

## **Translating Political Texts with and without the Defined Skopos: The Case of Iranian Translators**

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### **Abstract**

The aim of the present study was to investigate the importance of skopos in the translation of political texts from English into Persian. To do this, 30 Iranian translators were conveniently selected and equally divided into the in-house and freelance translators. They were asked to translate a translation test encompassing the 10 short political texts that were extracted from English news websites. The point was that the in-house translators were provided with the skopos and were informed of the intended audiences, whereas the freelancers were not given the skopos and were not aware of the intended readers. Davies' (2003) taxonomy was applied as a valuable criterion to discover translation strategies used by each group of the participants. Finally, the success of each group of the professional translators was determined according to Vermeer's (1989/2000) skopos theoretical model. The findings indicated that from Davies' translation strategies, the in-house translator employed the target text (TT) oriented strategies that led to very functional and the TT-oriented translations as well as their success in fulfilling the defined skopos. By contrast, the freelance translators applied the source text (ST) oriented strategies and made the translations that were oriented towards the ST. This resulted in their failure to accomplish the translation skopos. The independent samples t test was also applied to find out the difference between the in-house and freelance translators. According to the results, there was a significant difference between their performance and employment of translation strategies.

**Keywords:** Skopos Theory; Political Texts; Translation Strategies; Freelance Translators; In-house Translators

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Translation is an activity that provides the opportunity to know about the history and culture of other societies. Lederer (2003) argues that "translation is a process which attempts to establish equivalence between two texts expressed into different languages" (p. 3). Mardirosz (2014) believes that "translation is neither just an act or an

instance of translating nor just a product but a complex activity during which the translator transmits cultural and ideological messages as well" (p, 160). Translation can be used for global communication in today's world. According to Adler (2002), globalization is not a forthcoming but a reality in today's world, and intercultural communication is becoming a norm rather than exception. That is to say, translation aims at communicating because it is like a bridge between languages and cultures.

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Not only does translation have the significant effect on social and economic activities but also it plays the main role in political relations. Tahir-Gürçağlar (2003) states that "translation is political because, both as activity and product, it displays the process of negotiation among different agents" (p. 113). In political relations, translation is considered an essential tool to deal with asymmetrical cultural exchanges (Venuti, 1995). In spite of invisibility of the translation in the field of politics, it is an essential part of political relations (Davaninezhad, 2016). Here, the main decision on what texts should be translated from and into what languages is made by politicians (Schäffner & Bassnett, 2010).

A political text is regarded as one type of sensitive texts that poses serious challenges for translators. This is because, in contemporary conditions, "the political text is getting special meaning, acting as the tool for propaganda, and instrument of ideological struggle" (Gusman, 2015). In political translations, not only social but also cultural elements are important factors in international contacts (Palumbo, 2009). Gambier (as cited in Moindjie, 2006) emphasizes the role the translator plays in introducing foreign cultural values and producing aesthetic values. This does not make translation as a substitution but "cross-fertilization, resulting in the hybridity of cultures" (p. 1).

It is a difficult task to translate political texts from one language into another as well as to choose appropriate translation strategies on both micro and macro levels due to differences between languages and cultures. Thus, translators need to have a profound knowledge about both the source language (SL) and target language (TL), and have mastery over translation strategies and method to produce high-quality translations. By proposing a theoretical model, Vermeer (1989/2000) smoothed out such difficulties and enabled translators to cope with almost all types of sensitive texts, especially political ones. He implies that each translation has a *skopos* and that *skopos* is the prime principle that determines the process of any translation.

Under Vermeer's (1989/2000) *skopos* theoretical model, the present study aimed at investigating the way professional translators, who were divided into in-house and freelance translators, translate political texts from English into Persian based on the given task and intended audiences. Furthermore, Davies's (2003) translation strategies employed by the in-house and freelance translators to deal with political texts were determined. In order to achieve the objectives of the present study, the following questions were answered:

1. Which Davies's (2003) translation strategies, namely preservation, addition, omission, globalization, localization, transformation, and creation, were employed by the in-house translators in the translation of political items from English into Persian? What were the most/least used translation strategies?
2. Which Davies's (2003) translation strategies, namely preservation, addition, omission, globalization, localization, transformation, and creation, were employed by the freelance translators in the translation of political items from English into Persian? What were the most/least used translation strategies?
3. Which group of the translators, the in-house translators or the freelance translators, was more successful in fulfilling the defined *skopos* of the translation?

