allan Bell (1991: 2).

This is the reason why news language is examined in this study in a general framework after the concept news itself. It is thought that studying the production and characteristics of news language will help to understand and analyze the product, the news story not only in its source language but also in target language, as a translation, in a more healthy way to serve the purpose of this study.

### **2.2.1 Reasons for Studying News/Media Language/ Discourse**

Before studying these aspects of news language, however, it will be beneficial to mention about the reasons why researchers study media language, a broader term covering the news language, as Bell explains and enlists them as follows:

“First, because it is there. The uses to which language is put in the mass media are intrinsically interesting to us as language users and receivers.

Secondly, media generate a lot of the language that is heard in society. This is reflected in frequent public comment about how the media use language.

A third reason for looking at media language is that language is an essential part of the content of what the media purvey to us. That is, language is a tool and expression of media messages.

Fourth, media language offers the linguist advantages over face-to-face communication. In collecting data from ordinary conversation, one of the biggest problems faced by sociolinguistic researches is Labov’s ‘Observer’s Paradox’. In the media this is a non-problem since media language is already intended for mass public consumption.

Another advantage is availability. Media language is easier to collect than conversation.

Finally, media offer the potential for good quality recording of spoken language” (1991: 3).

He further summarizes the main reasons why researchers have studied media language:

- “– accessibility of media as a source of data for some language feature they want to study
- interest in some aspect of media language in its own right, such as headline language
- interest in the way the media use some language feature also found in ordinary speech
- taking advantage of how the media communication situation manipulates language in a revealing way, for instance in news copy editing
- interest in media’s role in affecting language in wider society
- interest in what language reveals about the media’s structure and values
- interest in what media language reveals as a mirror of the wider society and culture
- interest in how media language affects attitudes and opinions in society through the way it presents people and issues” (1991: 4).

Bell also says that people in Western countries probably hear more language from the media than they do directly from their fellow humans in conversation and that society is pervaded by media language. “Media language is heard not just by one or two people but by mass audiences. It is the few talking to the many. Media are dominating presenters of language in our society at large. And within the media, news is the primary language genre” (1991: 1).

As seen clearly, Bell prefers the term “news language” or “the language of news media” as he says that “news media form a kind of speech community producing their own variety of language” (1991: 9).

Hartley, on the other hand, uses the term “news discourse.” He writes that “news is, literally, made of words and pictures, so comprising a specially differentiated sub-system within language” (1990: 5).

In order to make a distinction between the two terms, Hartley first describes a language-system and a discourse:

“A system is a structure of elements in a rule-governed set of relations. In the case of language, for example, the system is the generative structure which enables us to produce actual speech in conditions of rule-governed creativity. In other words, the system doesn't dictate what we say, it determines the way we can produce language that is understood as meaningful by ourselves and others. ... Discourses, on the other hand, are perhaps best understood as the different kinds of use to which language is put. Hence in order to understand a discourse we need to look more closely at the social, political and historical conditions of its production and consumption, because these 'determinants' will shape what it says, the way it develops, the status it enjoys, the people who use it, the uses to which it is put and so on. In discourses, language systems and social conditions meet. Each individual person will have at her or his command a number of different discourses appropriate to various social relations and activities” (1990: 5,6).

Returning to the main question of whether news is a language or discourse, Hartley puts forth that news is a discourse “which is structured by the larger discourses”(1990: 7). These larger discourses themselves, he says, are dependent on the overall language system for their elements (signs) and their rules and conventions (codes). “News is a very special example of 'language-in-use', of socially constructed meaning” (1990: 7).

He also talks about becoming 'news-literate' and 'making up reality' as imposed by the news discourse:

“Just as learning ordinary language entails learning values and a range of selected and structured responses to what we see around us, so it is with news. News comes to us as the pre-existing discourse of an impersonal social institution which is also an industry. As we get used to its codes and conventions we will become 'news-literate' – not only able to follow the news and recognize its familiar cast of characters and events, but also spontaneously able to interpret the world at large in terms of the codes we have learned from the news. Individually, we perceive and interpret the world in terms partly derived from classifications made familiar in the news; collectively, we make up 'reality' as we go along, perceiving it as meaningful to the extent that it can be made to resemble the expectations we bring to it from the ordered language system of the news” (1990:5).

He also suggests the amount of attention and analysis the news receives – the extent to which people talk about it - as one piece of evidence for the opinion that “the news is indeed an independent or autonomous discourse” (1990: 7).

In this study, on the other hand, the two terms will be used interchangeably not only because this distinction or discussion is out of the core topic of this study but also the works of both names above have been guides to this study hereby.

A third explanation about language and discourse comes from Alain Rey in his *Essays on Terminology*, which in a way justifies our dual use of the both terms:

“The word language, like the French *langue*, is used in many different ways which causes confusion. In the sentences ‘The French language is beautiful’ or ‘Catalan is a language.’ we have one use of the term. In the sentence: ‘This is not a language, but a dialect’ or ‘This is not language but jargon’ we are dealing with another use of the word ‘language.’ In an expression like ‘the language of advertising’ we find ‘language’ used as referring to a type of discourse” (1995: 168).

The last example supports our decision to use the term interchangeably as the expression ‘the language of news’ or ‘the language of press/media’ is used as referring to a type of discourse according to Rey.

### **2.2.2 The Production of News Language/Discourse**

The production of news language/discourse is clearly an integral part of mass communication, which gives it different characteristics from face-to-face communication.

Bell lists these characters of mass communication distinguishing it from face-to-face communication as “multiple originators, a mass simultaneous audience, a fragmented audience, absence of feedback and general accessibility to the public” (1991: 2).

He puts forward that these characteristics have a profound effect on “the shape of media language, on how it is produced, on audiences’ ability to understand media content, and on communicators’ ability to make themselves understood” (1991: 2).

The traditional model of communication, indeed, involves a speaker or sender, a message and a hearer or receiver, this is a simple, two-person and one –directional model. Some other models of communication adds feedback to this one-directional traditional model, making it a cyclical one rather than a linear process.

The process of mass communication and thus the production of news language/discourse have a very different nature, on the other hand. Bell explains this process as follows:

“The news is seldom a solo performance. In most face-to-face interaction, language is produced by a single individual, the speaker. We are accustomed to regard this as the norm – that the person who actually speaks an utterance is also responsible for the thoughts expressed and the form of words used. But there are many instances where production of a stretch of language involves a dozen or more people with different roles.

News media offer the classic case of language produced by multiple parties. Journalists, editors, printers, newsreaders, sound technicians and camera operators are just some of the people who contribute to publication or broadcast of a news study” (1991: 3).

After this analysis, he summarizes this process of production of news language/discourse as “Many hands make tight work” (1991: 34).

### **2.2.3 Producer Roles in News Language/Discourse**

Benefiting from the roles put forth by sociolinguist Hymes as sender and addressor and by sociologist Goffman as principal, author and animator; Bell creates his own division of roles in producing news language: principal, author, editor and animator.

He tables this distinction of roles as follows:

<u>Hymes</u>	<u>Goffman</u>	<u>Bell</u>
Sender	Principal	Principal
	Author	Author
		Editor
Addressor	Animator	Animator

(Taken from Bell, 1991: 36).

As Bell quotes, in the roles described by Hymes, the sender “initiates, writes or modifies a stretch of language and the addressor speaks the words.” In the roles described by Goffman, Hymes’ sender role is split into two: “the principal/originator whose position or stance is expressed” and “the author who generates the form in which the content is encoded.” Goffman has another role which corresponds to Hymes’ addressor. It is “the animator who is the physical sounding box verbalizing the utterance.” (1991: 37).

Bell accepts that identifying the principal – the institutional voice- can be important to understanding the way in which newswriters handle language, however he says that not all authors play the same part:

“Most multi-producer language is drafted in the first place by a single individual, who stands in a different relation to the text than those who modify this original draft. I therefore reserve ‘author’ for originators of a draft, and call those who modify it ‘editors’” (1991: 37).

Bell identifies his four-way division of roles in a table, which points to the responsibility for both the linguistic form and the news content:

TABLE 3.2 Roles in producing news language

<i>Roles</i>	<i>Subroles</i>	<i>Newsroom position</i>	<i>Language function</i>
Principal	Commercial: business institution	Proprietor Managers	No direct, overt language input
	Professional: news institution	Editorial executives	General language prescription, rare specific prescription
Author	Author	Journalist	Generates news language, responsible for original syntactic and discourse form
Editor	Overseer	Chief reporter (press) Chief subeditor (press) News editor (broadcast)	General and specific language prescription
	Copy editor	Subeditor Copy editor News editor (press)	Modifies language, responsible for its intermediate and final form
	Interpreter	News editor (press) Subeditor Duty editor (broadcast) Newsreader/newscaster	Responsible for prominence and presentation – order, headlines, links, visuals, graphological form, verbal interpretation
Animator	Transmitter	Newsreader Typesetter Proofreader Compositor	Responsible for accurate phonological/graphological transmission
	Technician	Printer Sound technician Camera operator	No language input Keeps channel open and noise-free

(Taken from Bell, 1991: 36).

He also enlightens the positions and duties of these four groups based on their effect on the production of news language:

“The production of news presupposes two tiers of principals – the business institution, personified in proprietors and commercial managers, and the news institution, personified in professional news executives, according to Bell. He underlines that despite the convention of editorial independence from commercial interests, ultimate control lies not with news professionals but with owners whose interest is efficiency and profit.” (1991: 38).

Bell says that of all producers, principals are the least directly involved in news language.

“In line with the conventional separation of commercial and editorial responsibility proprietors in theory make no direct input to the specifics of news coverage or language. They do not see the copy, and have no stated role in prescribing their newswriters’ language. However, they do set the editorial policies which affect news language.” (1991: 40).

New executives, who are labelled by Bell as the second tier of control, go under a variety of titles such as editor, editor-in-chief, managing editor. Bell says that they set general editorial policy but do not usually participate in the daily operation. They are the channel for implementing proprietors’ policies, but also affect language in two overt ways, according to Bell.

“Specifically, they may prescribe the ideological framing of news and its linguistic expression, such as who will be referred to as a ‘terrorist’ and who as a ‘guerilla’. More generally, they also set routine guidelines for their journalists’ language use.” (1991: 40).

The second division of Bell is the author. He says that all news production focuses on an individual journalist writing copy and defines journalists as the professionals whose daily occupation is to produce news language. “Journalists are authors, but they are not as original as may appear.” says Bell. He has two main reasons to support that idea. Firstly, he puts forth that they are not the only people who generate news copy. Secondly, he sees the description of the journalist as sole originating author of stories is an extreme idealization as the basic stuff of news is what people tells a reporter or journalists sometimes draw on written sources as well as spoken ones. He explains the effect of this on news language as follows:

“The smooth, unified surface of most news stories thus conceals a motley of origins. This complicates our approach to news language. It is not possible to treat any story as the solo, first hand product of the ostensible source journalist unless we have proven this by eye witness observation of the journalist at work” (1991: 42).

The third division made by Bell is the editors. He distinguishes three kinds of editorial function: overseeing, copy editing and interpreting:

“The overseers are the hands-on editorial staff who run the day-by-day news operation. In many media these overseers do not sight

reporters' copy before it is transmitted or published. Their language role is confined to specific but retrospective critique of a reporter's writing, or input to general language prescriptions such as the newspaper's stylebook." (1991: 42).

When it comes to copy editors, Bell says that every story passes through the hands of a copy editor before it is published or broadcast. He stresses that such a practice allows an independent eye to assess content and style, and spot problems the journalist-author may have missed. "Just as it is the journalist's occupation to generate news language, the copy editor's profession is cutting and modifying that language." adds Bell. (1991: 43).

The third editor sub role Bell proposes is that of the interpreter, "who is responsible for the prominence a story receives and how it is displayed." (1991: 43). Bell stresses that reporters do not compose headlines, decide on type sizes or order stories on the page or in a bulletin and that these tasks are performed by the subeditors. He especially highlights that "interpreters do not generally interfere with the main news text, apart from cutting to fit available space or time." (1991: 43). Thus, these persons are mainly responsible for the way the stories are presented rather than the way they are created.

The last group of newswriters defined by Bell is the animators. Bell says that they play the physical and technical roles necessary to communicate authors' stories to their audience. "In broadcasting, the primary animator is the newsreader/newscaster, the transmitter. Typesetters are the press equivalent of the newsreader." (1991: 43). Bell stresses that the typesetter is a dying breed as computer technology promotes direct input by journalists. "Typesetters' only obvious effect on the form of news language is by mistake – typos, lines dropped, paragraphs out of order." (1991: 43).

In an attempt to draw a general framework of the process of news production, this detailed classification and analysis of producer roles in news language/discourse by Bell lacks the role of the translator. As clearly understood, Bell dwells mostly upon the generation of domestic news in that part.

However, international news has a sizable and important place in media all over the world, as well. Every newspaper allocates at least one full page to cover what is going on abroad and in every news bulletin, some time is spent to tell the audience about the rest of the world.

Moreover, when it is thought that four big news agencies – namely Reuters, Associated Press, United Press International and Agence France Presse – provide a large majority of the world news in two languages – namely English and French -, the importance of translation of news items is understood better. Bell's guess of core international news volumes is about 2500 stories and half a million words per day (1991: 48).

Taking these figures into consideration, Bell accepts that the news production system reveals its real complexities with international news.

“The average international news item published anywhere in the world has probably been through at least four separate newsrooms. It has passed across the desks (nowadays, through the computer terminals) of newswriters at a news agency's regional bureau, the agency's central bureau, the national agency in the receiving country, and at the local news outlet itself. At each stage, copy is received, put through the newsroom's editing process and transmitted on to the next receiver, where the cycle is repeated. At each stage there are copy editors with the right to change the language” (1991: 47).

Bell touches upon the stops of the news tasks generally in international news flows but fails to address the translation process at these stops and the role of the translators in this process. This is most probably due to the fact that translation is an intermediate process, somewhere between these stops Bell identifies. The translator's role in international news flows is, on the other hand, complicated but crucial. Because a number of the producer roles in news language/discourse are inherent in the process of translating news.

Considering Bell's classification of roles mentioned above, the translator of news items has both author and editor roles. As an author, the translator

himself/herself is the producer of news language/discourse in target text. He/she certainly draws from the original news item but he/she is responsible for the language/discourse in the target text.

The translator is the editor, as well. He/she is the copy editor in that he/she may be asked to cut or modify the language. Especially for the foreign news pages of a paper, the translator is usually asked a summary translation due to time and place constraints. He/she is also the interpreter as he/she is the one who translates or rewrites the headline himself/herself.

News translators' various roles as the author, copy editor and interpreter give the process of translating news its uniqueness. This is why the translation of news items should be studied in more details within the framework of translation studies.

#### **2.2.4 The Characteristics of News Language/Discourse**

“Both media producers and media consumers can only perceive and render the world in terms of meaning systems and one of our primary meaning systems is language.” says van Ginneken(1998: 144).

George Hough, in his book titled *News Writing*, takes a step further and says that the language used in the newspaper is a special form of English in the sense that it has some conventions and rules that differ somewhat from the way things are done in other varieties or dialects of the language. (1988: 369).

In this part, we will take a look at some common characteristics of news language/discourse.

##### **2.2.4.1 Closeness to the Spoken Language**

Bagnall defines the language of journalism as “nearer the spoken word than business language is on the one hand, or academic language on the

other.” He says that today it is closer to the spoken word than it ever was in the past. (1993: 1).

