

What is Translation?

► Terminology is very important

Source text (ST)
source language (SL)



Target text (TT)
target language (TL)

Roman Jakobson (1896–1982)

Intralingual Translation

Interlingual Translation

Intersemiotic Translation

TRANSLATION STUDIES

- “The name and nature of translation studies” by James S. Holmes (1924-1986), paper given at the translation section of the Third International Congress of Applied Linguistics, Copenhagen, 1972,
- “founding statement for the field” (Gentzler:92)

“[Holmes] realized as did few others that the 1950s had heralded a revolution in translation studies”
(van den Broeck, 1988,1994:3)

Holmes highlighted the existence of 3 main impediments to the further development of the discipline:

- scholars and researchers scattered in different fields and therefore lack of common channels of communication;
- “the seemingly trivial matter of the name for this field of research”; van den Broeck, 1988,1994:68)
- “lack of any general consensus as to the scope and structure of the discipline” (ibid.:71)

Holmes concludes that :

the most appropriate name for the discipline in English is TRANSLATION STUDIES (TS), for this term would avoid a lot of “confusion and misunderstanding”;

There should be communication channels able to reach all scholars in the field, from whatever background;

TS can be divided into 2 main research areas:

‘PURE’

‘APPLIED’

Pure TS has **2 main goals** (descriptive and theoretical):

1. “to describe the phenomena of translating and translation(s) as they manifest themselves in the world of experience” (**Descriptive Translation Studies, DTS**)
2. “to establish general principles by means of which these phenomena can be explained and predicted.” (**Translation Theory, TTh**)

DESCRIPTIVE TS

DTS focuses on 3 areas of research:

- **PRODUCT** (synchronic; diachronic)
- **FUNCTION** (translation sociology or socio-translation studies)
- **PROCESS** (psychology of translation or psycho-translation studies)

The results of DTS research can then be applied to Tth to develop:

a general theory of translation (very ambitious)

partial theories restricted according to:

- Medium
- Area
- Rank
- Text type
- Time
- Problem

Applied TS

- «Applied» refers to:
- Translator training
- Translation aids
- Translation criticism

Holmes's map of TS

Figure 1 Holmes' conception of translation studies (from Toury 1991:181);