The results derived from the present study should be useful for translators when translating political items. It can help to devote their attention to the importance of the defined *skopos* before they choose the overall strategy for the whole text. This leads translators to make high-quality translations and produce the intended effect on the TL reader. Hence, the finding of the present study should theoretically and practically be ben-

official to newly translators, translation students, and translation teachers.

## REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

### Political Texts

The term *political text* is an ambiguous term that encompasses different types of text genres (Schäffner, 1997). Schäffner implies that the political text is one type of political discourse that may appear in different forms, such as within a country and between countries. Trosborg (1997) argues that "political texts are interactively negotiated in a supranational setting, for the overall purpose of achieving and reflecting consensus" (p. 145). Such texts, as Schäffner (2001) discusses, are quite culture-bound because they present many cultural-specific references to history, famous places or persons. Schäffner (2007) points to the importance of political translation and notes that translation scholars have devoted their attentions to this area of translation and considered specific aspects of political language, "individual political texts and/or genres, and the socio-political causes and effects of particular translation solutions" (p. 142).

Newmark (1991) devotes one chapter of his book *About Translation* to this important issue. Newmark implies that "the trouble with the translation of political language is that it is an abstraction (rather more than most translation) of an abstraction" (p. 146). In recent years, political translation is of great importance because of the emergence of new political terms and expressions that should be translated clearly and without losing their meaning (Al -Zu'bi, 2012). In other words, translators, as he mentions, should produce clear and appropriate translations "to remove the semantic barrier between the reader and the text" (p. 2).

### In-House vs. Freelance Translators

Translators can be divided into two types: in-house and freelance translators. In-house translators are those who work for specific companies as full-time employees and are paid a monthly salary. They have nothing to do with other activi-

ties related to translation. For example, they need not worry about new clients, customer relations management. Thus, they have less involvement in the translation activities. By contrast, freelance translators are self-employed translators. In this context, Granell (2015) states that "being a freelance translator also means taking on additional task" (p.18). Hence, the role of freelance translators should be regarded more important than in-house translators because they have to deal with additional tasks alongside the act of translating and cover all expenses, such as providing the necessary equipment for his office.

### Vermeer's Skopos Theoretical Model

Hans J. Vermeer (1989/2000) was the theorist who developed the concept of skopos theory. According to Nord (1997), skopos theory came up with the idea that each translation should be done to carry out the purpose of the TT in the TT's situation. One important advantage of the skopos theory is a new notion of the position of the ST for a translation, and based on this, it is necessary to work for "an increasing awareness of this, both among translators and also the general public" (Vermeer, p. 222). In this way, the translator as an expert, as Vermeer states, plays the main role in translation and should be asked to come for a given situation because such an individual knows "what it's all about;" so he can provide some helpful advice through his view. In this context, Munday (2001) discusses that "the translator is once again the key player in a process of intercultural communication and production of the *translatum*" (p. 80).

In skopos theory, source and target texts may be significantly different from each other and follow different directions "not only in the formulation and distribution of the content but also as regards the goals which are set for each, and in terms of which the arrangement of the content is in fact determined" (Vermeer, 1989/2000, p. 223). It goes without saying that both the ST and *translatum* may have the same skopos (function). In this way, this assumption that translation is a *trans-coding* is somehow rejected because "ac-

According to a uniform theory of translation a translation of this kind is also primarily oriented, methodologically, towards a target culture situation or situations" (p.223).

According to skopos theory, the first and most important rule for any translation is *the skopos rule* which refers to the fact that it is the skopos that determines a translational action (Vermeer, 1989/2000). He points to the importance of skopos rule and explains that each text is made on the basis of a given purpose and should help achieve this purpose. Moreover, the skopos rule reminds us that "one must translate, consciously and consistently, in accordance with some principle respecting the target text" (p. 228).

Skopos theory is not only a theoretical model but also a practical one that can be used by translators to cope with sensitive texts. Schjoldager (2008) implies that skopos theory pays special attention to pragmatic features of translation because it belongs to applied translation studies, one branch of translation theory. Furthermore, it also takes into account the concept of translation itself that refers to its place in the theoretical branch of translation studies as well. These features of skopos theory make it different from other models. That is why skopos theory is considered a valid framework for the present study.

