

Verbal and Written Translation in Government Sectors

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Abstract: The paper proposes to highlight the importance of verbal and written translation in the government sectors. In Government circles there is a wide scope for written and verbal communication. Since the spheres of Government is wide ranging, this paper would focus much on some selective fields like Foreign Ministry, Indian High Commissions, Inter-state communications and Judiciary. The range of translation differs in these fields as few sectors would require verbal translation and few written translation. The paper also would focus on the job opportunities available for the futures translators.

I. Introduction

Translation in Government sector has an inordinate scope, as most of the documents drafted in offices need translation. As the government agencies are widespread, the scope of translation is immense in various fields like administration, judiciary and Ministry. The primary segment where translation is highly popular is the educational sector as most of the books and materials in the schools need translation. The second segment that has even higher scope for translation is the judiciary. Here the scope is even more wider as the convicts and appellants can play with courts of justice using language. The third field that offers more scope is the interstate communication and center-state communications. Here all the documents need to be translated and the field is wide open for practitioners of translation. Though these three segments could be cited as examples where translation is very popular, there are fields where, it not only offers higher scope but also needs innovation. External affairs ministry and its wings is one such place where translation is indispensable. Here translation should be more sharp and preference should be given to a polyglot. Thus this paper would focus on these segments where the scope of translation is greater and provides more employment opportunities.

Years ago, when Mikhail Gorbachev, the President of U.S.S.R visited India, he spoke with the then Indian premier late Shri.Rajiv Gandhi without understanding the language of the host . This extraordinary meeting was a great success despite the linguistic barrier. The success of Indo-Soviet summit could be attributed to the translators, as they played a pivotal role in the success of the summit. The episode highlights that, translation can be a great success only if the translator is a master of more than two languages. More than this, it is the sharpness of mind that counts in translation. When two leaders are interacting the translators need to be sharp enough to grasp and translate the substance of the speech within seconds. Any delay or beating around the bush will naturally make translation a colossal failure. Truth is another factor that need to be counted and a translator has to be a mirror who reflects what he receives as it is. He should be careful enough to avoid any of his individual ideas while translating the speech and whatever words that come out of the translator should be a truthful one. The vocal translation that is very popular in the administrative circles of the government is different from the written translation. The task could be performed only by a person who has clarity of mind and command of language. He should also be a man of equanimity as emotions and lopsidedness would spoil the very effort of translation. Though hypothetical, it could be construed what would be the result of a wrong translation when two rival countries are negotiating with each other. The case of USA – Russia, or the case of India – china can be taken as an example. An inefficient translator can easily spoil the bilateral relationship between the countries so, vocal translation has a wide scope in administrative circles. The Indian envoys located abroad need a wide knowledge about the languages of the country in which they are located. Here the representative of the Indian High Commission are usually well trained, and are trustworthy while translating the code words. Translation is not just a conversion but a science that needs good knowledge of the culture. It is not only the bilateral relationship, but inter governmental transaction also offers a wider scope for translation.

Cauvery dispute between the four riparian states is a fine example for the same. The states that are involved are Tamil nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry. Though these states have one common language –English – they purportedly interact in their respective mother tongues. As a result, translators had to play a pivotal role in rewriting the very communication in chaste, undisputed English. Since the problem is sub – judice the court requires a set of translated items for solution. Here is where translation plays an extraordinary role, and the translator has to write down all the facts furnished by the litigants in the language of English, the court language. Since the translation involved here is a written translation, the translator can take his own time

in transferring the ideas. Though time is not a constraint, ideas ought to be very sharp. They should be translated in to the expected language without any change. Even a slight change would be self – defeating and deprive the chances of the concerned litigants. Here, the chances of success lies in the sharpness and proficiency of legal translators, the translators should be well versed in the usage of legal terms.

II. Conclusion

Thus translation is not an easy job as it requires an elaborate preparation. A legal translator should be adept in the usage of legal terms and only a seasoned practitioner can succeed in this field. In Educational field a bilingual expert is more than enough as his work is confined to English and the mother tongue. In other fields of the government sector translation plays a passive role and here perfection is not indispensable. Since all these forms of translation could be bracketed as Written translation it provides much space for the success of the work. These fields has much opportunities and could provide jobs for the next generation. Hindi is a vital lifeline along with English and mastery of these two languages would enable potential translators of the future to shine. IN foreign ministry a set of officials may play the role of a translator and here intelligence and sharpness counts a lot as there is lack of time in conveying the ideas of one leader to the other. This form of translation could be termed as Vocal translation. Last but not the least Vocal translation is also active in the Indian Parliament as it is a place where many languages come to the forefront. Translation is a futuristic study and there should be true research in this field to make it as a profession that can provide livelihood to many.

III. References

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