He alleges that television and radio have made this happen:

“People are so used to getting their news from a live announcer and their views from live interviewees, that they expect something like the same language from their newspapers and their periodicals. But even before television and radio there was always a good reason why journalists should prefer what William Wordsworth called ‘the common language of men’” (1993: 1).

#### **2.2.4.2 Conveying the Most Information in the Least Amount of Time and Space**

Thomas Berner, on the other hand, says that journalistic writing has a **compact, direct nature, which is necessary for conveying the most information in the least amount of time:**

“The essential problem of news writing for any medium – the newspaper, the news magazine, radio or television – lies in making the information instantly comprehensible to large numbers of people. It is not delight with clever phrases, to charm with the mellifluous flow of language, or to transport beyond the real world to an imagined one: the art of news communication is the art of clear writing. Whatever other values the writing may have, it is bad writing from the viewpoint of the news communicator if it is not immediately clear” (1984: 3).

He, then, lists his advices for news writers as follows:

**“Keep your sentences short. Use active verbs. Use plain words.** Avoid clever phrases. Short sentences convey your thoughts best. Short sentences can not become bogged down with too many thoughts or ideas into one sentence. Because of that, short sentences carry your thoughts best. But short sentences also tend to be simple sentences (subject-verb-object) and can be boring – sometimes better for putting someone to sleep than getting an idea across. So you can write short and simple sentences, then edit or revise them into suitable complex, compound and compound-complex sentences. Of course, you should retain some simple sentences. A mix of sentence types is the most effective.” (1984: 3).

#### **2.2.4.3 Tight Writing**

Another point Berner highlights is **“tight writing”, which is using no more words than necessary to give a sentence a precise meaning.** According to him, tight writing keeps the reader reading. Loose, uneconomical writing “loses the reader to a television program or

household chores because he or she feels the wordiness of an article steals time from something more important.” he says (1984: 5).

Berner explains the underlying principle as follows, in what he calls “the writer’s duty”:

“We live in an age of expanding information, of more messages coming at us in more ways – newspapers, magazines, television, bumper stickers, posters, video newspaper, and home computers. Bombarded, we want our messages brief.” (1984: 19).

Crump’s views about journalistic writing support Berner. He suggests **avoiding wordy sentences, using preferred grammar such as the active voice and stresses the importance of shorter sentences**. He puts forward that involved or lengthy sentences are undesirable as they create difficulty in reading. “Tight story construction is an art that writers can develop by being conscious of wordiness when they write and read” (1974: 97).

He summarizes his views in an extract he has taken from the Associated Press Booklet:

“Our first duty is to tell what has happened in a language the average leader can grasp at first reading. Every lead – and every subsequent paragraph – should be clear, incisive and interesting, so that he will be impelled to continue. We must not delay him with wordiness, confuse him with imperfect sentence structure or discourage him with dull, technical phraseology. We must give him the drama and color that come from judicious selection of detail, and a relaxed, conversational technique. We must not overfeed him by forcing who-what-why-when-where into a single sentence” (1974: 97).

Crump stresses that journalists must skilfully use the tools of their trade, namely words, phrases, punctuation and sentences, “just as any craftsman or technician will master his instrument” to construct a good story. (1974: 98).

#### **2.2.4.4 Functionality**

As for grammar, Gilmore and Root have something to add Crump. They say that **journalistic style has to be functional as the need to quickly**

**convey ideas from one mind to other minds** and underline the need for simple, clear writing.

“What language scholars call ‘standard English’ is appropriate to newspapers. Neither the formal English of the academic book nor the ‘non-standard’ or colloquial dialect of folksy talk has much place in newspaper pages. For most purposes, reporters and editors should choose their words from the broad range of language understood by most moderately educated people.” (1971: 289).

They start from paragraphs and continue with sentences and paragraphs to imply a choice of words, a construction of sentences and the inclusion of these elements into certain, standard paragraphs. They point out that news stories are composed short paragraphs, often only one or two sentences long and call them “newspaper-type paragraphs”. As for sentences, they underline that news sentences are also usually short compared to those in books or scholarly magazines. They include an average of fifteen words. Another thing they stress about news sentences is that they are straight, clear and to the point, which are generally simple but sometimes compound and complex. Gilmore and Root highlight that the strength of sentences depends on the choice and arrangement of their words. “Instead of the vague, the abstract and the unusual, a news writer seeks words which are direct, concrete, and familiar – words which build vivid and accurate pictures for most readers.” (1971: 292). Lastly, they remind that short Anglo-Saxon words are preferred rather than the long Latinate ones.

#### **2.2.4.5 Use of Present Tense and Objectivity**

Van Ginneken in his *Understanding Global News* says that news is a very peculiar kind of text:

“News items are usually small, isolated and self-contained pieces. The emphasis is on singularity and objectivity, that is to say on those aspects that relevant audiences might inter-subjectively agree upon. Dominant readings are usually inscribed into it, alternative readings are closed off.” (1998: 155).

He also underlines two additional characteristics of news language/discourse: the use of present tense and objectivity. He stresses

that the widespread use of the present, especially in headlines instead of the past tense is meant to enliven the description of a dead event. Secondly, he mentions that news writers shy away from the subjective, for instance the use of the word 'I'. At the same time, however, words such as we, us and they, them regularly occur in news texts, especially in editorials to distinguish between the writer and the reader or the journalists and other people.

#### **2.2.4.6 Readability**

Readability is a key concept in the production and characterization of news language/discourse. Most of the qualities mentioned above, in fact, stem from or are based on the concept "readability" as it is the main target in presenting news.

Heyn and Brier explain the development of this concept to cover all instruments of mass media as follows:

"One lifetime ago, newspaper publishing and newspaper reading were rather leisurely pursuits. Nobody expected to hear or see in print the report of a distant happening within a matter of hours. The average semi-serious reader in those days spent the evening with his paper, even saved it for closer reading the next day. If a story was complex, he took pride in figuring it out – in "reading between the lines." But today's reader-viewer-listener is beset by multiple demands upon his time and attention. We must make news reading and listening as easy and quick as accuracy will allow. The breakfast table reader, the homebound bus rider has time and interest for the first paragraph. If that snares him, he probably will read on. If it doesn't hold his attention or if it isn't clear, his eye will stray, just as his ear will close automatically to the ambiguous sentence spoken on his car radio" (1969: 10).

Similarly, Crump says that people who begin reading a book or magazine often have subconsciously committed themselves to completing their selection, and despite interruptions will finish it. "Mr. and Mrs. Average read newspapers, in contrast, during spare moments and with interruptions such as drinking coffee, looking from a window while commuting, or conversations." he says (1974: 77).

Thus, familiar words, short sentences and brief paragraphs allow the reader to return to their reading point easily after such pauses or to abandon reading if he/she is not interested.

Heyn and Brier say that the language of news must, hence, invariably be translatable, in the human mind, upon first reading or hearing and elaborates on the role of the news writer as follows:

“He must tell what happened in terms the average literate person will grasp at once. Every lead and every subsequent paragraph must be clear, true, incisive, and interesting, so that the reader-listener will be impelled to stay with our story. We must not delay him with wordiness, confound him with imperfect sentence structure, or discourage him with dull, technical phraseology. We must give him the drama and color that come from judicious selection of detail, delivered with relaxed, conversational technique. Above all, we must not overfeed him by trying to force everything into one sentence” (1969: 11).

Heyn and Brier lists **5 elements of readability: accuracy, clarity, brevity, completeness and interest.**

Accuracy is directly related to not only the fact but also the right word in the right order to convey this fact. Clarity is based almost completely on simplicity. For instance, complicated sentence construction and use of unexplained technical terms are in violation of this norm. Moreover, brevity means quickness. A news writer should be quick to catch his/her reader. Completeness means that the news story answers all the questions that may arouse in readers’ mind. Lastly, interest may be interpreted as an element which has a personal touch, an emotional relation with the reader.

Heyn and Brier also list four roadblocks to readability: long cluttered sentences, general wordiness – which makes dull writing and takes forms of loose construction, redundancy by word, phrase and sentence and needless detail - obscurity and complexity and failure to answer all the questions.

Heyn and Brier attaches great importance to understand the structure of the simple sentence in order to achieve readability. They write that “the

well-cast simple sentence is the news writer's greatest safeguard against ambiguous, wasteful, hard-to-read, and often inaccurate composition." (1969: 17).

They also propose a two-question test to check the simplicity of written sentences:

"1. Read the sentence quickly and only once. Did you fail to relate instantly the principal subject and predicate? If you did fail, they are too far apart. Shorten the distance between them by removing one or more of the clauses or phrases (for use in a later sentence).

2. Did you, in the same single reading, fail to absorb at once the effects which all of the qualifying and modifying words have upon subject and predicate? If you did fail, the sentence is too long." (1969: 19).

**These two items are, of course, designed to test the original news sentences, but why shouldn't we apply them to our translated sentences?**

Other qualities they list are,

1. Active verb forms, as passive verb forms lengthen the sentence, making the reader work harder, and may confuse him/her.
2. Colorful verbs as they command attention and sustain interest.
3. Conformity in tense and number, for reasons of both clarity and grammatical correctness.
4. Immediately identifiable subjects and objects. (1969: 23).

Readability was subject to some studies and formulas. Three major readability formulas applied to newspapers are the Flesch formula, based on word and sentence length; the Gunning Fog Index, based on multisyllable "hard words"; and the Dale-Chall Formula, based on the number of "unfamiliar" words. The reason for these studies and formulas was the idea that newspapers should be written to appeal to the widest general audience of readers. As Stone states, it was believed that a sixth grade reading level was the standard but later, dozens of studies

attempted to assess the reading difficulty of a variety of newspaper content, and usually found, according to formulas, “newspapers were written at a twelfth grade or higher reading level” (1987: 47).

The Flesch Formula is the most widely used one among these formulas. Gilmore and Root explain how one can apply it:

“One can randomly choose a few samples from news stories, interpretative stories, or editorials. He counts the syllables and the number of sentences (to find average sentence length) and works out the Flesch score according to the mathematics or charts in Flesch’s books. If the sentences average fifteen to eighteen words each and if there are 145 to 155 syllables in each sample, the writing scores as ‘standard’ and is suitable for much newspaper writing. Such sentences are not very long, obviously, and such a vocabulary includes a great many one-syllable words. However, using more long words or making the sentences more complex (and therefore longer) will almost certainly make the writing more difficult.

Paring sentences to an average of twelve words each and vocabulary to 130 or 140 syllables per hundred words results in what Flesch rates as ‘easy.’ If news stories were written at this level – and few are – less educated readers would doubtless grasp them more readily” (1971: 294,295).

Benefiting from the views outlined above, it is possible to say that news language/discourse is generally characterized by;

- Simplicity or writing as you talk, which means using informal, conversational tone and avoiding pomposity
- Short words and sentences but sentence variety at the same time
- Direct and concrete statements
- Care with words, especially adjectives and verbs
- Transitive verbs in the active voice
- Clarity, which may be tested by the question ‘How easy is the story to read and understand?’
- Tight or economical writing
- A lively, readable and communicative tone.

Lastly, Heyn and Brier summarizes the nature of news writing as follows:

“A news story may be perfect grammatically and rhetorically, yet defective in every other way related to communication. It can be just as misleading, ambiguous, newsless, or dull as if its sentence structure were wholly wrong.

In short, how we say something must be completely correlated with what we have to convey, so that we will deliver our message to the reader-listener accurately, clearly, and quickly. Correct grammar is merely the prerequisite. Communication is the goal.” (1969: 28)

In conclusion, as Hough says “News writing is a skilled craft and a professional business.” (1988: 16) Grammatical competence, seeking and choosing appropriate words, smooth phrasing of concise sentences and construction of construction of coherent paragraphs as well as always remembering that informing and communicating is the goal are the keys to a sound, well-ordered news story.

## CHAPTER 3

### 3. NEWS TRANSLATION WITHIN THE SCOPE OF TRANSLATION STUDIES

In this chapter, based on the general characteristics of its language/discourse; news translation will be examined within the framework of the translation theories which fit its nature best.

News translation, a rapidly developing field of practice parallel to improvements in international communication thanks to technology, has not been the focus of the works in translation studies, unlike literary translation, technical translation and so on. Thus, it will be examined within the scope of the two general theories of translation: the functionalist approach and the target-oriented approach.

Communication is the very basic purpose of language, and thus translation. Nida writes:

“Language consists of more than the meanings of symbols and the combinations of symbols; it is essentially a code in operation, or, in other words, a code functioning for a specific purpose or purposes. Thus we must analyse the transmission of a message in terms of a dynamic dimension. This analysis is especially important for translating, since the production of equivalent messages is a process, not merely of matching the parts of utterances, but also of reproducing the total dynamic character of communication. Without both elements the results can scarcely be regarded, in any real sense, as equivalent.” (1964: 120).

Similarly, Neubert and Shreve explain this communicative nature of translation as follows:

“Translators use their ability to translate within specific interactional situations. Like speech and other uses of language, translation is always embedded in a communicative context. The practice of translation is a communicative activity that can not be studied without accounting for the communicative context and its influence on the decision-making at the heart of the translation process.” (1992: 36).

Furthermore, they put forth that translation is a kind of activity which is characterised by displacement:

“The communicating partners in translation are not temporally and physically co-present. Interaction is still possible because the communicating partners can always project one another’s presence. The translator mediates between absent but projected authors and readers. The translator acts on their behalf, recoding the text as if all partners were present. The displacement of translation derives from its textuality. Written communication, delivered in the form of texts, is generally displaced. It is produced using a projection of the (future) reading audience. The communicative partnership is not completed in the presence of the producer, but later, after a time delay.” (1992: 7).

These statements summarize the fundamentals of translation and lies at the heart of news translation as a practical field of translation studies.

Benefiting from these views about translation, the reason why these two approaches have been chosen to theoretize news translation is that they strongly emphasize the communicative nature of translation, which should be the main focus of study aiming at analysing and understanding the translation of news items.

### **3.1 FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH**

#### **3.1.1 Text Type Approach**

Katharina Reiss’s text type approach, which classifies text types according to their dominant communicative function, was developed in the 1970s. It was mainly drawn from Karl Bühler’s three main functions of language, in other words three main purposes of using language, which are the expressive, the informative and the vocative functions.

Newmark in his *A Textbook of Translation* elaborates on these functions: the expressive function, the informative function and the vocative function.

According to Newmark, the core of the expressive function is the mind of the speaker, the writer, the originator of the utterance. “He uses the utterance to express his feelings irrespective of any response.” he says. (1987: 39).

Newmark lists the characteristic expressive text-types as serious imaginative literature – lyrical poetry, short stories, novels and plays -; authoritative statements with personal stamp of their authors such as political speeches by party leaders and academic works written by acknowledged authorities; autobiography, essays, personal correspondence.

Newmark also points out to the fact that the translator should be able to distinguish the personal elements of these texts such as unusual collocations, original metaphors, untranslatable words, neologisms, strange words characterised as ‘idiolect’ or ‘personal dialect’ and stresses that the translator should not normalise them in a translation.

According to Newmark, the core of the informative function of language is external situation, the facts of a topic, reality outside language, including reported ideas or theories and the format of an informative text is often standard: a textbook, technical report, an article in a newspaper or a periodical, a scientific paper, a thesis, minutes or agenda of a meeting.