### Davies's Taxonomy of Translation Strategies

In order to cope with political texts which encompass many political items that are deeply rooted in the SL culture, different types of taxonomies of translation strategies have been proposed by scholars in the field (see for example Molina & Albir, 2002; Aixela, 1996; and Baker, 1992). Davies (2003) presents a short but complete taxonomy that includes seven translation strategies. His taxonomy can be used by both translation students and trainee translators not only in theory but also in practice. Furthermore, Davies's translation strategies are useful tools for professional translators because they are not complicated. Such strategies provide translators with the opportunity to easily determine the overall strategy on macro level. That is why his tax-

onomy was used as a valid criterion for investigating translation strategies employed by the in-house and freelance translators to deal with political texts in the present study.

Davies's (2003, pp. 65-100) taxonomy includes the following translation strategies:

1. Preservation: when the translator is not able to find any close equivalent for the ST item in the target language. In this way, s/he decides "to maintain the source text term in the translation." For example, "America" to "أمريكا"
2. Addition: when the translator decides to preserve the ST item and provide it with an additional explanation. For instance, "Ayatollah Ali Khamenei" to "رهبر معظم انقلاب آیت الله علی خامنه ای"
3. Omission: in this case, the translator encounters with the problematic item and decides to delete it "so that no trace of it is found."
4. Globalization: the translator uses this strategy when he wants to replace "culture-specific references with ones which are more neutral or general, in the sense that they are accessible to audiences from a wider range of cultural background." For example, "Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General" to "ژنرال"
5. Localization: it is completely opposite to the previous strategy. Thus, the translator tries "to anchor a reference firmly in the culture of the target audience." For instance, "The Islamic State" to "داعش"
6. Transformation: the translator applies this strategy in cases where he decides to totally change the ST item. In another word, this strategy points to "alteration or distortion of the original." For instance, "the

Revolutionary Guards" to "سپاه پاسداران انقلاب اسلامی"

7. Creation: when the translator creates a new item in the TT because it is not presented in the ST. for example, "the martyrs" to "شهادت مدافع حرم"

## METHOD

### Participants

The participants of the study were 30 Iranian professional translators who were divided into the in-house and freelance translators. In-house translators were selected conveniently from those who worked for translation agencies in Tehran. It was tried to select translation agencies from the official website ([www.iacti/dafater\\_tarjome\\_tehran](http://www.iacti/dafater_tarjome_tehran)) that their managers accept to cooperate with the researcher. The simple method of selecting freelancers was through email because a list of Iranian freelance translators was available on the Internet ([www.moratjeman.org](http://www.moratjeman.org)). Thus, they were selected randomly from all parts of Iran. The criterion for the selection of participants was according to some basic requirements for admission translators that were listed by Samuelsson-Brown (2010, pp. 148-149) as follows:

1. Minimum age of 25 years
2. A first degree or postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject or a corresponding qualification accepted by the Council,
3. A minimum of five years full time or a corresponding period of part time experience in the field, and
4. Mastery over political translation as one of the main translation subject areas (this item is added by the researcher).

These characteristics ensured that all participants were skilled enough not only at translation theories but also at translation strategies.

### Materials

A translation test consisting of 10 short political texts was applied to fulfil the needs of the present

study. The 10 texts were selected conveniently from English news websites, namely, Reuters ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)), The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), and AP News ([apnews.com](http://apnews.com)). All texts encompassed different types of political items and covered the conflict between Iran and other countries, including the United State of America, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, that could pose serious challenges to the participants. The test was first validated by three university professors who had teaching experience in translation and by four who had experience in training translators. Their recommendations on the appropriateness of the content and length of the statements led to some corrections of some texts. Then, the reliability of the test was measured through the test-retest method. In this way, the test was given to 10 professional translators with the same characteristics of the sample of the study at different times with a two-week interval. The results of the two trials were correlated and the coefficient of correlation showed the reliability of the test ( $r = .784$ ). After that, the test was submitted to the participants for data collection.

### Procedure

The following procedure was established for data collection: the translation test was mailed to the in-house and freelance translators through email. All responses were received through the same procedure from the participants. The in-house translators were asked to translate the translation test after they were informed about the skopos and intended audiences who were identified on the basis of Resurrecció and Davies' (2007, p. 53) classification of readers. According to Resurrecció and Davies, there are five types of readers, including general reader, patient, student, Health professional, and researcher. Based on the defined skopos, the audiences for the in-house translators were general readers, who were usually informed of political news from the local media, such as Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and newspapers. Such texts need to be made to show the evil side of Iran's enemies in such a way that they exert strong influence on the audiences.

