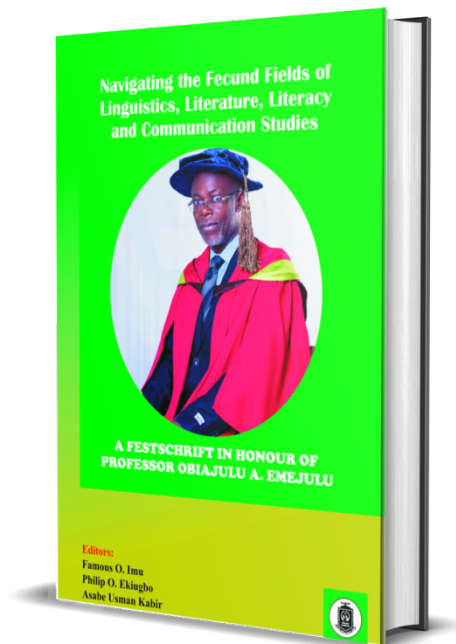


Navigating the Fecund Fields of Linguistics, Literature, Literacy and Communication Studies: A Festschrift in Honour of Professor Obiajulu A. Emejulu



Editors:

Famous O. Imu, Philip O. Ekiugbo and Asabe Usman Kabir

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Chapter Eleven
Enhancing Maternal Health Communication through Terminologies
Development: A Case Study of Igbo

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Abstract: Translations are used as a feeder to improve the vocabulary stock of languages. The present work is about developing language terminologies relating to childbirth, pregnancy and the mother's health. It is an attempt at bridging the gap in health communication like the Igbo patient-doctor relationship in medical diagnosis and care. This work hinges on the social reform theory for language preservation and documentation. It is a descriptive study that used a selected number of experts in medicine, linguistics, translation, health workers and some patients in focused group bombardment sessions to translate selected medical terms in the sample. The results showed that Igbo has the capacity to grow and keep abreast with terms in medical science. There are many ways of vocabulary enrichment and growth in the Igbo language within the language itself to deal with such challenges. The recommendation is the replication and expansion of the study on a wider scale and for the results to be popularized by the mass and social media.

Nchịkọta: Isi okwu Ederede nke a gbasara mmepụta mkpụrụokwu ntugharị okwu gbasara ahụike oge ịmụ nwa, ime, na ahụike nne site n'asụsụ Bekee banye n'asụsụ Igbo na - ime ka ndị mmadụ mara okwu ndị ahụ nke ga-egosi ka ntugharị si baa uru ma dịkwa mkpa n'asụsụ. Ọ gosipụtara nsogbu dị icheiche a na-enwe n'orụ ntugharị ma nyekwa ntuziaka ka a ga-esi emerị nsogbu ndị ahụ. Ọ gakwara n'ihu gosi ntugharị okwu ole na ole ndị ekpọkọbara maka igosi ka ga-eji na-eme ụdị ntugharị a. Edemede a na-egosi na asụsụ Igbo nwere ụzọ mmụba okwu buru ibu ma dị ire iji eso okwu ahụike ọbụla ga-esi n'asụsụ Bekee pụta gbasara ahụike. A na-arịọ ka ndị mgbasaa akụkọ soro na-agbasaa mkpebi ọrụ dị ka nke a.

Introduction

Translation is the act of rendering works: literary, scientific or technical from one language into another. It is as old as the writing culture. Translation is concerned with

only works that are written. Interpretation is similar to the act of translation but it is concerned with only the spoken or oral discourse. Translation and interpretation are the same but differ only in so far as their text modes are concerned. While one deals with the oral mode of communication, the other is concerned with the scholastic language skill mode. The acts of translation and interpretation dictate two basic qualities: bilingualism and a thorough knowledge of the texts involved. A translator or an interpreter must know the source as well as the target languages. This knowledge must be in-depth. Inadequate knowledge of either of the languages would hamper the job of translation.