“One normally assumes a modern, non-regional, non-class, non-ideolectal style, with perhaps four points on a scale of language varieties: (1) a formal, non-emotive, technical style for academic papers, characterised in English by passives, present and perfect tenses, literal language, latinised vocabulary, jargon, multi-noun compounds with ‘empty’ verbs, no metaphors; (2) a neutral or informal style with defined technical terms for textbooks, characterised by first person plurals, present tenses, dynamic active verbs, and basic conceptual metaphors; (3) an informal, warm style for popular science or arts books (e.g., coffee-table books), characterised by simple grammatical structures, a wide range of vocabulary to accommodate definitions and numerous illustrations, and stock metaphors and a simple vocabulary; (4) a familiar, racy, non-technical style for popular journalism, characterised by surprising metaphors, short sentences, Americanise, unconventional punctuation, adjectives before proper names and colloquialisms.” (1987: 41).

Since the very basic aim of news stories is informing the public, news language should be informative. Apparently, the second and fourth variations of the informative function are the most appropriate ones for news language, as explained in detail in the previous chapter.

According to Newmark, the core of the vocative function of language is the readership, the addressee. "I use the term 'vocative' in the sense of 'calling upon' the readership to act, think or feel, in fact to 'react' in the way intended by the text." he says and lists many other names given to this function of language including conative, operative and pragmatic. He takes notices, instructions, publicity, propaganda, persuasive writing and so on. (1987: 41).

About these three functions of language, Newmark underlines that "few texts are purely expressive, informative or vocative: most include all three functions, with an emphasis on one of the three" (1987: 42).

Viewing the text, rather than the word or sentence at which communication is achieved, according to Munday, Katherina Reiss borrows Karl Bühler's three-way categorization of the functions of language and she links the three functions to their corresponding language 'dimensions' and the text types or communicative situations in which they are used (2003: 73)

These text types are informative texts based on the informative function of language, expressive texts based on the expressive function and operative texts based on the vocative function.

The main function of informative texts is to inform the reader about objects and phenomena in the real world. According to Nord, the choice of linguistic and stylistic forms is subordinate to this function. She says that since the typology is assumed to be universal, this applies to both the source and the target cultures. Accordingly, she proposes that in a translation where both the source and target texts are of the informative type, the translator should attempt to give a correct and complete representation of the source text's content and should be guided in terms of stylistic choices, by the dominant norms of the target language and culture (1997: 38).

In expressive text type, the informative aspect is complemented and "overruled" by an aesthetic component. The author of the text adds to the

meaning of the text through stylistic choices he makes and thus creates an aesthetic effect on the reader, which has to be taken into account in translation according to Nord:

“If the target text is meant to belong to the same category as the source the translator of an expressive text should attempt to produce an analogous stylistic effect. In this case, stylistic choices in translation are naturally guided by those made in the source text.” (1997: 38).

The content and form of vocative or expressive texts are subordinate to the effect the text aims to reach, to make the reader act in a certain way. “The translating of operative into operative texts into operative texts should be guided by the overall aim of bringing about the same reaction in the audience, although this might involve changing the content and/or stylistic features of the original.” says Nord. (1997: 38).

According to Reiss, reference is the most informative, poem is the most expressive and advertisement is the most operative text type. In the other areas inside the triangle are there hybrid texts. Munday explains the relationship between these texts as follows:

“A biography might be somewhere between the informative and expressive types, since it provides information about the subject while also partly performing the expressive function of a piece of literature. Similarly a sermon gives information (about the religion) while fulfilling the operative function by attempting to persuade the congregation to a certain way of behaving” (2003: 74-75).

Reiss not only classifies text types but also suggests specific translation methods according to text type depending on the dominant function for hybrid ones, because the type of a text determines its translation method. She says that in informative texts, the target text should transmit the full referential or conceptual content of the sources, thus proposing “plain prose” as a translation method without redundancy and use of explicitation if needed. For expressive texts, she suggests “the identifying method” in which the translator adopts the standpoint of the source text author and aims at rendering the aesthetic and artistic form of the source text. Lastly,

so as to create a desired reaction, an equivalent effect on the reader, Reiss suggests “the adaptive method.”

### **3.1.1.1 An Evaluation of News Translation Under Text Type Approach**

As mentioned before, news stories fall under the category of informative text type, since it aims at communication of facts or recent developments about politics, economy, world and so on. The main focus in this type of text is the information, topic or content; the recent developments in the case of news stories. The language is shaped accordingly. It is “logical” and referential” according to Reiss. Thus, the target text should transmit this referential content and the translation method is plain prose with explicitation as required. Apparently, this has two main reasons. First of all, as the average reader is targeted, translation of a news item should be comprehensible and effortless for the reader. Crump says that the reporter (or the translator in this case) will not be present with the reader while he/she reads the story in order to explain any vagueness or confusion (1974: 96). Secondly, as mentioned before, reading news stories is a quick activity. “A newspaper is not meant to be re-read several times, but should offer immediate comprehension.” says Sara Bani (1996: 37).

For these reasons, in news translation, explicitation is provided through some commonly-used strategies such as cutting or deletion, paraphrasing or addition, generalisation and re-organisation.

Another link between text type approach and news translation may be about the expressive function of some news stories. Some reporters use highly stylistic devices to construct their stories, using figures of speech, choosing different words and so on, which is generally valid for human-interest stories. Hence, while translating such news items, the translator should take the characteristics of expressive text type into account. He/she should try to keep the form-focused structure of the story and the final news item; the target text should transmit the aesthetics characteristic

of the source text. He/she should adopt the perspective of the source text author to this end.

### 3.1.2 Translational Action Theory

The Translational Action Theory was proposed by Holz-Mänttari in 1980s. Munday explains the basics of this theory as follows:

“The theory takes up concepts from communication theory with the aim, amongst others, of providing a model and guidelines applicable to a wide range of professional translation situations. Translational action views translation as purpose-driven, outcome-oriented human interaction and focuses on the process of translation as message-transmitter compounds” (2003: 77).

According to the theory, as Nord explains, the translation process is a communicative process, “a complex action designed to achieve a particular purpose” (1997: 13) and involves a series of roles of professional practice of translation as Munday suggests:

**The initiator** is the company or individual who needs the translation;

**The commissioner** is the individual who contacts the translator;

**The source text producer** is the individual within the company who writes the source text, not necessarily always involved in the target text production;

**The target text producer** is the translator;

**The target text user** is the person who uses the target text; for example as teaching material or sales literature;

**The target text receiver** is the final recipient of the target text; for example the students in a target text user’s class or clients reading the translated sales literature (2003: 77)

Christiane Nord elaborates on the roles of these actors in detail. First of all, Nord points out that Holz- Mänttari distinguishes between the initiator who actually needs the target text and the commissioner who asks the

translator to produce a target text for a particular purpose and addressee. Nord says that the commissioner may influence the very production of the target text, perhaps by demanding a particular text format or terminology and adds that the role of initiator may be taken on by any one of the agents in translational interaction. The source text author, the prospective target-text receiver or the commissioner may all want to have the source text translated, for different reasons and for different purposes (1998: 20).

Another actor is the source text producer, who may not be an immediate agent in the translational action if the production of the source text has been motivated by some factors that have nothing to do with translation, according to Nord (1998: 21).

The translator is not only the receiver of the translation brief (the commissioner's instructions) and the source text but also the producer of the target text. He aims at meeting the demands put forward in the translation brief.

As Nord quotes from Vermeer, the translators' task is to

- Analyze the acceptability and viability of the translation brief in legal, economic or ideological terms;
- Check whether the translation is really needed
- Specify the activities required for carrying out the brief
- Perform a translational action, which may result in a target text, perhaps a short summary of the source text or, in special cases, in advising the client not to have the source text translated because a translation would not serve the intended purpose (1998: 21).

Nord further makes a distinction between the addressee and the target text receiver. She explains that the addressee is the prospective receiver seen from the text producer's standpoint; the receiver is the person, group or institution that actually reads or listens to the text after it has been produced (1998: 22). As the theory suggests, the addressee or the

intended target-text-receiver is a decisive factor in the translation process. Thus, the definition of the target-text-receiver should be part of the translation brief, as suggested by Nord (1998: 22).

As quoted by Nord from Mänttari and separately Vermeer, the target-text-user is the one who finally puts the target text into use, perhaps as a training material, as a source of information or as a means of advertising (1998: 22).

### 3.1.3 Skopos Theory (Skopostheorie)

Skopos Theory was introduced in the 1970s by Hans J. Vermeer. As can be seen clearly, it predates the translational action theory of Holz-Mänttari, however it is generally viewed as a part of the translational action theory according to Munday “as it deals with a translational action which is source-text based, which has to be negotiated and performed, and which has a purpose and a result” (2003: 79).

Skopos is the Greek word for “aim” or “purpose” and is the key concept of Vermeer’s theory. Skopos is defined by Nord as “the prime principle of the overall translational action determining any translation process” (1998: 27). According to the Skopos Theory, skopos or the aim or purpose of a translation determines the methods and strategies to be employed to produce a “functionally adequate result,” which is the target text, or *translatum* as Vermeer calls it. Thus, we can say that the purpose of translating a source text and the intended function of this text in the target language and culture is the basis of the Skopos Theory.

Vermeer explains this in the way below; as translated from German and quoted by Nord:

“Each text is produced for a given purpose and should serve this purpose. The Skopos rule thus reads as follows: translate/interpret/speak/write in a way that enables your text/translation to function in the situation in which it is used and with the people who want to use it and precisely in the way they want it to function” (1998: 29).

Aiming at a general translation theory for all types of texts, Reiss and Vermeer explains the basic underlying rules of the Skopos Theory as follows as quoted by Munday (2003: 79):

1. A translatum (or target text) is determined by its skopos. (The Skopos Rule)
2. A target text is an offer of information in a target culture and target language concerning an offer of information in a source culture and source language.
3. A target text does not initiate an offer of information in a clearly reversible way. (The Irreversibility Rule, which means that the function of a target text is not necessarily the same as in the source culture.)
4. A target text must be internally coherent. (The Coherence Rule, which posits that a translation should be coherent in itself so as to allow the receivers to comprehend it.)
5. A target text must be coherent with the source text. (The Fidelity Rule)
6. The five rules above stand in hierarchical order, with the skopos rule predominating.

### **3.1.3.1 Translation Process under the Translational Action and Skopos Theories**

Both theories use the same concepts to explain the translation process. First of all, translation starts with the assignment of the commission. A client or the initiator needs the translation of a text for a specific purpose and hires the translator. If the client is an individual person, both the initiator and the commissioner is this same person. In some other cases, the translator himself/herself may also be the initiator. For instance, a translator may decide to translate a literary work and go to a publishing house to have it included in the publication list. However if the client is an institutional organisation, we generally have a separate commissioner.

Before the translator or the target-text-producer starts his/her job, the Skopos should be negotiated between the client and the translator. Nord clarifies this as follows:

“In an ideal case, the client would give as many details as possible about the purpose, explaining the addressees, time, place, occasion and medium of the intended communication and the function the text the text is intended to have. This information would constitute an explicit translation brief” (1998: 30).

She further states that clients do not normally bother to give the translator an explicit translation brief; “not being experts in intercultural communication, they often do not know that a good brief spells a better translation” (1998: 30)

After the translator or the target-text-producer, the experts in their fields as emphasized in both the theory of translational action and the Skopos theory, translates the source text through a decision-making process depending on his/her responsibility and competence. Finally, the translation or the target text goes to the client or target-text-receiver or the target-text-user, if there is any.

### **3.1.3.2 An Evaluation of News Translation under the Translational Action and Skopos Theories**

In light of the basic information provided above, it can be said that the basic concepts shared by these theories have their counterparts in the practice of news translation. First of all, the initiator may be a news agency, newspaper or radio or television station – or a website in the case of on-line journalism - which publish or broadcast foreign news. The commissioner may be the head of the department in the initiator body who distributes the news to full-time or part-time translators of the company or to freelance translators. The concept of translation brief comes to mind at that point, as it is the initiator or the commissioner who contacts the translators about the work. Generally, the commissioner or the head of foreign news department of the news agency or newspaper has the responsibility to tell the translators what kind of translation is needed under

what sort of conditions. The initiator or the commissioner may, for instance, want a summary translation due to constraints of space or time. Another part of the translation brief is usually the time factor, the need for speed or quickness as news translations must be completed in a short time to be ready for publication or broadcast. For dailies, it is generally a few hours, for example. About the translation brief, Nord has a warning:

“Note that the translation brief does not tell the translator how to go about their translating job, what translation strategy to use, or what translation type to choose” (1997: 30).

Thus, it is possible to say that the decisions to be made during translation are under the responsibility of the translator. However, as well as the Skopos itself, the target audience and the news policy or the editorial policy, which directly affect the translation policy should be made clear in a translation brief in the case of news translation. In this study, these two factors shall be analysed later.

The source text producer is chiefly the reporter, the journalist who has gathered a variety of inputs such as interviews, surveys, press releases and so on and followed an event and wrote the news text. However, as explained in the previous chapter, news writing is a team work and a news text passes through various stages before getting its final form. Especially the editors' role is of great importance in the formation of a news text. Thus, the source text producer comprises editors, animators who have a say in reshaping a news text, along with the reporter himself/herself.

As far as translation of news items is concerned, the target text producer or the translator should be an expert in news language in both the source and target language. He/she should follow the developments from dailies and news bulletins very closely and should have a good knowledge of basic concepts of communication theory, as all these factors will contribute to his/her expertise.

The target text receivers are the mass audience who read their newspapers or magazines, watch or listen to news bulletins or look the

news up on the internet. In the case of news translation, the target text receivers or the readers are of great importance because seeking to appeal to the largest possible audience, newspapers must write for all types of readers. That is why news stories should be written in a clear, simple language to transmit what is accurate completely.

In addition to this, newspaper must consider the following whatever their audience is, according to Hough:

“First, newspaper readers are intelligent. Second, they are probably not as well informed on any given subject as we might expect. There’s a well-known rule of thumb in newsrooms: ‘Never underestimate your readers’ intelligence, but don’t overestimate their information... We must write for our entire readership – informed and uninformed” (1988: 404).

For this reason, reader interests and reader needs are carefully studied by the press and media. Although these readership studies vary, they all concentrate on one question: What do readers need to or want to know?

Hough explains how newspapers seek the answers to this question:

“Readers are asked what they read and don’t read in the newspaper. They are sometimes asked what they would like to read in an ideal newspaper. Some studies are directed to non-readers and occasional readers in an effort to find out why they don’t read the newspaper or why they don’t read it regularly” (1988: 12).

In some rare occasions, the translated news item may have a user. For instance; if someone uses the translated texts for a study, as it is the case in this study, he/she will be a target text user according to Translational Action and Skopos theories.

To elaborate more on the very basic purpose or the general Skopos of news translation as a field, we need it because we need to know what is happening out there, in different parts of the world. But mostly we can not reach information directly in a quick and accurate way, due to the language barrier. As Miren Gutierrez states “language, in the absence of translation, comprises a barrier to a worldwide community of debate and opinion. Thus translation has become key to achieving international impact and reach in media organisations, both mainstream and new.” (2006: 30).

### 3.2 TARGET-ORIENTED APPROACH

Contrary to source-oriented approach, Gideon Toury's target-oriented approach focuses mainly on the target text. His main area of interest about translation is not an ideal text; but the translation, the target text in hand. According to Toury, every translated text becomes a part, a member of the target culture. Talking about deviations from the source text, he even takes a step further to say that "translation activities and their products not only can, but do cause changes in the target culture" (1995: 27).

Toury also considers translation a cultural mediation between different cultures and believes that "a text's position (and function), including the position and function which go with a text being regarded as a translation, are determined first and foremost by considerations originating in the culture which hosts them" (1995: 26).