By contrast, the freelance translators were asked to translate the same texts with the difference that they were not informed of the target readers. The aim was to see whether they would ask the researcher about the intended readers and able to establish the skopos of the TT without knowing about the audiences. The participants were given 5 days to translate the translation test in their habitual working environment without the presence of the researcher. The reason was that they invest more time to produce high-quality translations and feel free when translating the translation task. This led not only to achieve the desired results but also to increase the validity of the study.

### Design and Analyses

The current study is descriptive and qualitative type of research. The researcher employed a descriptive model suggested by Holmes (1988) and developed by Toury (1995). According to Creswell (1994), descriptive method provide the opportunity for the researcher to gather the data of the present existing condition. The present study is also quantitative because a series of descriptive and inferential statistics was employed to analysis and present the data.

To analyze the collected data, Davies's (2003) taxonomy of translation strategies was employed to investigate the strategies applied by the participants to overcome political items included in the translation test. This led to determine the overall strategy of the in-house translators and freelancers on macro level. Under this model of analysis, the most/least used translation strategies employed by the participants were determined. The success of the in-house and freelance translators in establishing the skopos of the translation was

**Table 2.**

#### *Frequency and Percentage of the ST- and TT-Oriented Strategies Used by the In-House Translators*

ST-Oriented Strategies	<i>f</i>	%	TT-Oriented Strategies	<i>f</i>	%
Addition	2	86.0	Transformation	87	52.0
Preservation	7	14.0	Localization	54	32.0
			Omission	22	13.0
			Creation	4	2.0
Sum	9	100.0	Sum	167	100.0

concluded according to the Vermeer's (1989/2000) skopos theoretical model. The frequencies and percentages of the translation strategies used by the in-house and freelance translators were measured and indicated through tables. The three raters were asked to assess translations made by the participants based on the model of translation quality assessment proposed by Roostami and Khoshshima (2009). Furthermore, the independent sample *t* test was applied to test the hypothesis in order to find the difference of the in-house and freelance translators in their performance and employment of translation strategies.

### RESULTS

As Table 1 indicates, the total number of Davis's (2003) translation strategies employed by the in-house translators is 216. Furthermore, transformation ( $n = 87$ ) and creation ( $n = 4$ ) were the most/least used strategies by the in-house translators respectively.

**Table 1.**  
*Frequency and Percentage of the Strategies Used by the In-House Translators for Translating Political Texts*

Strategies Used by In-House Translators	<i>f</i>	%
Transformation	87	40.0
Localization	54	25.0
Addition	42	19.0
Omission	22	7.0
Preservation	7	5.0
Creation	4	3.0
Total	216	100.0

According to Table 2, the in-house translators employed the TT-oriented strategies ( $n = 167$ ) more than the ST-oriented ones ( $n = 49$ ).

As Table 3 shows, the total number of Davies's (2003) strategies used by the freelancers is 216 and the most/least used strategies were

preservation ( $n = 118$ ) and transformation ( $n = 8$ ) respectively.

**Table 3.**

*Frequency and Percentage of the Strategies Used by the Freelance Translators for Translating Political Texts*

Strategies Used by the Freelance Translators	<i>f</i>	%
Preservation	118	55.0
Globalization	42	19.0
Addition	31	14.0
Localization	17	8.0
Transformation	8	4.0
Total	216	100.0

Table 4 indicates that the freelancers employed the TT-oriented strategies ( $n = 67$ ) less than the

ST-oriented ones ( $n = 149$ ).

**Table 4.**

*Frequency and Percentage of the ST- and TT-Oriented Strategies Used by the Freelance Translators*

ST-Oriented Strategies	<i>f</i>	%	TT-Oriented Strategies	<i>f</i>	%
Preservation	118	79.0	Globalization	2	62.0
Addition	31	21.0	Localization	7	25.0
			Transformation	8	12.0
Sum	149	100.0	Sum	7	100.0

### Reliability Test

The reliability of all scores given by the three raters was checked before judging the hypothesis. Thus, the Interrater reliability test was computed. Table 5 illustrates the correlation coefficient among the raters.