Similarly, the translator or interpreter must be conversant with the general, if not, the specific area of knowledge from which the translation text is drawn. This knowledge is very necessary as he must understand the text properly before an effective translation can be achieved. Unfortunately, it has been observed that it is not all bilinguals that can translate or interpret well. So bilingualism does not confer automatic translation ability on individuals. This is because the act of translation requires other deep and specialized skills beyond bilingualism. In addition to bilingualism, one should know the cultural base of the text, how the source and target languages are conventionally used and the necessary linguistic terminologies or meta-language for such an arduous task in order to translate well from one language to another. This is especially so in medical science translation.

Translation can be executed by man or by machine and was previously mainly done by human manual activity. Man has always tackled the tedious/arduous task of translation by diligently scribbling his work with pen and paper. With technological improvements, many attempts have been made and are still being made especially in the developed worlds of America, Britain, China and Japan to use machines for the translation of natural languages. The description of the nature, function and shortcomings of the first translating machine has been very well reported by Kay(1974:220), who stated:

The first machine-translation system to be put into full-scale operation was installed in 1964 at the Foreign Technology Division of the United States Air Force, where it remained in daily operation until 1970. It was a very ingenious machine called the Mark II translator and it was one of the most interesting products of the early period of work on machine translation. Unfortunately, its ingenuity cannot be counted [as] sufficient to repay its prodigious cost. A study by Artha D. Little, Inc. found its translations time-consuming,

expensive, and of poor graphic quality; furthermore, they were not very accurate, even after human editing.

Another interesting translating machine was the “Georgetown program” produced by Leon Doslect at the University of Georgetown. The product was delivered as an operational system to translate Russian materials into English to the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) in Ispra, Northern *Italy*. The system was designed for use on a standard, general-purpose computer, the IBM 7090. The logical capabilities of the machine surpassed those of the Mark II translator, though the enhancement is not always in the quality of the resulting translation.

The output of the automatic translation system has been very poor. It has so many shortcomings. It is very expensive, takes a long time, is imperfect and usually of poor graphic quality. The manual translators worked at the rate of about 450 words per hour, whereas the editors working on machine translation worked at the rate of about 400 words per hour. Machine translations are free and virtually instant when available though not free in economic terms. This implies that man would continue to do most of his translations manually until when an efficient machine translator could be produced. An efficient machine translator should be linguistically sophisticated, of high speed and perfect. There is hope that man's rising scientific and technical ingenuity will help him to produce such an automatic translation system with the current improvements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) - cheaper and easier than before. But until then most translations would be produced by human translators with revisions. The problems we are to consider are those that confront the manual translators in their task of translating texts from one language to another. Low-resource languages of which Igbo is one lack the quantum of necessary annotated texts, raw speech data, expertise, funding, infrastructure and active participation of the language speakers needed for the language to function properly as machine translation-compliant language. This work is about developing a required dataset for the language in the area of childbirth, pregnancy and mother welfare and health.

Health Communication

Health communication generally refers to the entire mechanism of science and arts of using language or communication to care for the health and well-being of life of man and other living things on earth individually or collectively. Health is an important part of our creative commons not equally distributed among men or nations but

necessary everywhere for good living. Health communication which could come in written, verbal or signed form is used to empower, influence and motivate people to take proactive actions about their health and make healthier choices or decisions for their own sake and the sake of others. The health tips which exist in different forms in different cultures and languages of the world are hatched in today's global village easily through the internet and via translations as meanings are not the same everywhere. Translation is a necessary linguistic tool that is used to share this creative commonality among men, populations and places. Health consumers need the information as do the medical practitioners. Health communication is used to bring the sellers and the current as well as future buyers of health information together for their common good. Health communication brings about a confluence of many professionals – the mass communicators, the linguists, bilinguals, health providers, promoters and environmental crusaders to work for a common interest.