Toury summarises or formulates target-oriented approach as follows:

"Translations are facts of target cultures; on occasion facts of a special status, sometimes even constituting identifiable (sub)systems of their own, but of the target culture in any event" (1995: 29).

Upon this reformulation, he writes what follows:

"This reformulation implies that, while certainly indispensable, establishing the culture-internal status of a text as a translation does not in itself provide a sufficient basis for studying it as one. Any attempt to offer exhaustive descriptions and viable explanations would necessitate a proper contextualization, which is far from given. Rather, its establishment forms part of the study itself which is applied to texts assumed to be translations. In an almost tautological way it could be said that, in the final analysis, a translation is a fact of whatever target sector it is found to be a fact of, i.e., that (sub)system which proves to be best equipped to account for it: function, product and underlying process" (1995: 29).

Departing from the translated text in hand, Toury posits that there are some norms directing the translator during the translation process and defines the concept of norms as follows:

"The translation of general values or ideas shared by a community – as to what is right or wrong, adequate or inadequate – into

performance instructions appropriate for and applicable to particular situations” (1995: 55).

Toury proposes three types of norms: initial norms, preliminary norms and operational norms. Initial norms are about translator’s prior decision to adhere her/him either to norms of the source system or to the norms of the target system. If it is towards the source text, then the target text will be adequate; if it is towards the target culture norms, then the target text will be acceptable. Secondly, preliminary norms refer to decisions which are needed to be made by translators before the translation process begins. These are translation policy and directness of translation, which is about whether the translation is made through an intermediate language or not. Finally, operational norms describe the decisions the translator makes during the act of translation. Operational norms are of two kinds: matricial norms relating to the positioning of the elements in the target text such as omission of some parts and addition of passages, footnotes and textual-linguistic norms referring to the selection of the linguistic material in the target text such as lexical items, stylistic characteristics (Toury, 1995: 58-60) (Munday, 2003: 114).

### **3.2.1 An Evaluation of News Translation under Target-oriented Approach**

Toury’s concept of norms is rather appropriate to explain the process of news translation and the decisions made by the translator before and during translating a news item.

First of all, according to initial norms the translator should decide on whether he/she will subject himself/herself to the norms of the source culture or the target culture. In the case of news translation, the answer is mostly the second one as the newspapers are apparently writing for an implied audience, which is in fact different from the ‘real’ audience or the readership, according to Reah (1998: 35).

Hartley explains the underlying factor of this choice as follows:

“In order to make anything meaningful, the initiator of a message must not only have an orientation towards the event itself, but also an orientation towards the receiver of the message. For example, how would you describe a simple event in which you are personally involved – say a night out to see a band at your local rock venue? Clearly much depends on who you are talking to. You will foreground different aspects of the event for different addressees, but the way you recount the stories of the event will also differ. Not only will your tone, choice of words, and the degree of interaction you expect from the hearer differ, depending on whether you are talking to, for instance, a close friend of the same sex or an authoritative figure, but in addition, these elements of your account will be organised by the expectation you have of the hearer’s attitude to the event and to you” (1982: 87).

Secondly, as for preliminary norms, translation policy is a key factor. As far as news texts are concerned, the translation policy is directly linked to the news policy or editorial policy.

Gilmore and Root define policy as follows:

“Every newspaper should work out a clear and consistent concept of its aims and operations. The set of principles or guidelines for its procedures – the chart which sets its course - is called its policy” (1971: 313).

It is ultimately the publisher and sometimes the top editors who set the news policy of a paper, not the reporters. The policy is about the decisions to be made in producing a news story. “It is an order by the publisher or editor that certain subjects must or must not be used or featured.” says Crump (1974: 60).

Another issue about preliminary norms is the directness of translation, as mentioned before. News translation is mostly not made through an intermediary language. Newspapers or the organisations that need translating news in general, generally employ translators with a second language to meet their needs. French translators are employed to translate from AFP for instance, or English translators are hired to translate from AP or Reuters.

Thirdly, operational norms are the determining elements in the presentation and linguistic structure of a translated news text. As for matricial norms, we can give the decisions of the translator such as omission of some parts, addition of explanations or relocation of passages to make his/her translation more comprehensible for the reader as examples. On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, the translator's decision about his word choice and stylistic characteristics of the target text are in the scope of textual-linguistic norms. It can be said that the news translator's decisions concerning the textual linguistic norms give the news text not only its final shape, but also its taste as a news story.

In line with the relation between operational norms and the translation of news items, a newly coined term should be mentioned here: transediting. It is a composite term from the words "translate" and "edit". It is neither translation nor editing alone, but a combination of these two. As Hautanen quotes from Stetting,

"A certain amount of editing has always been included in the translation task, when the translator has to consider problems such as whether to change, add or remove information. The task of the editor is to improve clarity, relevance and adherence to the conventions of the textual type. This type of editing belongs to the 'world of practical texts'" (Hautanen: 2006).

According to Hautanen, Stetting noted that transediting is already widely practised, for instance when journalists process foreign material into articles in their own language (Hautanen: 2006).

Transediting is thus a kind of translation widely used in translating news with a relevant amount of editing including strategies such as re-organisation, deletion and addition in order to suit to the characteristics of target audience.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **4. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WHILE TRANSLATING NEWS STORIES**

#### **4.1 METHODOLOGY**

Linguistics, the scientific study of language as it is usually defined, focuses on explaining and describing language. It endeavours to find what language is and how it is represented by working on the common elements or universals of language. There are several different disciplines in linguistics such as phonetics – the study of speech sounds, - phonology – the study of the sound patterns in language, - morphology – the study of word formation and structure, - syntax – the study of sentence structure, - semantics – the study of meaning, - stylistics –the study of language forms. –

News language or discourse, with its specific characteristics and use as explained in Chapter 1 above, requires a closer look in terms of linguistics and its core fields of study. Thus, in this chapter, the difficulties encountered while translating the randomly-chosen news items will be classified from a linguistic perspective. Since the main focus in this study is written news items, we are not interested in sounds and exclude a phonetic and phonological analysis. Another point which is out of the scope of this study is word formation or structure, which is morphology in linguistic terms. As it comes to words and the difficulty encountered in the translation of words in news items, we are more interested in the difficulties in rendering the meaning of a word rather than how words are put together from smaller parts. Thus, this analysis is called as a lexical one in this study.

Within this framework, the extracts have been chosen randomly for this study. First of all, they will be grouped under the difficulties they pose in

terms of translation. It is noticeable that some examples pose more than one difficulty which are in different levels. In that case, the most evident difficulty will be taken as the basis for the classification. In this respect, the difficulties encountered in this study fall into four main linguistic categories: lexical, which is related to the words or word meaning; syntactic, which is related to the sentence structure; semantic, which is connected with the sentence meaning and lastly stylistic, which is related to the style or special use of language in a piece of writing.

For each example, first of all, the difficulty will be revealed and the method employed by the translator to cope with this difficulty will be determined. Basic studies in determining these methods are taken from Newmark (1988), Molina and Albir (2002) and Vinay and Darbelnet (1995). Later, the translation will be evaluated under the characteristics of news language/discourse touched upon in Chapter 2. Its satisfaction of these characteristics will be discussed. And lastly, if necessary, the translator's decisions will be assessed in light of the general theories of translation elaborated on in the previous chapter. The main focus will be on Skopos Theory and Target-Oriented Approach.

## **4.2 LEXICAL DIFFICULTIES**

These are difficulties related to the meaning and translation of a single word, phrase, idiom, terminology or else.

A word is a minimum free form (Poole, 1999:10). Words convey the thought of a thing, a concept from one's mind to another. But it is by no means always the unit of meaning itself. A unit of meaning may consist of less or more than one word. Poole gives the example of *spick*. He says that very little idea is represented by the word *spick* but when that word is accompanied by *and span* we have a symbol representing a concept, such as the one represented by the words *clean* or *spotless*. Another

example he gives is the *un-* in the word *unhealthy*. According to him, it is clearly a unit of meaning which inverts the sense of *healthy* and he concludes:

“A unit of meaning can, then, range from an idiom, a phrase that has a meaning not apparent from its constituent words, to a morpheme, a minimal unit of meaning of which there may be several in a word. Word, then, will not do as a term for a unit of meaning” (1999:10).

This explanation brings us to a new concept: a lexeme or a lexical item, which denotes an item of vocabulary with a single referent whether it consists of one word or more than one word, such as *give in* different from the word *give* (Poole, 1999: 10).

Taking all these details into consideration, this part deals with the meaning, not the formation of lexical items, not words.

EXAMPLE 1 (AP, Kurdish Rebels Say They're Open to Peaceful Settlement with Turkey, 16.03.2007)

Turkey is pressing Iraq and its American ally to **crack down on** rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, who launch attacks on Turkey from bases in northern Iraq.

TRANSLATION

Türkiye Irak'a ve müttefikleri Amerika'ya, Kuzey Irak'taki üslerden Türkiye'ye saldırılar düzenleyen Kürdistan İşçi Partisi (PKK) asilerine karşı **sıkı önlemler almaları** konusunda baskı yapıyor.

EVALUATION

The overall meaning of the sentence seems clear, however the translator may find it difficult at first sight to grasp the actual meaning of the phrasal verb “crack down on” and thus, to replace it with a word, idiom or phrase in

Turkish. "Crack down on" means "to become more strict in dealing with a problem and punishing the people involved" (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 319). As Turkish does not have a single word, idiom or phrase to replace this, the translator has used the method of paraphrasing to render the meaning of the phrasal verb.

The translation seems to be able to answer all the question that may arouse in reader's mind as it clearly states the reason why Turkey cracks down on Iraq and its American ally but the use of the name of the country second time in translation instead of an expression like "ülkeye" results in a bit wordiness.

The use of expressions in the extract from the source text like "rebels" is also notable. But, as the aim of the translations of the institution, the DGPI, is to render what foreign press says about Turkey and how they say it, it may be said that the translator didn't consider it to be a "back translation" and change the expression as "terrorists" in an ideological point of view, for instance and tried to be objective.

EXAMPLE 2 (AP, Nobel Laurates' Letter Calls For Turkish-Armenian Cooperation, 10.04.2007 )

The Nobel laureates said that the best **tribute** to Dink would be «through service to his life's work safeguarding freedom of expression and fostering reconciliation between Turks and Armenians.»

#### TRANSLATION

Nobelli isimler, Dink'in en iyi şekilde "hayatını adadığı, ifade özgürlüğünün korunması ve Türklerle Ermeniler arasında uzlaşının geliştirilmesi çalışmalarına katkı sağlanması yoluyla" **yüceltileceğini** söylediler.

## EVALUATION

The use of the word “tribute”, which means “something that you say, do, or give in order to express your respect or admiration for someone” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999:1543), poses a difficulty for the translator as it is difficult to find an equivalent for that word in Turkish. It may be said that the translator used the word-for-word translation method by choosing “yüceltmek” to render that word. But, with this choice, he/she seems to have gone far from the principle of using simple words closer to the spoken language than the written one. He/she may have chosen “anmak”, for instance, as Hrant Dink is deceased, to sound more natural.

EXAMPLE 3 (The New York Times, 300,000 Protest Islamic **Hue** of Turkish System, 14.04.2007)

300,000 Protest Islamic **Hue** of **Turkish System**

## TRANSLATION

300 Bin Kişi, **Türk Sisteminin** İslamcı **Rengini** Protesto Etti.

## EVALUATION

This time the translator is faced with a lexical challenge in the headline of the news story. This, in fact, doubles the difficulty as the news headlines are very intense structures with special characteristics in terms of especially grammar and word choice. Crump says that the art of selecting understandable words and phrases that will fit in the limited space of particular head counts, or “headlineese”, is “a skill that can be mastered best through supervised practice” (1974: 164). The challenge is related to the meaning of the word “hue”, in this headline. The translator may, of

course, guess the meaning of the word after skipping the whole text but it is difficult to find an equivalent at first sight. “Hue” has two meanings in Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English: The first one is “a colour or kind of colour” and the second one is “a type of opinion, belief etc” (1999: 699). The meaning of “hue” in the original head matches with the second description but as seen, the translator preferred the first meaning in the target language, applying a word-for-word method. This decision of the translator stems most probably from the ideal of being “objective”, which is also in line with the institutional policy of the DGPI as mentioned above. Moreover, this is an issue of hot debate in Turkey and thus, words such as “görünüş” or “gidiş” to replace “renk” would sound more strict or political. But, another decision of the translator, “islamcı” instead of “islami”, is also notable and debatable. Some people may say that it is a political choice.

Another lexical trap in the original sentence is the expression “Turkish system” and the translator seems to have fallen into it. “Türkiye’deki sistemin” instead of “Türk sisteminin” would be grammatically correct to achieve accuracy, an element of readability.

EXAMPLE 4 (REUTERS, Foreign Investors Turn Blind Eye to Turkish Risks, 19.04.2007)

The biggest unanswered question in Turkey -- who will run for president -- is keeping local investors nervously **sidelined**, yet foreigners are blithely pumping more and more money into Turkish markets.

#### TRANSLATION

Türkiye’de cevaplanmamış en büyük soru -cumhurbaşkanlığına kimin aday olacağı- yerel yatırımcıları **hareketsiz kılarken** yabancılar kaygısızca Türk piyasalarına her geçen gün daha çok para pompalıyorlar.

## EVALUATION

The news item above is both a political and a financial one, as understood clearly from the example and the word “sidelined” may be a challenge for the translator as it has economic connotations, despite not being a specific terminology. It means “to be unable to play in a game because you are injured, or unable to take part in something because you are not as good as someone else” or “not to take part in an activity even though you want to or should do” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 1328).

The translator has preferred the paraphrasing method to translate that challenging word and explained the situation of the local investors as “hareketsiz” in Turkish rather than a word-for-word translation and rendering it like “oyun dışı kalmak.” This decision of the translator is especially appropriate for the financial characteristic of the item as “hareketsiz” is a jargon of Turkish financial language.

EXAMPLE 5 (REUTERS, Foreign Investors Turn Blind Eye to Turkish Risks, 19.04.2007)

Ratings agency Standard Poor's told Reuters on Wednesday that the **carry trade** poses an even greater risk to Turkish markets than the country's gaping current account deficit. A sudden unwinding of **carry trades** could hurt Turkey hard because its market is too shallow to **absorb** the volatility, SP's sovereign ratings director Farouk Soussa said.

## TRANSLATION

Uluslararası kredi derecelendirme şirketi Standart Poor's'tan Faruk Soussa Reuters'e dün yaptığı açıklamada, "**carry trade**"in (**ucuz para birimleriyle yüksek getirili kıymetlerin fonlanması**) Türk

piyasaları açısından, ülkenin büyüyen cari hesap açığından daha büyük bir risk oluşturduğunu söyledi ve **"carry trade"**in birdenbire çözümleninin Türkiye'ye büyük bir zarar verebileceğini çünkü Türk piyasalarının oynaklığı **absorbe etmek** için fazla sığ olduğunu ekledi.

## EVALUATION

The use of specific terminology is what poses a challenge for the translator in the example above. "Carry trade", "current account deficit", "absorb", "volatility" are all elements of financial terminology. Renderings for "current account deficit" and "volatility" are widely used in Turkish, whereas the others do not have well-established translations, which is a difficult situation for the translator and as a result, forces him/her to apply a method.

In the first example, the translator used the borrowing method, keeping the original form the same in the target text. He/she has given an explanation of the term "carry trade" in parenthesis for the average target reader, on the other hand. This is in line with the characteristic of readability of news language/discourse as the explanation of the term provides clarity.

In the second example, for the term "absorb", he/she used the borrowing method with a little change in the sound structure to fit Turkish. (absorbe etmek) He/she has not given an explanation this time, however.

