

Theories of Translation :-

1. J. C. Catford :-

His major work is *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. He defines translation as the replacement of source language text material by equivalent target language material. He considers translation as a branch of comparative linguistics. He introduced 2 types of translations

- (i) Total translation - Replacement of source language phonology & graphology by non-equivalent target language phonology & graphology.
- (ii) Restricted translation - Replacement of source language textual material by equivalent target lang. material.

Catford gave more importance to meaning and spirit in translation. His theory of translation is a theory of meaning. He considers meaning as a property of a language. Catford makes a distinction between "translation" and "transference".

- (i) Translation - Source lang. meaning is substituted by target lang. meaning.
- (ii) Transference - The source lang. meaning is implanted into target language text.

Catford discusses about two translation shifts.

- (i) Level shifts - Shift from one linguistic level to the other.
grammar \leftrightarrow lexis.

(ii) Category Shifts - Includes structure shifts, class-shifts, unit shifts.

Catford says that language texts not absolutely translatable or absolutely untranslatable but more or less translatable.

He talks about 2 types of untranslatability (UT)

- (i) Linguistic UT: Lack of formal correspondence between S.
- (ii) Cultural UT: When a situational feature of SL is absent from the culture of TL text. Eg: Valaikkapu.

Limitations :-

Catford's theory ignored various factors that influence the process of translation, like the translator, his/her social & cultural background, his audience, his aim.

oriented approach. Therefore he considers contextual features. He says that the endline meaning is the most important factor. Nida makes a distinction between language and metalanguage.

His approach to translation involves 3 stages:

- (i) First stage - Original text gets reduced into its kernels.
- (ii) Second stage - Meaning of SL gets transferred to the receptor lang on the structural level.
- (iii) Third stage - Generation of equivalent expression in the receptor language.

Nida observed that subjectivity is unavoidable in translation. He talks about 2 types of equivalences.

- (i) Formal Equi.: Focuses its attention on the message.
- (ii) Dynamic Equivalence: It is oriented towards the receptor response.

Nida's theory of translation focuses mainly on the receptor and his reaction. Nida defines two systems for translation.

- (i) Direct method: - The source language structure gets transferred to that of the receptor language through a universal linguistic structure.
- (ii) Indirect method: - This method consists of 3 stages.

Systems for translation

Direct method

Indirect method

- (1) Analysis: Surface structure is analysed in terms of grammar & meaning.
- (2) Transfer: Analysed material is transferred from SL to receptor language (TL).
- (3) Restructuring: The transferred material is finally restructured in the receptor lang.

The second method is a more complete method. Thus Nida made a significant contribution to the field of translation.

Limitation:-

The major drawback of his theory is that it is mainly concerned with Bible translation. His theory cannot be followed while translating other literature.

3. Peter Newmark:

His theory discusses in detail the semantic and communicative translation.

- (i) Semantic translation: Focuses mainly upon the semantic content of the source text.
- (ii) Communicative translation: Focuses upon the comprehension and response of receptors.

Therefore Newmark's theory can be applied for translating a variety of literature. He provides various principles, rules & hints for translating texts. Newmark highlights the theory of meaning. He talks about 3 functions of language.

- (i) Expressive Function: - Author-centered.
- (ii) Informative Function: - Gives the extralinguistic content of the text.
- (iii) Vocative Function: - Reader centered.

He also talks about three levels of translation.

- (i) Referential
- (ii) Textual
- (iii) Subjective.

While translating a literary text, the translation language is "expressive" while level is "subjective".

While translating a non-literary text, the language is "informative" while the level is "referential".

Newmark also discusses about 2 basic translations processes

(i) Comprehension - related to interpretation.

(ii) Formulation - related to recreation.

Newmark advocates 2 methods of translation.

(i) Communicative Translation - The translator tries to produce the same effect on the receptor as the origin.

(ii) Semantic Translation - The translator tries to reproduce same contextual meaning of the author.