Popularization

Popularization generally refers to the act of creating extensive awareness about an event, person or phenomenon. It has variously been seen as the act of making something attractive to a wider audience or the general public; the act of making a lot of people know about something and enjoy it; the act of making something known and understood by ordinary people etc. Therefore, medical science knowledge popularization refers to the unbundling of medical science to make its information available to the ordinary person in society, spread or disseminate scientific knowledge, foster a scientific way of thinking among the people and generally demystify the myth shrouding the profession. It is the act of dishoarding medical terms so that the general public can understand their usage, meaning and significance for their good and to ease the work of the medical professionals. It means bringing the health officers, patients and the public to the same page.

This could be achieved by creating wider health improvement about childbirth, pregnancy and mother welfare generally and by reducing the knowledge gap between the industry and the people. In orthopaedics, for instance, the Igbo people seem to be more comfortable with their orthodox traditional approach with all its hidden cum heathen nature than in the transparent scientific medical procedure. They commonly believe that fracture and dislocation are handled more perfectly and successfully by the native traditional orthopaedic personnel than by orthodox medicine in folk wisdom.

Translation is an active step in the popularization of knowledge. The result of

translation like the one below could be popularized through seminars, training and retraining of health officers, nurses and target audience which could be incorporated into the pregnant women's clinic service during the ante-natal care period. The affected population could be trained on the use of the translated terms for current and future use. The doctors, nurses, attendants and patients could use that opportunity to acquire competence in the use of the Igbo translations to break communication barriers between them and the patients. The patients are likely to share their new knowledge with an average of three persons each and gradually increase the reach of the new terms. This could be understood as a chain spread of the terms and indirectly the language. The popularization could also be by the mass media – radio and television. The translation script could be aired in a public interest or health or maternity programme on radio, television or even YouTube. Appropriately packaged, such a public enlightenment programme attracts local and international interests and awards in health promotion. It could also be incorporated into the mainstream content of training schemes for health professionals and advocates in their institutions.

Review of Relevant Literature

Translation Problems

Translation is assumed to be an easy option out of the great problem of reducing the abundant and available texts in various aspects of knowledge in the developed languages of the First or Second World to other languages like Nigerian languages, and probably, dialects but it is not. The act of effective translation is usually a very difficult and challenging one. Rendering works existent in one language into another is full of challenges and problems. It involves problems at various levels of linguistic analysis. North (1991, pages 158 -160) identified four translation problems, which he labeled: pragmatic, cultural, linguistic and textual. The translation process as Vinay and Darbelnet opined is made up of the loan, the layer, the literal translation, transposition and modulation, as well as equivalence and adaptation. There are also problems of ambiguity and problems that arise from structural and lexical differences between languages.

We also have problems with multiword units like in idioms and other specialized usages. Idioms are expressions whose meaning can be said to be “non-compositionality” – the meaning cannot be completely understood from the component parts. Translation also has semantic, syntactic as well as phonological problems and lexical and structural mismatches. Lexical and structural mismatches

show differences in how languages seem to classify the world, what concepts they choose to express by single words, and which they choose not to lexicalize. The semantic and syntactic are more obvious in scientific and technological translation. It is in literary texts that we encounter phonological problems. There are also grave cultural problems encountered in translations. We also have the problem of lexical holes where one language has to use a phrase to express what another language expresses in a single word. To tackle all these problems the translator has to evolve a workable strategy that will enable him or her to accomplish the work at hand. A strategy of translation involves the basic tasks of choosing the foreign text to be translated and developing a method to translate it.

Semantic Problems

The semantic problems in translation are wide and varied. It consists mainly of the difficulty of finding appropriate words in the target language to express concepts, ideas and meanings precisely as it was in the source language in a target language. It boils down to the problem of finding appropriate linguistic terminologies or meta-language for translating texts, for example, from a language, say English into Igbo or other languages. This is mainly what the whole of technical translation is all about. It is technical by nature and configuration. The contents are usually far from the ordinary and the sources of the words or lexis are morphologically complex. Non-specialists hardly understand the terms and their imports.