EXAMPLE 6 (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Turkish Military Issues Threat as Voting Is Derailed, 28.04.2007)

Turkish Military **Issues Threat** as Voting Is **Derailed**

## TRANSLATION

Oylama **Rayından Çıkarken** Türk Ordusu **Tehdit Yayınladı**

## EVALUATION

The example above is another news head with lexical difficulties. The word “derailed”, which means “making a train go off the railway line” or “spoiling or interrupting a plan, agreement etc” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999:368), and the expression “issue threat” forces the translator to make a decision about how to render them.

In order to understand the head better, looking at the first lines of the news story may help. The news story begins as follows: “A revolt by Turkey’s secular opposition on Friday derailed the first round of voting on a presidential candidate with background in political Islam, and in a harsh warning, the military hinted that it might act against the government if it strayed too far from secularism.”

Looking at the first lines of the story and the translation of the head itself, it may be said that the translator has applied a word-for-word translation method to deal with these challenges. He/she has translated the expression “issue a threat” as “tehdit yayımlamak” without any change and translated the word “derailed” as “rayından çıkmak.” The first one sounds highly unnatural, as we don’t say “tehdit yayımlamak” in Turkish. An expression like “yazılı bir uyarıda bulundu” would do better as the details are provided in the body of the news item. As for the second one, the translator again applied a literal method to fit the first definition of the idiom above, probably taking into account that this expression has a figurative meaning in Turkish to correspond the second definition.

EXAMPLE 7 (Reuters, Turkish Islamists Stress Muslim Values, Not Laws, 29.08.2007)

Warnings by Turkey's army that the AK Party threatened the secularism established by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in the 1920s were a

"red herring," said Boston University anthropologist Jenny White, who has studied Islamist politics in Turkey.

#### TRANSLATION

Boston Üniversitesinden Jenny White, Türk ordusunun AK Partinin laikliği tehdit ettiğine dair uyarıların bir **manevra** olduğunu söylüyor.

#### EVALUATION

The original sentence has a clear language and does not seem complex but if the translator does not know the meaning of "red herring" or at least if he/she is not sure about it, he/she will be faced with a challenge. Of course, it is possible to make guesses about the meaning of the expression based on linguistic clues in the text or his/her background knowledge about the issue, but the translator will feel much more confident if he/she is sure.

"Red herring" is "a fact or idea that is not important but is introduced to take your attention away from the points that are important" (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 1190). The translator seems to have looked up in a bilingual dictionary and written down what he/she has seen as the first meaning there, which is a word-for-word method but his/her choice does not make the translation as clear and understandable as the original, making it less functional. He/she might have preferred something like "bir çeşit gündem saptırma" instead of "manevra" to this end.

EXAMPLE 8 (Reuters, Turkish Islamists Stress Muslim Values, Not Laws, 29.08.2007)

"The struggle in Turkey is not between Islamists and secularists, but between rival elites in a **zero-sum game** where the success of one diminishes the power and wealth of the other," White said.

#### TRANSLATION

White şöyle diyor: "Türkiye'deki mücadele İslamcılar ile laikler arasında değil; birinin güçlenmesinin diğerinin zenginliğine zarar verdiği **sıfır toplamı bir oyunda** rakip taraflar arasında."

#### EVALUATION

It is difficult to translate the expression "zero-sum game" in the above paragraph, although the clause coming after it makes its meaning clearer for both the news reader and the translator. The expression means "a situation in which you receive as much money or advantages as you give away" (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 1667).

Perhaps relying on the explanation coming as a relative clause after the expression, the translator applied a word-for-word method, translating the expression as "sıfır toplamı bir oyun" but it is still difficult to fully grasp what is meant in the Turkish version; the expression is not clear for the Turkish news reader as we don't have such a term as "sıfır toplamı oyun" in Turkish. Thus the translation of that part is obscure, thus not readable. "Hiç kimsenin kazanamadığı bir oyun" or "kazanani olmayan bir oyun" would do better.

EXAMPLE 9 (REUTERS, Turks Vote In Referendum On Presidential Reform, 21.10.2007)

The main opposition parties had urged a 'no' vote, saying the proposal **smacked of populism** and would upset constitutional balances in Turkey.

TRANSLATION

Değişiklik öngörülerinin Türkiye'de anayasal dengeleri bozacağını söyleyen ana muhalefet partileri ise, referandumda 'hayır' oyu verilmesi çağrısında bulundular.

EVALUATION

The expression in bold in the original piece of news is a difficult one in translational perspective, though it is a well-known and widely used one in English. The translator has excluded and deleted this expression in his/her translation, as a result of this. Most probably, he/she has been deterred by the idea that a possible translation applying a word-for-word method such as "popülizm kokmak" will sound so unnatural. But paraphrasing method could have helped to a certain extent with a rendering like "oy avcılığına yönelik."

EXAMPLE 10 (The Guardian, Trial of Publisher Revives Row Over Turkish 'Insult' Law, 05.12.2007)

Zarakolu is being tried under Turkey's 301 article of law, the same legislation that was used against Pamuk, a Nobel prize winner. Today's hearing comes in the wake of repeated promises by senior officials in Turkey's reform-minded neo-Islamist administration to rescind the **notorious** piece of legislation.

## TRANSLATION

Zarakolu, tıpkı nobel ödüllü yazar Orhan Pamuk gibi Türk Ceza Kanunu'nun 301. maddesi uyarınca yargılanıyor. Oysa Türkiye'nin reform yanlısı yeni İslamcı iktidarından üst düzey yetkililer sürekli bu **çirkin** yasa maddesini kaldırmaktan söz ediyorlar.

## EVALUATION

“Notorious” is in fact a very “notorious” word in terms of its translation into Turkish. It means “famous or well-known because of something bad” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 965), and given the discussions on the issue both in Turkey and abroad, it is in fact the most appropriate adjective to define the Article 301 of Turkish Penal Code. Widespread renderings for notorious are “kötü tanınmış” and “kötü şöhretli” in Turkish, which do not sound very natural. Perhaps because of the same feelings, the translator has not preferred one of them and used “çirkin” alone, meaning “bad.” Hence, it may be said that he/she applied a paraphrasing method. This decision, however, seems not good enough as it does not refer to the hot debates about the issue. Furthermore, the use of that rendering seems not to be accurate as it is not a right one in that context, thus violating the readability principle.

### 4.2 SYNTACTIC DIFFICULTIES

Syntax is the study of sentence structure and it concentrates on how words, phrases and clauses are combined and ordered to make sentences. It is derived from two Greek elements that is equated to *together* and *arrangement* (Poole, 1999: 83). Thus, syntactic analysis attempts to describe the grammatical rules of a language. In other words, it deals with certain structures required to make sensible utterances in a language. For instance, most basically, English has a subject-verb-object

sentence order. This is the underlying structure. However, this order may be altered through a transformational process like one from active sentence structure to a passive one as in the example *John hit the ball* or *The ball was hit by John*.

Postal writes in *Communication, Language and Meaning* that “each speaker has the ability to produce and understand a literally endless variety of sentences, the overwhelming majority of which he has never encountered as wholes before” (1973:23). It is thanks to syntax or syntactic varieties that the use of language has a creative function.

In this respect, syntactic difficulty is related to the sentence structure. In other words, “it is concerned with position and sequence of elements, rather than their propositional meanings and functions.” as Fowler says (1991:77). The syntactic difficulties encountered in this study includes use of infinitives and gerunds, participles, passive forms, various kinds of subordinate clauses to form compound or complex sentence structures.

EXAMPLE 1 (AP, Turkey Restores Armenian Church to Show Goodwill, 22.03.2007)

Turkey completed a US\$1.5 million restoration of the sandstone building, and invited Armenian officials to a ceremony there on March 29 **to mark what Turkey’s prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has called a “positive” step.**

#### TRANSLATION

Türkiye, restorasyonu için 1.5 milyon dolar harcadığı kilisenin 29 Mart'ta yapılacak açılış törenine Ermeni yetkilileri de davet etti. **Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, bunu olumlu bir mesaj olarak addediyor.**

## EVALUATION

The original sentence ends with an infinitive, which makes the sentence seem long and complex for translational purposes. The translator, hence, has not run the risk to include that part in the same way in his/her translation so as to avoid clumsiness and made a new full sentence out of that part, applying a re-organisation method, which means restructuring the source text.

This decision of the translator helped a lot to achieve readability in the target language.

EXAMPLE 2 (REUTERS, US State Panel Condemns Murder of Turkish-Armenian, 29.03.2007)

The largely symbolic resolution approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reopened the question of **whether Congress should weigh in on the debate over whether the killings were genocide – a sensitive issue in Turkey, a NATO ally.**

## TRANSLATION

Senato'nun Dış İlişkiler Komitesince onaylanan ve sembolik nitelikte olan tasarı, Kongrenin **Ermeni katliamlarını soykırım olarak tanıyıp tanımaması tartışmalarını** yeniden gündeme taşıdı. **Önemli bir NATO müttefiki olan Türkiye'de söz konusu mevzu oldukça hassas.**

## EVALUATION

The original sentence seems a little bit complicated at first sight, as it includes two clauses starting with “whether” and ends with two shortened

relative clauses. Bagnall names such constructions as “clauses within clauses”:

“This is rather like one of those nightmares where you are lost in the corridors of a strange hotel and can’t find the lift that will take you back to the reception area – and when you do get to the lift it is crammed with people” (1993: 60).

These clauses positioned at the end of the original sentence seem to have posed a challenge for the translator. Thus, he/she could cope with this difficulty stemming from the structure of the source language re-organising the sentence. Thanks to this decision, he/she wisely avoided an obscure and long cluttered sentence, two roadblocks to readability as we have seen.

EXAMPLE 3 (AP, Turkish Police Detain 5 More People Thursday In Connection With An Attack on Christian Publishing House, 19.04.2007)

Police detained five more people Thursday in connection with an attack on a Christian publishing house that killed three employees, **doubling the number of suspects in custody, a Turkish official said.**

TRANSLATION

Bir Türk yetkilisinin bugün yaptığı açıklamaya göre üç kişinin öldürüldüğü bir Hristiyan yayınevine yönelik saldırıyla ilişkili olarak beş kişi daha gözaltına alındı. **Böylece gözaltına alınanların sayısı 10'a yükseldi.**

EVALUATION

The challenge posed by the original sentence stems from the participial construction in the end, as it is difficult to render such grammatical forms into Turkish. This difficulty stems from the fact that such a clause “seems

like an afterthought,” as Mifflin suggests (1988: 387). Thus, also benefiting from his/her background knowledge about the event, the translator applied a re-organisation method and turned this part into a full sentence. Another point is that the translator turned the active structure of the original sentence into a passive one in the target language. As we have seen in Chapter 2, one of the most important characteristics of news language/discourse is its active form. However, in Turkish, the passive form is widely used in writing news stories. In that example, the translator sacrificed the use of more preferred active form for the sake of functionality – a simple, clearer sentence - and another element of readability, brevity.

EXAMPLE 4 (AP, Christians In Turkey Fear More Attacks After Killings At Publishing House, 20.04.2007)

The uncertainty \_ and growing suspicion against foreigners \_ **has been driven by the faltering EU bid, a resilient Kurdish separatist movement and by increasingly vocal Islamists \_ and Turkey \_ as locked in battle with who see themselves hostile Christian West.**

#### TRANSLATION

**Avrupa Birliği'ne üyelik sürecinde yaşanan tereddüt, Türkiye'nin güneydoğusundaki Kürt ayrılıkçı eylemler, ve ülkede sayısı giderek artan İslamcı grupların kendilerini düşman Hristiyan Batı ve Türkiye arasında bir savaş içinde görmeleri,** belirsizliğe ve giderek artan bir şekilde yabancılara şüpheyile bakılmasına **neden oluyor.**

#### EVALUATION

This time, the passive structure of the sentence along with a range of passive objects and a relative clause make the sentence seem long,

clumsy and complicated for the translator, who has transformed the passive structure of the sentence into active, thus keeping the dynamic effect of the original sentence in the target language. He/she has changed the grammatical structure of the sentence - from passive voice to active voice,- which is called “transposition.”

One loss may be the word chosen in exchange for “driven” in the original sentence, as “neden oluyor” has a neutral meaning in Turkish and seems less strong than the original word. Something like “körüklüyor” could have been used in order to create a parallel effect.

EXAMPLE 5 (AP, opposition Lawmakers Boycott Presidential Vote In Turkey, 07.05.2007)

The standoff over the presidency has exposed a deepening divide between secularists and supporters of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamic-rooted party **in a country where secularism is enshrined in the Constitution and fiercely guarded by the judiciary and the powerful military.**

#### TRANSLATION

Cumhurbaşkanlığı konusundaki tartışmalar, ülkede laiklerle İslami kökenli parti lideri Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan arasındaki derin anlaşmazlığı açığa çıkardı. Laikliğin, Türk Anayasası'nda oldukça saygın bir yeri var ve bu ilke yargı ve nüfuzlu ordu tarafından korunuyor.

#### EVALUATION

Through the perspective of the translator, the last part of the sentence attached to give extra information about Turkey will make the sentence seem long in Turkish. Thus he/she has divided the original sentence into

two parts, making a new, full sentence out of the annexed part, which is re-organisation method.

However, this decision does not provide a smooth and fluent reading in Turkish as expected. It also seems against the principle of conveying the most info in the least amount of time because the two sentences do not seem to complete each other in a logical order. Another alternative may have been more appropriate and make the extract seem much more complete:

“Cumhurbaşkanlığı konusundaki tartışmalar; laikliğin anayasada yer aldığı ve yargı ile nüfuzlu ordu tarafından korunduğu ülkede, laiklerle İslami kökenli parti lideri Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan arasındaki derin anlaşmazlığı açığa çıkardı. “

This alternative is obviously shorter and may be considered as an example of “tight writing.”

EXAMPLE 6 (THE INDEPENDENT, Kurds Implicated In Ankara bomb Attack, 23.05.2007)

The rush-hour attack, **one of the worst in the city for a decade and blamed by security sources on Kurdish separatists**, killed five Turks and a Pakistani national, according to officials.

TRANSLATION

Kentte günün en yoğun saatinde meydana gelen saldırı, **güvenlik güçlerinin Kürt ayrılıkçıları suçladığı ve son 10 yılda meydana gelen en kötü saldırıydı. Yetkililerin bildirdiğine göre, ölenlerin arasında Pakistan uyruklu bir kişi de var.**

## EVALUATION

This sentence, in the middle of its main clause, includes a relative clause, which is in bold. Thus, it has an intensely-woven structure with a relative clause within the main one. Such a formation in Turkish may, on the other hand, make the sentence too long. Hence, the translator has chunked or re-organised the sentence. He/she has made a separate sentence out of the relative clause, and a second one out of the main clause, in order to make it fit into the principles of functionality and readability.

There is another notable thing in the translation. It lacks the information about the killings of five Turks. We can say that this is due to target-oriented translation. The translator, accepting it as a back translation, in line with preliminary norms, didn't feel the need to include that part in his/her translation.

EXAMPLE 7 (REUTERS, Turkey's Parliament Elects Non-islamist As speaker, 09.08.2007)

Erdogan and his party must now turn to the more difficult task of picking a candidate for president **amid signs that Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul still covets the top job.**

## TRANSLATION

Erdoğan ve partisinin şimdi cumhurbaşkanlığı için yeni bir aday göstermesi gerekiyor. **Dışişleri Bakanı Abdullah Gül'ün hala aday olmak istediğine ilişkin işaretler var.**

## EVALUATION

This sentence is relatively a short one, however the use of "amid" makes it difficult for the translator to render, as Turkish does not have an equivalent

conjunction. Thus the translator has chunked that part, forming a new full sentence. He has employed a re-organisation method. However, the two sentences in the Turkish version of the sentence seem unrelated and loose. The meaning of “amid” and the logical connection it implies in the original sentence is apparently lost in the translated version.