**Table 5.**

*Summary of Intercorrelations of the Three Raters*

Raters	1	2	3
1. Rater 1 <i>r</i>	1	.619	.781
2. Rater 2 <i>r</i>	.619	1	.863
3. Rater 3 <i>r</i>	.781	.863	1

*Note.* *r* = estimate of the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. Correlation is significant at  $*p < .05$ , two-tailed.

Table 5 indicates an acceptable correlation and a strong relation among the three raters. That is to say, the agreement all raters reached is perfectly accurate. Moreover, the highest amount of correlation is between second and third raters ( $r = .863$ ), and the lowest is between first and second raters ( $r = .619$ ).

### Testing the Hypothesis

To provide a summary of variables, the descriptive statistic was applied. Table 5 shows descriptive statistics of the given scores to the performance of the in-house translators and freelancers.

**Table 6.**  
**Descriptive Statistics of the Scores of the In-House and Freelance Translators**

	<i>N</i>	Mean	<i>SD</i>	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
In-House Translators	15	17.2	1.56752	-0.251	0.4	.16453	1.6
Freelance Translators	15	15.93	.88371	.14224	0.4	-1.7825	1.6

According to Table 6, the mean score of the In-house translators ( $M = 17.2$ ) is higher than the

mean score of the freelance translators ( $M = 15.93$ ).

**Table 7.**  
**Summary of the Performance of the In-House and Freelance Translators**

Translation Score	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	<i>t</i> test for Equality of Means								
		<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>*p</i>	<i>MD</i>	<i>SD</i>	95% CI	
									<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>
Equal variances assumed	1.432	.228	4.1	28	.000	1.2	.6838	.6214	2.25	
										Equal variances not assumed

*Note.* CI= confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit. The sig value of Levene's test is significant at  $p < .05$ . Correlation is significant at  $*p < .05$ , two-tailed.

To test the hypothesis, the independent sample *t* test was conducted. The result of the test helped the researcher to find the difference of the in-house and freelance translators. To do so, first, the researcher checked the sig value of Levene's test for the equality of variance. Table 7 shows that the sig value of Levene's test was .228 which was higher than .05 ( $p > .05$ ). Thus, the assumption of homogeneity was observed. To see whether there was a significant difference between the in-house translators and freelancers, the  $*p$  value of the first line was checked. As the results denote, the  $*p$  value of this test was 0. which was lower than .05 ( $*p < .05$ ). Thus, the hypothesis was not accepted and the mean difference between the in-house translators and freelancers was significant ( $MD = 1.2$ , 95% CI

[.6214, 2.25]). That is to say, the in-house translators ( $M = 17.02$ ,  $SD = 1.56$ ) had better performance than the freelance translators ( $M = 15.93$ ,  $SD = .88$ ,  $t(28) = 4.1$ ,  $*p = .000$ , two-tailed).

## DISCUSSION

The first and second questions of the present study sought Davies's (2003) translation strategies the in-house and freelance translators employed for translating political items from English into Persian. The results indicate that a great majority of the freelance translators employed five out of seven Davies's (2003) translation strategies, including preservation, globalization, addition, localization, and transformation, to deal with political items. They used preservation and transformation as the most/least used strategies.

The freelancers also preferred to apply the ST-oriented strategies, namely preservation and addition, more than the TT-oriented ones, such as globalization, localization, and transformation, which led to ST orientation on macro level. In a sense, they made very ST-oriented translations by transferring the ST elements directly that caused them to stay very close to the ST. In this context Vermeer (1998/2000) implies that if the translator is not provided with the defined skopos of the translation, the overall strategy of him/her will often be ST-orientation. The translations the in-house translators produced were more understandable to specific audiences rather than to general readers because they translate most political items via Latin-based terms. These terms are less common in Persian language, for example "General Mohammad Baqeri" to "ژنرال محمد باقری". The useable and comprehensible translation for this item would be "سرلشگر محمد باقری".

A large number of in-house translators applied six out of seven Davies's (2003) translation strategies to overcome the 10 short political texts. This includes transformation, localization, addition, omission, preservation, and creation, of which transformation and creation were the most least used strategies by them. The overall strategy of the in-house translators on macro level was oriented towards the TT because they employed the TT-oriented strategies, namely transformation, localization, omission, and creation, more than the ST-oriented ones, for instance preservation and addition, which caused them to produce very functional TT-oriented translations that were completely comprehensive to the intended audiences.