The primary approach or principle used to resolve this problem is to draw from the existing stock of vocabulary of scientific and technical terminologies in the meta-language of the given target language where such exists. As a result of this, it is very necessary that the person attempting the translation of a scientific or technical text from say English to Igbo must know virtually all the entries in that section of the meta-language text or how to look it up easily. The meta-language text is a glossary of a sort. The situation on the ground is often that the meta-languages available in a language like Igbo are grossly inadequate to face the current explosion of terms in science and technology in today's world. The work on meta-language is best sponsored by the government, wealthy and informed individuals, groups or NGOs and continuously in the various areas of human endeavour, interest, specialization and preoccupation. Leaving it in the hands of teachers or language associations would result in the creation of limited “Esperanto” that would hardly circulate or brought to the attention of a wide audience that needs it. Such efforts give birth to pockets of unpopular end-products and complicate rather than solve them.

In situations where certain things or concepts are not available in the meta-language, the adoption of the principle of lexical coinage or derivation is the most appropriate solution to be adopted. A good translator should have a sound linguistic background through training, exposure or upbringing. He should know how new words are formed in the target language. If he knows that, he should in cases like the above be able to apply his ingenuity to coin a good name for the thing or concept that has no name in the meta-language. On the other hand, he could simply derive it by a process generally called nativization or adaptation as in the word table below for Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba.

Hausa	-	Tebura
Igbo	-	Tebulu
Yoruba	-	Tabili

It could be easily observed that the same concept of “table” in English was realized differently in the three Nigerian languages supposedly as it sounds to them in their native language ears. Nativization or adaptation makes the idea being translated feel natural and easily understood.

Still, another principle for dealing with semantic problems is the principle of lexical expansion. Here one extends the meaning of an available concept, name or thing to capture meanings in new ideas or concepts. For instance, the concept of gender is not obvious in the Igbo language but there are the concepts of male and female. To capture the new concepts the Igbo speakers had to extend the names for “male or female” to capture the new concepts of masculine and feminine genders. Thus “oke”(male) is used to capture the masculine gender while “nwunye” which was the word for female is used to express the feminine gender. Related concepts can be expressed by one term in translation which does not bring confusion or misunderstanding.

Another principle we could use to tackle a semantic problem is the principle of explication. Sometimes, it is better to explain the concept rather than insist on having a standard meta-language entry for it or derive or coin a new one and whichever one makes more sense to the native speaker and is clear should be used. This principle could be combined with the principle of retention. Here, one retains the concept (usually within inverted commas) and explains it in parenthesis. This is a very workable principle as the words involved are easily recognized and understood. For example:

“Post Office”

Igbo: Post Ofiisi - ụlọ nzipu na nnata akwụkwọ ozi

Yoruba: Poosi Ofiisi – ile ifiwe ranse

Hausa: Posta - Gidan wasiku

Some concepts are culture-bound and not understood across cultural borders. In translation, such concepts pose formidable barriers more so as our translations are hardly meaningful or acceptable until they fit into the cultural milieu of our target language. A Nigerian who translated an English tale for instance and retained the English trickster's name “fox” would not convince his audience that he knows their (the African) tradition or way of life. This is because the “fox” in English tales is in most African tales the tortoise. So, in this case, the principle of substitution or equivalence would be sufficient. Here, we look for a concept that has an equivalent meaning to the word used in the source language and substitute the former with the latter. In the current issue, the task is that of rendering texts of a scientific nature into Igbo. In this task, we should exploit the whole available lexical stock through comparative studies and dialectology to find what is available in the culture and use the same instead of a borrowed term. For this purpose, we advocate the use of meta-language with glossaries. The glossaries should not only explain the entries but also add information about their source and former usage where necessary.