EXAMPLE 8 (THE WASHINGTON POST, Gul Elected To Turkey's Presidency, 29.08.2007)

But among secular Turks, there remain widespread concerns that Erdogan's government has given political Islam a toehold that will lead Turkey the way of much of the Middle East, **perhaps starting with lifting Ataturk's restrictions on the head scarf, outlawing alcohol or criminalizing adultery.**

TRANSLATION

Ancak laik Türkler arasında Erdoğan'ın hükümetinin Türkiye'yi, Orta Doğu'daki gibi İslamla yöneteceğine dair yaygın bir şüphe bulunuyor. **Bu, Atatürk'ün başörtüsü üzerindeki kısıtlamalarını kaldırmakla, alkolü yasaklayıp zinayı suç olarak kabul etmekle başlayabilir.**

EVALUATION

The use of gerund at the end of the sentence to give examples is clearly a difficulty to be experienced by the translator as he/she will be able to neither add it to the end of his/her Turkish version of the sentence nor situate it somewhere in the middle of it. Thus he/she has preferred to re-organise the sentence and make a new sentence out of it, linking that new one to the first one with a signifier (“bu”) to refer to the whole of it. Thus, he/she has clearly aimed at readability.

Another important point in the translation is the exclusion of the expression “give a tiehold” which, in fact, changes the meaning of the sentence. This decision of the translator reminds of a summary translation. This is most probably due to the difficulty in finding an equivalent for the expression. But another question comes to mind as to why “Islam” - not “political Islam” - has been preferred in the target version. In line with the Skopos theory, under the assumption that the news policy is directly related to the skopos, one may say that the translation has been shaped according to the institutional policy of the DGPI, which is state-run. The translator or the editors may have thought that the expression “political islam” is rather strict and ideological and thus preferred to use just “Islam.” Another factor may be the fact that the target readers of the DGPI’s news translations are mostly the staff of other state-run institutions of the country.

EXAMPLE 9 (AP, Turkey’s New President Approves Cabinet of Islamic-oriented Government, 30.08.2007)

Turkey’s new president approved a Cabinet on Wednesday with a mix of Islamist and secular figures, **many with reformist backgrounds that signal the Islamic-oriented government’s commitment to winning entry into the European Union.**

#### TRANSLATION

Türkiye’nin yeni cumhurbaşkanı, laik ve islamcı isimlerden oluşan kabineyi onayladı. **Kabine üyelerinin çoğunun reformcu geçmişli olan isimlerden oluşması, İslamcı hükümetin AB’ye girmek için reformlara hız vereceğinin bir göstergesi.**

#### EVALUATION

As the structure of the Turkish language does not allow attaching such a clause after the main clause, the translator has once more chunked, re-

organised the sentence, separated the two clauses and formed two different sentences. The way he/she formed the new sentence managed to keep the meaning and the dynamic nature of especially the part starting with “that clause” in the translated version. Thus, he/she could create a functional and readable sentence.

EXAMPLE 10 (THE GUARDIAN, Turkey Launches Biggest Bombing Raid On Kurdish Rebels In Iraq, 17.12.2007)

Turkey yesterday launched the biggest attack on Iraq since the US invasion in 2003, **sending more than 50 warplanes to bomb suspected Kurdish insurgent bases inside Iraqi territory, accompanied by long-range artillery shelling.**

TRANSLATION

**Türkiye dün, Irak topraklarındaki Kürt asi üslerine 50'den fazla savaş uçağı göndererek** 2003 yılındaki ABD saldırısından bu yana Irak'a en büyük saldırıyı başlattı.

EVALUATION

The last part of the sentence in bold is a participle, which gives details about the main clause -- the first part of the sentence. The participle is followed by a second clause starting with “accompanied”. It is impossible to write the Turkish version of this sentence in the same way, as the structure of Turkish will not allow it. Hence, the translator has divided the sentence into two. He/she has made another difference and expelled the short clause at the very end of the original sentence, perhaps because he/she couldn't link it directly to the first sentence or the second one and because it will not be practical to form a third sentence out of it. He/she clearly applied a re-organisation method. Thus, the translation, despite being a relatively short and functional one in terms of the general

characteristics of news language discussed before, lacks the details about the attack.

### 4.3 SEMANTIC DIFFICULTIES

Semantics deals with the study of meaning in general. It describes how the representations of the meanings of lexical items in mind are used to construct sentences. As Katz states in *Communication, Language and Meaning* syntax “concerns the way they (sentences) are built up out of their constituents. Semantics concerns the literal meaning of sentences and their constituents” (1973: 36).

Thus, as mentioned above, a sentence must be syntactically grammatically fine, but this is not enough. It must also be grammatically acceptable. For instance, the sentence *The meat ate the cat* is syntactically okay but it is nonsensical. Another point semantics concentrates on is ambiguity. For instance, a sentence like *Visiting relatives can be time-consuming* is semantically ambiguous. It is not clear at first sight whether visiting our relatives or relatives who visit us can be time-consuming.

Considering these, in this study, semantics is used in a broader sense to analyze the difficulties in sentence meaning in translating news items. Semantic difficulties are, thus, about the general meaning of a sentence or a part of it which may pose problems in the process of translation. This may be related to sense, references and ambiguity as exemplified above.

EXAMPLE 1 (AP, Prosecutor Probes Turkish PM for Alleged Honorific Reference to Kurdish Rebel Leader, 26.03.2007)

Prosecutor probes Turkish PM **for alleged honorific reference to Kurdish rebel leader.**

## TRANSLATION

Başsavcılık, Türkiye başbakanı hakkında inceleme başlattı.

## EVALUATION

The head, as the most intense part of a news story, is really difficult to grasp at first sight by the translator. This difficulty multiples if it includes some complex expressions such as in the example above. Sometimes, it is difficult for the translator to fully understand the incident by looking at the head only. Thus, it is always advisable that he/she read the whole story to translate the head. The difficulty does not end here, on the other hand. As the news heads have sui generis structures and certain rules in English, it is not always easy to form it in the target language in the desired way. The translator may sometimes feel the need to make some changes.

In the example above, most probably because of the difficulty in fully grasping the meaning and the problem in re-forming it in the shortest and clearest way in Turkish, as news heads necessitate; the translator has chosen to delete the expression in bold, excluding the reason why the Prime Minister will be probed.

There is another probability: As mentioned before, the DGPI, affiliated with the Office of the Prime Minister, translates news from foreign press mostly for other state-run institutions. Thus, in line with the Skopos theory, such decisions as deletion of some parts of the original news stories during their translation to Turkish may be a result of the institutional policy.

EXAMPLE 2 (THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, Turkey Poll Halted over Islamist Lean, 02.05.2007)

**Turkey poll halted over Islamist lean**

## TRANSLATION

İslami Korkular Nedeniyle Türkiye'de Cumhurbaşkanlığı Seçimi Durduruldu.

## EVALUATION

Here is another short and intense head which will most probably pose great challenge for the translation during his/her work. The expressions in bold seem vague at first sight because what the expressions “Turkey poll” and “Islamist lean” sense -- not refer to -- is not clear, thus it will be difficult to express them in the target language. Considering these, the translator has preferred the paraphrasing method and he/she has explained these expressions in bold, based on his/her background knowledge and the news story before him/her. For instance, he/she has explained in his/her translation that the poll is for the presidency. The Turkish version is, thus, compulsorily, longer but it is much more functional as it contributes to the element of “completeness.”

Another notable thing in the translation is ideological, about the translation of the expression “Islamist lean.” First of all, the word “Islamist” has been translated as “islami”, which is in fact the equivalent for “Islamic” in English. One may think, looking at this euphemism, that in line with the institutional policy and thus the Skopos theory, the translator may have taken an ideological decision. But, the translation of the word “lean” as “korku”, which is in exchange for “fear” in English, is confusing.

Hence, we may say that there is an ideological, thus a semantic inconsistency in that translation.

EXAMPLE 3 (THE SUNDAY TIMES, Headscarf War Threatens to Split Turkey, 06.05.2007)

A parliamentary vote in Gul's favour on April 27 led to the generals' ultimatum late that night. Describing themselves as "the absolute defenders of secularism", they added: "When necessary we will demonstrate our attitudes ... **Let no one doubt this.**"

**Few did:** Turkey's army is NATO's second biggest with more than 1m soldiers and has ousted four governments in the past 50 years, the latest just 10 years ago.

TRANSLATION

27 Nisan'da Gül'ün cumhurbaşkanlığına seçilmesi için yapılan meclis oylaması, generallerin geceyarısı bir ültimatom vermelerine yol açtı. Yayınladıkları açıklamada kendilerini "laikliğin kesin savunucusu" olarak tanımlayan generaller, "**Gerektiğinde tavrımızı göstereceğimizden hiç kimsenin şüphesi olmasın.**" vurgulamasını da yaptılar.

Bir milyondan fazla askerle NATO'nun en büyük ikinci gücünü oluşturan Türk ordusu, sonuncusu 10 yıl önce olmak üzere son 50 yıl içinde dört hükümeti devirdi.

EVALUATION

The problem about the paragraph above arises from the difficulty in making the logical connection between the two parts in bold and reflecting it in the target language. It is not so easy to understand at a glance to whom and which action the expression "few did" refers. Only after reading the sentences following it carefully and referring to the former paragraph the connection can be made.

Most probably because of the difficulty in grasping what that expression refers to and forming the bridge in-between the two paragraphs in the target language, the translator has deleted that expression.

The translator, thus, ruined the structure of the original news item and cut the logical connection off between the two successive paragraphs. From the perspective of the target text reader, this has, without doubt, harmed the readability of the translated news item.

An alternative might have been the paraphrasing method. At the very beginning of the second paragraph, the translator could have repeated the verb of the former sentence to make what the verb “do” refers clear and explained who is meant by the subject “few.” In this respect, a translation like “Zaten çok az kişi bundan şüphe ediyor. Öyle ki...”, might have served the purpose better. It would, of course, have been much longer than the original “Few did,” but it is certainly much more readable.

EXAMPLE 4 (THE FINANCIAL TIMES, Turkish Government Wins Constitutional Fight, 11.05.2007)

The presidential measure was the most important of a series of constitutional changes that was agreed Thursday by MPs. Others included shortening the parliamentary term from five years to four and allowing a president to serve two five-year terms rather than one seven-year term.

**The far-reaching implications of this overhaul of the 1982 constitution, which was written under military supervision after a coup in 1980, have led to accusations that the measures were being pushed through without sufficient debate.**

## TRANSLATION

Cumhurbaşkanlığı yasası, dün milletvekilleri tarafından onaylanan bir dizi anayasal değişikliğin en önemlisiydi. Diğer değişiklikler meclis görev süresinin beş yıl yerine dört yıla indirilmesini ve cumhurbaşkanının bir defalığına yedi yıl yerine iki defa beşer yıl hizmet etmesini içeriyor.

**1980'deki darbeden sonra ordunun denetiminde hazırlanan 1982 Anayasası üzerindeki geniş kapsamlı bu değişiklikler, yasaların yeterli görüşmelerde bulunulmadan kabul edildiği yönünde tartışmalara yol açtı.**

## EVALUATION

The paragraph in bold seems long and complex. Its complexity mainly stems from the fact that what is told in that paragraph is based on those told in the former paragraph. For instance, the expression “this overhaul” refers to the former paragraph as a whole. Words chosen such as “implication”, “overhaul”, “push through” adds to this complexity. Thus, both the reader and the translator have to read the passage with great attention to make the necessary connection. The translator has to exert double effort to avoid a possible confusion in the target language.

Thus, the translator has simplified the paragraph in his/her translation, using more common words in the target language such as “değişiklik” (change) in exchange for “overhaul” and “kabul edilmek” (to be accepted) in exchange for “be pushed through.” He/she has also managed to form a parallelism between the two paragraphs as he/she has used the word “değişiklik” in both paragraphs, which made the connection more evident and prevented confusion. Thus, he/she has clearly applied a paraphrasing method and managed to achieve functionality.

EXAMPLE 5 (THE FINANCIAL TIMES, Erdogan Confident of Turkish Poll Victory, 16.07.2007)

The attempt to appoint Mr Gul as president was derailed at the end of April after the military issued an ultimatum about a threat to Turkey's secular republic.

**This** has failed to ignite the campaign because the AKP has such a big lead in the polls and because the opposition - on the secular left and the nationalist right - has failed to make much of an impression outside its core constituencies.

TRANSLATION

Gül'ün cumhurbaşkanlığı adaylık süreci, ordunun Türkiye'nin laik düzenine yönelik tehdide dair muhtıra vermesiyle sona ermişti.

**Söz konusu muhtıra**, seçim kampanyalarında beklenen harareti sağlamadı, çünkü AKP anketlerde açık ara önde gidiyor ve laik solun ve milliyetçi sağın yer aldığı muhalefet kendi çekirdek seçmenleri haricinde diğer kitlelere yeterince hitap edemediler.

EVALUATION

The use of “this” at the beginning of the second paragraph confuses the translator as it is not clear to what it refers. The translator may think that “this” refers to the ultimatum issued by the military or to the attempt to appoint Gül as president. The idea becomes clear only after the rest of the sentence, which makes it evident that “this” refers to the ultimatum by the military, is read.

The translator thus has to apply a method to avoid the same confusion in the target text. He/she has, thus, paraphrased that part and explained “this” as “söz konusu muhtıra.”

EXAMPLE 6 (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Ruling Party in Turkey Wins Broad Victory, 23.07.2007)

The Islamic-inspired governing party of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a larger-than-expected victory in nationwide parliamentary elections on Sunday, taking close to half the total vote **in a stinging rebuke to Turkey's old guard.**

TRANSLATION

Dün yapılan genel seçimlerde **Türkiye'deki statüko yanlılarına darbe indirerek** oyların yarısına yakını alan Başbakan Recep Tayyip Erdoğan'ın İslamcı hükümeti beklenenden daha büyük bir zafer elde etti.

EVALUATION

The semantic difficulty in the paragraph above is posed by the last part of the sentence in bold. The problem is, once more, related to reference. It is not clear to what the phrase in bold refers. And as this is the very first sentence of the news text, entitled "Ruling Party in Turkey Wins Broad Victory", it is not possible for the translator to make sure by looking back to a former sentence. The text continues as follows: "With nearly all the votes counted, the Justice and Development Party led by Mr. Erdogan won 46.6 percent of the vote, according to Turkish election officials, far more than the 34 percent the party garnered in the last election, in 2002." Thus, checking the latter sentence will not help, either. Only taking into account the broader context, namely the latest political developments in the country, the translator may make guesses. He/she may think that the "old guard" may be the military, the secular establishment of the state or the secular citizens and reflect this interpretation in his/her translation. Or he/she may apply a literal method, translating this part as something like

“devletin kadim bekçileri”, using quotation marks as well. By that way, he/she will force the reader to make the interpretation.

But the translator has preferred a third way. He/she has paraphrased the expression, abstaining from making any interpretation at the same time. He/she used the expression “statüko yanlıları” in Turkish to replace “old guards”, applying a paraphrasing method.

