

## STUDY OF SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF EQUIVALENT TRANSLATION

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**Annotation:** *This thesis states the meaning the term “Equivalence”, information about the role and the importance of this phenomena in translation. Furthermore, the reader will be well-informed about the types of equivalence, the difference from adequacy and some criteria which are related to what situations they are used during the translation.*

**Key words:** *equivalence, translation, idiomatic equivalence, formal equivalence, descriptive equivalence.*

Equivalence in translation refers to the concept of finding a relationship between the source text and the target language that ensures the translation conveys the same meaning, effect and function as original text, while accounting for the differences in language and culture. In translation studies, the notions of equivalence is central to determining how closely a translated text matches the original, both in terms of meaning and form. Different scholars have provided various perspectives on equivalence, often based on the degree to which a translation should mirror the source text. Broadly, equivalence can be classified into several types, each focusing on different aspects of the translation process.

There are below some types of equivalence, which can be used during the translation:

1) **Formal equivalence** - the method where the translator strives to keep the form and content of the source text as close as possible to the original. This approach focuses on translating the structure, syntax and wording of the source text with as little modification as possible, while trying to preserve the literal meaning.

Peter Newmark, a semantic translator mentioned that formal equivalence is appropriate for literary works, historical texts and scientific documents. We can analyze this view that the translator cannot approach to find the equivalence of those three types of texts in other translation method, such as journalistic or other way. Only formal way can match in this type of equivalence.

2) **Idiomatic equivalence** refers to the strategy of finding an idiomatic expression or phrase in the target language that conveys the same meaning or function as the original idiomatic expression in the source language. The goal is to preserve the idiomatic nature of the source text while ensuring that translation resonates with the target audience in a natural and culturally appropriate way.

Eugene Nida, an American linguist suggests that idiomatic equivalence is achieved when the translator uses a target language idiom that evokes a similar response in the reader as the original idiom does. This may require translator to deviate from a literal translation and choose an idiomatic expression that fits the cultural context of the target language. I would take the idiom “to kick the bucket” as a clear ex-



ample. Literal meaning of this phrase refers to hitting the bucket with a leg. But in idiomatic approach it means “to die”.

3) **Descriptive equivalence** refers to a strategy where a term, expression or cultural concept from the source language is explained or described in the target language, rather than translated word-for-word. This method is particularly useful when there is no direct equivalent in the target language or when the term is culturally specific, requiring more context to be properly understood.

Lawrence Venuti claims that descriptive equivalence is often used a tool in domestication, as it helps make foreign concepts accessible to the target audience. However, he also notes that the use of descriptive equivalence can sometimes result in a loss of a “foreign” quality of the source text. Therefore, while descriptive equivalence can make text more comprehensible, it may reduce the sense of otherness or foreignness that sometimes translators aim to preserve.

By way of conclusion, equivalence in translation is a broad concept that involves finding ways to convey the same meaning, effect and function of the source text. Various forms of equivalence such as formal, idiomatic and descriptive, provide different strategies for achieving this goal, depending on the nature of the text and translation context. Linguists like Eugene Nida, Peter Newmark and Lawrence Venuti have offered different perspectives on how to balance faithfulness to the original with readability and cultural relevance for the target audience.

### **References:**

1. Eugene Nida, *Toward a science of Translating* , 1964.
2. Peter Newmark, *Approaches to Translation*, 1981.
3. Lawrence Venuti, *The Translator’s Invisibility: A History of Translation*, 1995.