Syntactic Problems

The syntactic problems are problems of how to handle word order in translation. The question is whether we should follow the syntactic order or structure of the source language or that of the target language. As in other aspects of translation, emphasis should be on the target language. The translator's task is usually that of rendering the original text into a reliable and replica form in the target language. As a result of this, the translator should not tinker with the syntactic structure of the target language. Imposition of the structure of the source language on the target language is anathema and not recommended. The syntactic order of every language is their inheritance and usually abided with at all times the language is spoken or written. There is no universal syntactic order of words in languages though there could be resemblances hence the use of such labels as “SOV”, “SVO”, “VSO”, “VOS”, “OVS”, “OSV”, and unfixed. The word order and position of elements might differ. When such happens the translator should stick to the order in the target language. In the process of rendering materials from one language into another, we run into a number of problems. Sometimes we arrive at unfamiliar constructions and feel that people

might not understand our constructions or the solutions we arrive at could be confusing. When we run into such trouble we could use the principle of explication to accomplish our task. Another potent principle here is that of derivation where it is the problem of rendering two or more words in the source language into the target language.

The next major translation problem in syntax is that of inversions. Problems of inversions are common and sometimes very challenging. However, the cases of inversions are not very common in science and technical translations but whenever they present themselves we should approach them with maturity. We should first translate the structure into the normal word order of the target language and thereafter invert where necessary. Otherwise, a literal translation of the inverted structures will give us almost the same structure as we have in the source language.

Another important syntactic structure that poses a problem in translation is the complex sentence. Complex sentences are generally very difficult to translate whole and unbroken. As a result of this, it is advisable to split such a structure into simpler forms for effective translation to be achieved. The construction of complex sentences involves complex linguistic processes that would be difficult to carry over from one language to another. Thinking in language is language specific or so it appears. So, it would be futile to attempt thinking in two languages at a time as attempts at whole translation of complex sentences would imply.

Translators require some sensitization to the differences observable between two languages involved in translating sentence structure as well as idioms. According to Abiri (1981;49), “this kind of sensitization can be achieved through either the presentation or a demand for the discovery of equivalent expressions in the two languages.” He further added that “by thus fostering the students' awareness of the structural and idiomatic differences...the minimization or even complete elimination of cross-interference will be facilitated”. Baker (1992) suggests several options for tackling idiomatic translation like: translating an idiom of similar meaning and form, translating an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission and translation by compensation.

The principles of tackling the problems of translation

The principles are the approaches used to solve the problems of translation as they arise one after the other. They are regarded as the solutions people employ to overcome challenges encountered in the process of translation. Over the pages, we have been mentioning them alongside the problems they attempt to solve. Now we

need to give further explications of them. The major principles in this regard are the principles of explication, expansion, retention or derivation, Dynamic equivalence or substitution, the use of semantic extension and the use of standard technical terminology.

We use the principle of explication when we have difficulties in finding equivalents and have to create something but still have to take the context and audience into account. We can use this principle with parenthesis and footnotes. It helps readers to understand our individualistic and meanwhile unpopular usage.

The principle of expansion is used to give a thorough explanation or expand the scope of the concept we have at hand. Its use would save us the trouble of using footnotes to explain. We elaborate on what we mean to put across clearly to ensure that our readers would not misread or misunderstand our translation and that the source and target meanings are the same. Expansion is usually done within the main body of work. It has the shortcomings of making the translation disproportionately longer than the original and at times, the translator would end up adding extra information. This principle should be used with care and precision.

Another principle worthy of note is that of retention, derivation or nativization. We use it to overcome the trouble of the “untranslatable” in languages. Here we merely spell the word or group of words concerned in the phonological pattern of the target language hoping, however, that our readers would understand it as it is in the source language. The problem with this principle is that anybody who does not understand the source language cannot understand the translation which is the driving assumption.

The principle of dynamic equivalence is used to find a parallel structure for a word or construction in the source language in the target language. A typical example is the rendering of what the cock cries among languages. To Igbo it is “Okokorooko oo!” To Yoruba, it is “kukuruuuku” while it is “cock-a-doodle-do” to English and “Cocorico” to French. The various understandings are equivalents. They stand for the same thing.