But the choice of this expression may also be debatable as one may argue that “statüko yanlıları” has some negative connotations. Given that it is an ideological decision, then, the use of “islamcı” in exchange for “Islamic” is an inconsistency.

EXAMPLE 7 (THE FINANCIAL TIMES, Turkish PM Holds Fire on New Cabinet, 17.08.2007)

Turkish PM **holds fire on new cabinet**

TRANSLATION

Türkiye... Yeni Kabine Listesi Başbakanın **Elinde Kaldı**

EVALUATION

The head above is difficult to grasp at first glance. Only after reading the news text, it may become clearer. The text starts as follows:

“Turkey's prime minister has unexpectedly delayed the unveiling of his new cabinet and will await the election of a new president before announcing his government team.” This does not end the problem, on the other hand. Translating it will also create a difficulty, as the use of the idiom “hold fire” is another challenge. This idiom means “to be delayed or

prevented from happening or continuing” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999: 646). Given the semantic difficulty in re-expressing this head in the target language, the translator has applied a rare method. He/she has used an idiom in Turkish to replace the idiom in the source language. He/she has preferred the idiom “elinde kalmak” in Turkish to explain the meaning of the head. In this respect, it may be said that he/she used equivalence method to deal with the semantic difficulty posed by the head.

As seen, another difficulty the translator has encountered is the translation of the expression “Turkish PM.” The translator has most probably not preferred the expression “Türkiye Başbakanı” as it will make the head seem longer. But, as the exclusion of the expression “Turkish” from the sentences will make it ambiguous, or harm the completeness of the sentences. Thus he/she has reorganised the sentences in order not to skip which country is the theme in the news item.

EXAMPLE 8 (THE FINANCIAL TIMES, Turkish PM Holds Fire on New Cabinet, 17.08.2007)

Mr Erdogan denied that **the president's request amounted to a snub**, though he admitted that it was a surprise.

TRANSLATION

Erdoğan, **Cumhurbaşkanı'nın bu isteğinin küçümseyici bir tutum olduğunu** reddetti, ancak sürpriz olduğunu da kabul etti.

EVALUATION

The sentence above, especially the part in bold creates a difficulty for the translator to figure out an exact idea as it seems vague in terms of reference and meaning. The word “request” seems not clear enough and

the expression “amounted to a snub” is a challenging one in view of not only grasping but also translating. A broader context of the item may help the translator a little more: “Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development party (AKP), which has roots in political Islam, won a sweeping victory in a general election on July 22 and he submitted his list of ministers yesterday to Ahmet Necdet Sezer, the arch-secularist outgoing president, for official approval. But the prime minister said Mr Sezer advised him to wait for the arrival of his successor before seeking official approval for the cabinet, which means that Turkey will not get a new government until after August 28, when Abdullah Gul, a close ally of Mr Erdogan, is expected to be elected to the presidency by parliament.”

The sample is preceded by the two paragraphs above. The information these paragraphs present makes it clear that the word “request” refers to President Sezer’s advice to Prime Minister Erdoğan to wait for the arrival of the next president to submit his cabinet list. The translator has applied a literal translation method and used “istek” in exchange for “request”, not referring to the word “advice” chosen by the news writer in the original text but added “bu” to make the logical connection.

The translator has applied a literal translation method for the rest, too. He/she has used “küçümseyici” in exchange for “snub”, which means “treating someone rudely, especially by intentionally ignoring them when you meet” (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1999:1358).

EXAMPLE 9 (REUTERS, Turkish Islamists stress Muslim values, not laws, 9.08.2007)

Turkish Islamists stress **Muslim values, not laws**

## TRANSLATION

Türk İslamcılar **Müslüman Kanunlarını Değil Müslüman Değerlerini** Vurguluyor

## EVALUATION

Here is another headline posing a semantic difficulty. When a translator who has learned English as a second language reads the head, he/she will probably feel confused because the sentence may have two different interpretations for a non-native speaker: The first one is “Turkish Islamists stress Muslim values, not Muslim laws (or sharia)”, whereas the second one is “Turkish Islamists stress Muslim values, but not laws (or legal rules.)

Reading the beginning of the news story, which is as follows, may help to grasp the head better: “Abdullah Gul's election as Turkey's president is a victory for a strain of political Islam centred on promoting Muslim values democratically rather than imposing sharia, Islamic law, experts on the Islamic world say.”

This paragraph puts forth that the correct interpretation of the head is the first one above. The translator, thus, has had to apply a method to avoid causing a similar semantic problem, a dilemma in the target text. He/she has added another “Müslüman” just before “kanunlar” or “laws” in English to prevent such a problem. He/she has thus applied a paraphrasing method. The translator's decision is appropriate as the literal translation method would be confusing and cause just the opposite meaning. Hence, the translator's was a responsible act.

EXAMPLE 10 (THE WASHINGTON POST, Gul Elected to Turkey's Presidency, 29.08.2007)

Many members of Turkey's military took the vote count as a **rebuke of their preelection move** against a largely popular and successful democratically elected government.

#### TRANSLATION

Türk ordusu bu oy oranını, son derece popüler ve demokratik yollarla seçilmiş, başarılı bir hükümete karşı **seçim öncesinde gerçekleştirdikleri girişime yönelik bir yanıt** olarak aldı.

#### EVALUATION

The difficulty, once more, stems from vagueness about reference. The expression “preelection move” is an unclear one, as it is difficult to figure out at once what move it is. The translator has used the literal translation method and rendered that part as “seçim öncesinde gerçekleştirdikleri girişim”. This expression, however, is a much longer one than the original and deteriorates the readability and functionality of the original. Paraphrasing with an expression like “seçimden önce yayınladıkları bildiri” based on the background knowledge of the translator may have helped better to overcome the blurred expression and to sound more natural.

The translation of the word “rebuke” is also notable. The translator has clearly euphemised the meaning, using “yanıt” (response) in exchange for the word.

#### 4.4 STYLISTIC DIFFICULTIES

“Stylistics is the description and analysis of the variability of linguistic forms in actual language use.” Mukherjee (2004) says. The concept style itself is based on the assumption that the same meaning or content can be encoded in more than one linguistic form in language, according to Mukherjee. Considering style as a choice, he lists two categories of stylistic factors. These are user-bound factors such as age, gender, idiosyncratic preferences and regional and social background and situation bound factors such as medium of communication (spoken vs. written), participation in discourse (monologue vs. dialogue), attitude (level of formality) and field of discourse (e.g. technical vs. nontechnical fields)

As Mukherjee (2004) puts forward, stylistic features are flexible and do not follow rigid rules. That is because style is not a matter of grammatically, but rather of appropriateness.

Stylistic difficulties are, thus, related to the language characteristics of a news story. Although news stories are written according to some specific rules and characteristics as explained in the previous chapters, they may have some variations or deviations in language, such as descriptions or narrations, depending on the story itself and the penning style of the news writer. *“Some writers can’t help stamping their personalities on everything they write, as good singers’ voices have a personal quality independent of technique.”* This is how Bagnall describes style in *Newspaper Language* (1993: 135). Such variations sometimes pose great difficulties for the translator as the news writer in the target language, just a few of which are shown below:

EXAMPLE 1 (REUTERS, Landmines Still Kill in Southeast Turkey, 26.03.2007)

**Snow turns red at the edge of Tunceli's mountain roads as it soaks up the bronze-rich soil.** Passing that red line is **a matter of life or death** in these areas, where violence has endured for 23 years. Intense conflicts in the 90s -- and now sporadic violence between the military and Kurdish guerrillas -- have turned much of Turkey's rural southeast into a minefield.

#### TRANSLATION

1990'lardaki yoğun çatışmalar ve şimdi teröristler ve güvenlik güçleri arasında ara sıra meydana gelen şiddet olayları, Türkiye'nin kırsal güneydoğusunun büyük bir bölümünü mayın tarlasına dönüştürdü.

#### EVALUATION

The news item starts with a paragraph with a stylistic language. It gives a physical description of the area using some adjectives and also includes an idiom -- "a matter of life or dead". The item continues with another stylistic paragraph, though to a less degree. The expression "turned...into a minefield" is an example.

The Turkish version, on the other hand, does not include the first two sentences and, thus, starts with the second one. Most probably, the difficulty of creating a similar style in the Turkish version deterred the translator from translating the first paragraph, which is much more intense than the second one. Thus, he/she has applied a deletion method to deal with this difficulty.

In terms of language, the translation is short thus functional but it lacks all the elements that give its taste to the original news extract.

Another point is notable in translation: The expression “Kurdish guerrillas” has been translated as “teröristler.” This is clearly a result of the Skopos Theory, which once more constitutes an example of inconsistency in news –and thus-- translation policy.

EXAMPLE 2 (REUTERS, Landmines Still Kill in Southeast Turkey, 26.03.2007)

Hidir Celik is testimony to the danger. **His body riddled with shrapnel, pain registers on his face as he bends his legs to sit,** even though doctors keep trying to remove pieces of the landmine that exploded near him in 2002, killing five people. **Staring into the distance, the plastic replacement for his right eye is designed to match the brown-yellow hue of his remaining iris. “Just give me back my sight, give me back my health. I don’t want anything else,” said the former scrap metal collector. In fact he was relatively lucky. When some teenagers dumped outside his store a sack of scrap metal they had collected in the nearby hills, detonating the mine they had unknowingly picked up, he only lost his eye.** His accident is just one of hundreds to plague Turkey’s rural, mainly Kurdish southeast region since 1984, when the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) launched an armed campaign to carve out an ethnic homeland.

#### TRANSLATION

2002’de çok yakınında bir mayının patlaması ve beş kişinin yaşamına mal olması nedeniyle bedeni şarapnel parçalarıyla dolu Hidir Çelik, bu tehlikenin bir kanıtı. Onun yaşadığı kaza, Kürdistan İşçi Partisinin (PKK) etnik bir anavatan için silahlı bir mücadeleye başladığı 1984 yılından beri ülkenin güneydoğusunda yaşanan yüzlerce benzer olaydan sadece biri.

## EVALUATION

The news item, as seen clearly, has a highly stylistic language. One may even think that it is taken from a literary piece, a work of fiction. Physical descriptions are detailed and vivid. They make the reader imagine what is described. Translating those parts and drawing the same picture in target readers' mind is, without any doubt, a very difficult thing. Considering the time factor in the speedy world of news where the translator is expected to be as fast as possible to make the item ready for target readers before other agencies, newspapers and radio or television channels do in that highly competitive market and the special ability needed for translating such a literary piece, it is even impossible. Hence, the translator excluded those parts from his translation and applied a deletion method. It is as if he/she has summarised the paragraph and given the concrete, the information only.

EXAMPLE 3 (AP, Armenian Delegation in Turkey to Attend Ceremony to Mark Restoration of Armenian Church, 29.03.2007)

The restoration of the Akdamar church, **perched on a rocky island in a vast lake in eastern Turkey, has been portrayed as a «positive message» by Turkey to help overcome historical animosity between Turkey and Armenia, who are locked in a bitter dispute over mass killings of Armenians in Turkey around the time of World War I.**

## TRANSLATION

Türkiye'nin doğusundaki büyük gölün üzerindeki adada bulunan Akdamar Kilisesinin restorasyonu, Türkiye tarafından, Birinci Dünya Savaşı sırasında Ermenilerin öldürülmesi konusundaki tartışma nedeniyle ilişkilerinin çıkmaza girdiği Ermenistan ile aralarındaki

yılların husumetinin üstesinden gelmeye yönelik bir hareket olarak addediliyor.

## EVALUATION

The use of some words such as “perched” and “portrayed” and some expressions such as “historical animosity” and “locked in a bitter dispute” gives that paragraph a stylistic character. In addition, the choice of the adjectives “rocky”, “vast” and “bitter” are notable. It may be said about the translation of that paragraph that the translator was stick to the general structure of the sentence but he/she didn’t use equivalents for these adjectives and meticulously chosen words and expressions. He/she basically summarized the core meaning of the paragraph and simplified the language of it, deleting some parts. Hence, he/she was far from giving the same stylistic effect as the original. Maybe because of this reason, the sentence seems long and full of information, which is against the principles of functionality and readability.

The translation is, once more, a product of Skopos Theory as the expression “mass killings” has been translated as to exclude “mass” and include “killings” only.

EXAMPLE 4 (REUTERS, Seeds of Turkish nationalism Sown At School, 02.04.2007)

"Happy is he who says he is a Turk," **pipe hundreds of uniformed children in unison, lined up in the playground before a golden statue of Turkey's revered father Ataturk, for a daily pledge of hard work and sacrifice. The enthusiastic chanting ends and the children file into school, past an inscription saying** their first duty is to defend Turkey and another of the national anthem -- texts which appear again on the classroom walls and preface all their textbooks.

## TRANSLATION

Yüzlerce önlüklü öğrenci, Türkiye'nin saygın kurucusu Atatürk'ün okul bahçesindeki büstü önünde hergün çok çalışıp özverili olacaklarına dair söz verirken hep bir ağızdan "Ne mutlu Türküm diyene" ifadesini tekrarlıyorlar. Şevkle okunan bu ant sona erdiğinde öğrenciler, birinci vazifelerinin Türkiye'yi korumak olduğunu ifade eden bir hitabenin ve yine sınıf duvarında asılı olan ve ders kitaplarının ilk sayfasında yer alan milli marşın yer aldığı tablonun önünden geçerek sınıfa giriyorlar.

## EVALUATION

The original paragraph, starting with an inversion, has a stylistic nature. This is supported with the choice of words such as "pipe", "in unison" and "file into" and the number of adjectives used such as "golden", "revered", "daily" and "enthusiastic". Translating that descriptive paragraph is, thus, a hard job.

The translator seems to have grasped both the meaning and stylistic nature of the paragraph and to have tried to kept loyal to these. It may be said that he/she has followed a literal method as he/she has clearly exerted effort not to skip anything and took pains in choosing equivalents for these meticulously chosen expressions of the news writer. As a result, he/she has managed to create a parallel paragraph in Turkish with a clean, simple, vivid and pleasantly- read language like that of the original.

EXAMPLE 5 (THE GUARDIAN, Greeks Plan to Buy Turkish Island, 02.04.2007)

**Where diplomacy and military might have failed, commerce could prevail if the self-proclaimed Lesbians manage to pull off the "conquest" peacefully.** "Any Greek would want to buy Turkish

territory,” the island’s prefect, Pavlos Voyiatzis told the mass-selling weekly Proto Thema. “Especially territory of historic importance.”

## TRANSLATION

Diplomasi ve askeri gücün yapamadığını Midillililer barışçı yollardan yapabilirler. Midilli Kaymakamı Pavlos Voyiatzis, haftalık Proto Thema gazetesine yaptığı açıklamada, “Her Yunan Türk toprağı almak ister. Özellikle tarihi değeri olan bir toprağı” dedi.

## EVALUATION

Especially the first sentence of the original paragraph has a stylistic nature with the well-established expression “where ...might have failed”, the use of the adjective “self-proclaimed” and the use of the word “conquest” in quotation marks. The paragraph continues with the use of daily speech, which adds to its stylistic character.

Clearly applying a deletion method, the translator has shortened, summarized and simplified these stylistic characters for the sake of giving the message as clear as possible. The deletion of the parts “commerce could prevail” and “pull of the conquest” are the most notable examples.

This decision, on the other hand, has taken the translation away from the original’s fluent, lively style. This has harmed the readability of the translation.