In other words, all Latin-based items were translated through the TT-oriented strategies, such as transformation and localization, into less formal Persian terms to the extent that they exerted the intended influence on general readers. For example, using "گروه تروریستی داعش" for "the Islamic State". By contrast, in Jensen's (2009) study that was similar to the present study, the great majority of the participants employed the ST-oriented strategies in preference to the TT-

oriented ones, which led to ST orientation on macro level. It is rather to say, they liked to maintain the ST items and produced the ST-oriented translations. The results derived from another study done by Hansen (2010), whose work was different from the current study, indicate that both the ST- and TT- oriented strategies were of interest to the participants. In a sense, they were interested to employ a mixt strategy that encompassed both the ST and TT.

Unfortunately, most freelancers did not ask about the skopos of the translation and translated all political items as they preferred. This might be due to that they are independent translators who "have to cope with all translation activities alone" (Abdi, 2019, p. 340) and are seldom provided with the skopos of the translation. Surprisingly, a few of them were actually able to translate most of the political items the same as those translated by the in-house translators and establish the skopos that was intended for.

In general, the freelance translators were not successful in fulfilling the skopos of the translation and producing effective translations through the ST-oriented strategies. That is to say, they were not successful in fulfilling the skopos of the translation and producing effective translations through the ST-oriented strategies. In contrast to the freelancers, the in-house translators attempted to demonstrate the negative and evil sides of the ST items by using domestic terms that they were successful in doing this. In addition, such terms were made exactly based on the context they were intended for. These types of translations, according to politicians, are intended for *internal consumptions*. Thus, the last question of the present study that investigated the success of each group of translators in accomplishing the defined skopos of the translation was answered.

## CONCLUSION

Skopos theory consists of six rules of which the skopos rule is considered the most important one. Green (2012) stresses the importance of skopos and implies that "a high need of practical experi-

ences for a translator in understanding what is intended to be achieved in the target text" (p. 109). In the light of Vermeer's (1989/2000) skopos theoretical model, the aim of the present study was to investigate the importance of skopos in the translation of sensitive texts, in this case political texts. Moreover, Davies's (2003) translation strategies applied by the in-house and freelance translators to deal with political texts were determined.

The results obtained from the analysis showed that a large number of in-house translators made very TT-oriented and functional translations which gave the indication of the importance of skopos in producing the TT or *translatum*. This may be because of that they were not independent translators and should translate based on what they have been asked and on the given skopos. In this context, Vermeer (1989/2000) argues that the skopos of the translation plays the main role in determining the function of the translation. Thus, within the skopos theoretical approach, the researcher concludes that the in-house translators had a complete success in fulfilling the defined skopos, exerting the intended influence on and creating effective communication with the general readers. That is to say, defining the skopos and informing translators about the intended target readers leads to make very functional and comprehensive translations, and achieve the desired result.

The results of the study identify some pedagogical implications that can be useful for newly translators, translation students, and translation teachers. These implications are discussed as follows:

Vermeer's (1989/2000) skopos theory and Nord's (1997) process theory strongly emphasize the importance of the skopos and the responsibility the translator has to contact the client /

commissioner to ask the skopos of the translation if he has not been provided with it. Thus, it is recommended that newly translators obey the skopos of the translation and choose appropriate translation strategies on both micro and macro levels based on it.

Sometimes, translators are not provided with the skopos of the translation and they also show no interest to know about it. This may be due to that being aware of the skopos of the translation may put severe stress on them, such as tight deadlines. This cannot be a convincing reason for shirking responsibility. Thus, it is suggested that if newly translators are not informed of the skopos of the translation, they need to ask about it to produce high quality translations and satisfy their clients.

The suggestion for translation students is that they improve their mastery over translation strategies/methods. To do this, they start to employ taxonomies that cover a wide range of translation strategies, such as Newmark's (1998) taxonomy. Then, they shift from easy to employ taxonomies to complex ones, such as Molina and Hurtado Albir's (2002) taxonomy. They also devote full attention to translation theories and take such courses seriously.

Translation teachers, who are responsible for teaching students, are recommended to focus on translation practices alongside translation theories and give students translation tasks that include different types of political items and define skopos for each task. They also teach students how to employ translation strategies appropriately according to the given skopos. This improves the students' skills in using various types of translation strategies and helps them learn to ask about the skopos of the translation before they choose the overall strategy of the translation.

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