The principle of lexical coinage is used when one has to create or coin a name for a particular something, an idea or concept that has no name in the target language. This is necessary in technical translation as one would meet a lot of novel names and concepts and have to grapple with them. Coinage is a linguistic process of word formation that needs linguistic orientation for proper and successful use. Care should be taken to coin terms so that the end product would be what the people would like, accept, fit and use properly in the target language.

We use the principle of semantic extension or contraction when we have to make use of an already available term in the target language in a wider or restricted sense. This principle has the advantage of controlling or checking the entrance of new manufactured names into a language and controlling the vocabulary stock of the language to a manageable size. Otherwise, word manufacturing would continue endlessly without order.

Periphrasis or description is the roundabout way of explaining something. It is allowed in translation where it can make clearer the meaning of the text. It has been used successfully in the translation of international organizations like WHO, UNO, UNICEF et cetera.

Methodology

The method used for this study involved adopting a purposive sample of key items that have to do with concepts in pregnancy, childbirth, gynaecology and obstetrics. The items were collected from a group of Igbo medical doctors and midwives working in Enugu, Enugu state. The items were translated through a hands-on focused group work by a group comprising Igbo medical doctors with specialization in medicine and surgery, a linguist, a professional translator, competent language users and hospital in- and out-patients. The translation involved seeking Igbo translations or equivalents from other relevant consultants through WhatsApp messages and phone calls.

Data Presentation and Discussion

Medical terms are specialized terms and are generally difficult to translate by non-initiates of the discipline or related field. Medical doctors are hampered in the task of translating those terms for the patients and the general public interest because of their limited knowledge of the Igbo language. Ideal translation efforts in translating medical terms should involve the medical specialists, linguists and translators. The need for translating medical terms for doctors, patients and public attention is to ensure effective diagnosis, prescription, advice and guidance. Regrettably, as Oli, Nwaozuzu and Mbah (2013) note that "...when government agencies and health personnel discuss issues pertaining to health, the linguistic factors are rarely considered and where they are mentioned at all, no serious policies are made to back them up." They fail to realize that as in hands-washing, no one hand washes itself clean enough. Here, we will consider medical terms related to childbirth and pregnancy and their translations into Igbo:

English	Igbo
1. Contraction	Nsekọ (isekọ ahụ ọnụ)
2. Dilation	Ndosa (ihe mgbaze)
3. Ectopic pregnancy	Ime ebe otosighi (afọ ime inọ ebe o kwesighi)
4. Embryo	Okpukpu nwa (okpukpu na-aghọ nwa)
5. Fallopian tubes	Mpio akwa (oghere akwa si aga)
6. Forceps	Mkpa nwa (ihe e ji ekoputa ihe n'akpa nwa)
7. Full term	Oge afọ ime zuru ezu (oge zuru ezu nwa kwesiri inọ n'afọ)
8. Gestation	Oge afọ ime (ogologo oge nwa ji ebu n'afọ)
9. Jaundice	Anyaedo (orja na-eme ka anya nwa ọhuru na-acha edo edo)
10. Labia	Ire ọtụ (ihe na-adị ka ire n'ọtụ nwaanyị)
11. Meconium	Nsị izizi (nsị mbụ nwa na-anyuputa ma amusia ya)
12. Abortion	Ite ime (iwepu nwa ka nọ n'ime afọ nne ya)
13. Amniotic fluid	Mmiri nwa (mmiri na-adị n'ahụ nwaanyị dị ime)
14. Amniotic sac	Akpa mmiri nwa (akpa mmiri na-ado na ya n'afọ nwaanyị dị ime)
15. Antepartum haemorrhage	Qbara na-agba nwaanyị ma ọ mụchaa nwa (qbara na- aputaba nwaanyị n'ahụ mgbe ọ mụchara nwa)
16. Baxton Hick Contraction	Okpọ nwa n'afọ (ihe na-adị ka nwa ọ na-eti nne ya okpọ mgbe ọ nọ n'ime afọ)
17. Breaking of water	Mmiri igbawa (mmiri nwa igbawa igosi na ọ chọọla iputa site n'ime afọ nne ya)
18. Breech	Anọzighi (nwa anọghị otu okwesiri)
19. Caesarean section	Iwaputa nwa n'afọ (usoro ibuputa nwa n'afọ)
20. Perineum	agada (oghere nwaanyị)
21. Placenta	Oseta nwa (ihe jikoro nwa nọ n'afọ na akpa nwa nne ya)
22. Premature	Nwa akaghị aka (nwa amuru n'oge ya ezughi)
23. Stillbirth	Nwa inwu n'afọ (onodu nwa inwu n'ime afọ)
24. Umbilical cord	Eriri otubo (eriri jikoro nne na nwa)
25. Fontanelles	Opene isi (ihe na-eme umuaka ufodu n'isi ọ dika isi ha akaghị aka, ọ dikakwa ka ha si ebe ahụ ekuru ume ndu)