EXAMPLE 6 (THE NEW YORK TIMES, 300.000 Protest Islamic Hue of Turkish System, 14.04.2007)

A 65-year-old woman who had come from Izmir, a town in western Turkey, **said she was annoyed at what she saw as the new state laxness allowing state workers to take time off for prayer on**

**Fridays. “I go to the post office on Friday, and I can’t see a single person at their desk,” she said, sounding indignant. A small thing had caught Ms. Sahin’s attention. A government official had recently suggested increasing the number of letters in the Turkish alphabet to 32 to allow the language to better accommodate Arabic sounds. “I’ve done pretty well with 29 so far,” she said, smiling.**

#### TRANSLATION

İzmir'den gelen 65 yaşındaki bir bayan, **kamu çalışanlarının cumaları namaz izni almalarına olanak sağlayan yeni devlet gevşekliğine sinirlendiğini söyledi ve "Cumaları postaneye gidiyorum ve masasına oturan tek bir kişi bile göremiyorum" dedi. Bayan Şahin'in dikkatini küçük bir şey çekmiş.** Bir hükümet yetkilisi kısa bir süre önce Türk alfabesindeki harflerin sayısının Arapça seslere daha iyi uyması için 32'ye yükseltilmesini önermiş. **Şahin gülererek "Şimdiye kadar 29 harfle gayet iyi idare ettim" dedi.**

#### EVALUATION

The news item above derives its stylistic nature from the reporting sentences, narrative language and authentic expressions like “state laxness”. The translator seems to have applied a literal method for his/her translation. “Devlet gevşekliği” in exchange for “state laxness” is the most obvious example to that method. The same method is also valid for the sentences in quotation marks. With the same approach, the sentence “I’ve done pretty well with 29 so far” has been translated as ““Şimdiye kadar 29 harfle gayet iyi idare ettim”, whereas the translator may have preferred something like “29 harf neyimize yetmiyor.”

Another point which harms the readability of the translation is the inconsistency in the use of tenses in the target version. As a direct result

of literal translation, in sentences formed with Simple Past Tense, he/she has used “-dı/di,” whereas with Past Perfect Tense he/she has used “-miş/miş.” Unlike English, this sounds inconsistent in Turkish and harms the fluency, thus the readability of the sentence.

EXAMPLE 7 (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Turkish Military Issues Threat As Voting is Derailed, 28.04.2007)

**But in the paradox of modern Turkey, it has been political leaders like Mr. Gul and Mr. Erdogan, both important thinkers in Turkey’s political Islam movements of the 1990s, who have proved most adept at modernizing the state.**

TRANSLATION

**Ancak her ikisi de, Türkiye'nin 1990'lardaki İslam hareketinin önemli teorisyenlerinden olan Gül ve Erdoğan gibi siyasi liderlerin devleti modernleştirmede becerikli olduklarını kanıtlamaları da modern Türkiye'nin paradokslarından biri.**

EVALUATION

The noun clause highlighting the names of Gul and Erdogan as “successful leaders to modernize the state, as a paradox gives the original sentence its stylistic nature. The translator is expected to create the same sentence stress in Turkish highlighting the names of Gul and Erdoğan; however the translation is far from providing it. He/she seems to have sacrificed this stylistic character for the sake of giving the meaning without skipping anything and rendering the meaning exactly. In that respect, he/she has applied a literal translation method. The translator might have preferred something like “Ancak Türkiye'nin yaşadığı paradokslardan biri şudur: devleti modernleştirmede en becerikli olduklarını kanıtlayan siyasi

liderler, Türkiye'nin 1990'lardaki İslam hareketinin önemli teorisyenlerinden olan Gül ve Erdoğan'dır." to create a similar stress.

EXAMPLE 8 (THE NEW YORK TIMES, Turkish Military Issues Threat As Voting is Derailed, 28.04.2007)

Before the vote on Friday morning in the elegant stone Parliament building here, Mr. Gul's party was **trying hard to win over the opposition. Small pots of rice pudding, Ataturk Forest Farm ice cream and more than 100 pounds of Turkish delight were handed out. The treats circulated, but the two camps remained separate: nearly half of the inner chamber's seats were empty, their secular occupants in a back room smoking, sipping tea and watching the proceedings on a flat-screen television.**

TRANSLATION

Dün sabahki oylamadan önce buradaki zarif parlamento binasında Gül'ün partisi muhalefeti **kazanmak için uğraşıyordu. Sütlaç, Atatürk Orman Çiftliği dondurması ve Türk lokumu dağıtıldı. İkramlar dağıtılırken iki taraf ayrı durmaya devam etti. Neredeyse yarısı boş olan sandalyelerin laik sahipleri kuliste sigara, çay içeriyor ve gelişmeleri ekrandan seyrediyordu.**

EVALUATION

The paragraph gives a very active and vivid description of the atmosphere of the parliament just before the voting. The translation is, thus, expected to carry the same stylistic character. The use of cultural elements such as rice pudding and Turkish delight is also notable in the paragraph in terms of stylistics. The Turkish version has been produced with a literal approach, which is understood clearly from the decisions of the translator. "Türk lokumu" instead of "lokum" only in exchange for "Turkish delight" –

which is a clear example of target-oriented translation as well - and “laik sahipleri” in exchange for “secular occupants” are examples to this. On the other hand, the translator has managed to create a similar active description, especially thanks to his choice of the verb tense past continuous in general and use of conjunctions such as “-ken.” These decisions have certainly provided a readable translation

EXAMPLE 9 (THE SUNDAY TIMES, Headscarf War Threatens to Split Turkey, 06.05.2007)

Despite the **stark contrast** in Istanbul between places such as the **glitzy** Kanyon centre, where the wealthy shop at Harvey Nichols, and the poor suburb of Fatih where the mosque is the focus of attention, it is common to see **scantily clad** women **arm in arm** with those in headscarves and long coats.

#### TRANSLATION

İstanbul'da, zenginlerin mağazası Harvey Nichols'ın da bulunduğu gösterişli Kanyon ile Fatih gibi yoksul varoşlar arasındaki çarpıcı tezata rağmen, mini etekli kadınlarla kolkola yürüyen uzun pardesülü ve başörtülü kadınları da çok yaygın şekilde görebiliyorsunuz.

#### EVALUATION

The most important factor about the stylistics of that paragraph is the use of adjectives such as “stark”, “poor”, “glitzy”, “scantily clad” and expressions belonging to the common language such as “arm in arm” and “it is common to see.” In that respect, the translator has tried to create these factors in his/her translation with a literal method. He/she didn't skip any adjectives and used daily expression for “arm in arm” and “görebiliyorsunuz.”

EXAMPLE 10 (THE TIMES, Kurdish Rebels Blamed for Blast That Killed Six, 23.05.2007)

**As the blackened, bleeding bodies of the badly injured were carried from the scene, panicked survivors and the walking wounded pushed through the police cordons, tripping over stunned old men in red-stained vests sitting on the pavement. The explosion – at 6.45pm local time – happened in the middle of the rush hour in an area where many buses stop to pick up workers.**

TRANSLATION

**Kötü bir şekilde yaralanan kan içindeki vücutlar olay yerinden taşınılırken panik içindeki kurtulanlar ve diğer hafif yaralılar polis kordonlarıyla uzaklaştırılıyordu. Yerel saatle 18.45'te meydana gelen patlama çok sayıda otobüsün geçtiği bir alanda en kalabalık saatlerde oldu.**

EVALUATION

The paragraph not only describes the physical appearance of the crime scene and tells about the victims but also gives a picture of the chaos experienced. This is mainly done with adjectives such as “blackened”, “bleeding”, “stunned”, “red-stained” and the use of “as” as conjunction together with the use of participle. The paragraph makes the readers close their eyes and imagine the scene. As a result of the use of deletion method, the Turkish version, however, is a shortened, simplified one ignoring these stylistic characteristics of the original. It clearly lacks the narrative style and loses its readability.

## CHAPTER 5

### 5. CONCLUSION

This study is basically conducted on the main pillar of translation of news items from English to Turkish. Within this framework, linguistic difficulties encountered during this process and methods employed by translators against these difficulties are the main focus.

In this regard, after the introduction part in Chapter 1, the second chapter is devoted to “news” concept and the language/discourse of news. This is done deliberately since news, with its special characteristics in both structural and textual level, is a unique text type and its linguistic characteristics worth special attention. **Upon studying the characteristics of news language/discourse, it has been concluded that these sui generis characteristics of news language/discourse may pose difficulties for translators in that it is a very economical, intense language full of information.** Apart from that, it has a communicative purpose and the language is also shaped accordingly. The fact that translators should take all these into consideration during translation process, in fact, explains the roots of difficulties in translating news. These characteristics and the efforts of professional news translators to create a parallel text in the target language hint about the methods to be employed so as to deal with these difficulties. An analysis of the characteristics of news language/discourse carried out in this chapter is directly linked to the main chapter of this thesis, Chapter 4, in that these characteristics form one of the criteria in both determining the difficulties in the source text and evaluating the target text, as well as the methods employed to cope with these difficulties.

In Chapter 3 of this study, translation of news items is scrutinized in the light of translation studies. The information gathered from the previous chapter on the nature of news and its linguistic characters has helped us

to observe the place of news translation in translation studies. **Although there isn't any theory upon the translation of news items it has been revealed after a closer look into translation theories that news translation shares a lot of common points and thus can be evaluated under functionalist and target-oriented approaches.** As for functionalist approach, the textual and linguistic characteristics of news items have been reviewed once more and the process of news translation has been studied under the umbrella of "Text Types Theory." **It has been concluded that news may be classified under more than one text types: informative and communicative. Its translation will, of course, be made accordingly.** Later, "Translational Action Theory" and "Skopos Theory", which are linked closely, have been elaborated on with special emphasis on translation process according to these two theories. Within this framework, news translation has been evaluated under these theories and **it has been concluded that not only the concept "skopos" itself but also the institutional aspects of the translation process such as client, initiator, and commissioner overlap. As for target-oriented approach, the concept of "target audience" and "translation policy" – news policy or editorial policy in the case of news translation- is what brings news translation and this theory together.** The importance of readability and writing for the target reader during both penning and translating news is very important. A new concept in news translation, given the name of "transediting" – a combination of translation and editing to explain the process of news translation – has also been very briefly touched upon in this chapter to refer to recent works in the special field of news translation. This chapter is especially important for the main chapter of this thesis. The theoretical perspective has helped to understand most of the decisions of the translators to employ certain methods for certain difficulties. We have noticed that especially "Skopos Theory" and "Target-oriented Approach" are the two main perspectives in translating news items and the principles put forward by these two theoretical works affect the translators' decisions significantly.

In Chapter 4, the main chapter of this study, sample news texts chosen randomly are examined in search of the difficulties encountered during the translation process and their translations have been studied so as to see which methods have been used to cope with these difficulties. Difficulties encountered within the scope of this study have fallen into four categories: lexical difficulties, syntactic difficulties, semantic difficulties and stylistic difficulties. At this point, what we are interested in is the methods used against these difficulties.

These methods are as follows according to the above-mentioned groups of difficulties:

**Lexical Difficulties:** Out of ten examples, word-for-word translation method has been used 5 times, paraphrasing method has been used 3 times, and borrowing and deletion methods are both used once.

In other words, in terms of lexical difficulties, translators have preferred word-for-word method at a rate of 50%, paraphrasing method at a rate of 30%, borrowing method at a rate of 10% and deletion method at a rate of 10%.

**Syntactic Difficulties:** Out of ten examples, re-organisation method has been used 9 times and transposition method has been used once.

In other words, in terms of syntactic difficulties, translators have preferred re-organisation method at a rate of 90% and transposition method at a rate of 10%.

**Semantic Difficulties:** Out of ten examples, paraphrasing method has been used 5 times, literal translation and deletion method have each been used 2 times, and equivalence method has been used once.

In other words, in terms of semantic difficulties, translators have preferred paraphrasing method 50%, literal translation method 20%, deletion method 20% and equivalence method 10%.

**Stylistic Difficulties:** Out of ten examples, deletion method has been used 5 times and literal translation method has been used 5 times.

In other words, in terms of stylistic difficulties, translators have preferred deletion method at a rate of 50% and literal translation method at a rate of 50%.

A point should be made clear about the classification above that in light of Newmark's explanation, "word-for-word translation" and "literal translation" have been used to refer to different methods (1988: 45-46). "Word-for word translation" has been preferred for the lexical level as it proposes a direct rendering to the target language and "literal translation" has been used for semantic, syntactic and stylistic levels which focus on the sentence or a group of sentences because the term "literal translation" also necessitates a change in the sentence structure in line with the characteristics of target language.

Without these groupings, the overall results and statistics are as follows:

Out of 40 examples, re-organisation method has been used the most, with 9 times. The second most-preferred term is paraphrasing with 8 times. After them, literal translation and deletion methods have been preferred, with 7 times for each. It has been followed by the word-for-word method with 5 times and other methods – borrowing, transposition and equivalence – come later, with 1 usage for each.

But if the word-for-word and translation methods are grouped together, the ranking will change. Literal translation or word for word method will be ranked the first with 12 usages.

In qualitative aspect, characteristics of news language/discourse elaborated in Chapter 2 and general theories of translation touched upon in Chapter 3 are the criteria. The examples in Chapter 4 have been evaluated under these criteria as well.

As far as characteristics such as spoken language, tight writing, shorter sentences, accuracy, clarity, completeness and interest are concerned, it has been found that functionality and readability are the most important ones for all categories. For lexical and semantic difficulties, objectivity and accuracy are also of key importance. Moreover, we can certainly say that the methods to be employed in translating the news items are mostly chosen according to the general characteristics of news language/discourse. For instance, as for syntactic difficulties, the main goal for brevity or shorter sentences leads the translators to employ re-organisation method. As for lexical and semantic difficulties, aiming at accuracy and clarity, the translators employ paraphrasing method.

When the difficulties encountered and methods used are evaluated under the general theories of translation, it is possible to say that especially in lexical and semantic levels, some ideological factors and the decisions to be taken accordingly are shaped according to Skopos theory. As the translations in the examples have been performed by a state institution affiliated with the Office of the Prime Minister for the other state institutions mainly, some ideological expressions have been euphemised or deleted. Target-oriented approach has been the focus in case of “back-translation” especially in translating cultural elements.

However, looking at the examples we can say that the two theories are not used consistently. There are some examples in which even in the same sentence, one decision is in line with one of these theories whereas the other is completely against it.

Furthermore, as for methods used for each category of difficulties, a point is highly notable. Looking at the rates, we can say that for all the categories the distribution of methods applied does not seem balanced. Especially for syntactic and stylistic difficulties, the number of methods used is clearly limited. Only two methods are preferred in both categories. For instance, in the category of syntactic difficulties, re-organisation method has been used 9 times in 10 examples whereas transposition method has been used only once, which does not seem well-proportioned. The other categories have both four methods, the distribution of which is not that balanced as well. In the category of lexical difficulties only one method, word-for-word method has a rate of 50%. The same rate is valid for the category of semantic difficulties for paraphrasing method.

Limited number of methods in each category of difficulties and their imbalanced rates reveal that the translations are not made in a systematic, methodological way. Excessive use of word-for-word, literal translation and deletion methods is evidence to this as these methods, sometimes necessarily, create losses in translation. Maybe we can also say that the excessive use of these methods hints that the translations are not made painstakingly. On this comment, on the other hand, we must also remember the time and speed factor in translating news items.

In conclusion, the need to employ a method to deal with the difficulties posed by news items during their translation from English to Turkish reveals that this special field of translation deserves special attention in terms of translation studies.

In this respect, inspired by the studies carried out in order to prepare this study, it is recommended that further studies should be carried out focusing on the place of news translation in both translation studies and practices and the ideological aspects in translating news items.

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