The majority of the above translations were achieved through descriptive/semantic and explicative strategies. Of the twenty-five items, only items (20) perineum and (25) fontanelles seemingly have ready Igbo equivalents. Their translations may still be contested in some quarters as they are not of common knowledge to all Igbo speakers due to dialect differences and depth of knowledge of the language. The concepts and meanings translated above are based on our considered opinion that the results are the most likely to be widely accepted not that they are the only ways to render the concepts. The results were arrived at through group discussion, consensus or majority opinion. The result showed that a lot of the items were translated through a combination of solution methods, brainstorming and the use of Igbo language meta-language reference documents. Published academic works were also found handy.

Conclusion

Perhaps but for the curse of Babel, perhaps, humanity would not have been besieged with the problems of trying to retrieve information stored away in the various codes we call languages in the magnitude we have it today. Worse still, technological devices which have helped out in most other affairs and concerns of man have not yielded a measurable, meaningful helping hand in translation such that translations would continue in their oldest and crudest forms, if not for eternity, then, for a very long time to come. We appreciate the efforts made and being made via artificial intelligence (AI) to increase the capacity to have automatic translations across borders. AI also has limitations in capturing the variety of contexts available in language and expressing emotions. Zhao (2022) opines that AI cannot simulate the “faithfulness, expressiveness, and elegance” of human translation in combination with social background and human culture.

The problems of translation cannot be dealt with conclusively once and for all, it would continue to be a continuous engagement in life for refinement, currency, modernization, etc. This is because languages live and translations would live and grow with the people. The complexity of the problem derives from the complexity of the text and the translator's ability. The principles enumerated above are potent enough to help but are no panacea in their own rights. Baker(1992:72-77) proposes four strategies for translating idioms and fixed expressions: using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, paraphrasing, and omission. The principal goal is to hold meaning constant.

However, as a contribution towards near-uniformity in translation as well as

effectiveness and proper understanding and utilization of the same we proffer some suggestions. Firstly, there should be an autonomous body of translators for the major Nigerian languages under full government or NGO sponsorship and attention. This body should work hand-in-hand with the language boards of the various languages in Nigeria to keep abreast with technical challenges with technical terms as they come. They should be fed with information on developments in all areas of their language as a matter of high priority. Secondly, the works and recommendations of such groups should be publicized through use continuous use in radios, televisions, newspapers, magazines and social media. They should be funded to float a journal and widely circulate same.

Thirdly, henceforward, metalanguage texts of the major languages should contain glossaries to explain the entries therein and give further necessary user information. This is especially so because most of the entries in the existing metalanguage texts are hardly meaningful or understandable except by the few scholars who took part in their “manufacturing” and their products from colleges and universities. Fourthly, introduction to general linguistics as well as to the mechanics of writing the indigenous mother tongues should be incorporated as ancillary courses for all programmes in the university, colleges of education and polytechnics. Proper attention to translation would not only yield us a large number of medical terminologies/texts in the indigenous languages but also make life more meaningful and enjoyable for the general public. The adopted theory which pursues social change in cultures, institutions and lifestyles if effectively utilized would lead to gradual and general acceptance of the works.

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