



TRANSLATION FEATURES OF TECHNICAL TEXTS

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Abstract. *This article discusses about the some of the features of translation and their usage in technical texts also deals with the peculiarities of translation of technical texts. As a matter of fact, in the field of translation we often make a distinction between technical and literary translation in a rather arbitrary, but not entirely incorrect, fashion. But what exactly does “technical translation” involve? In the context of translation the term “technical” generally refers to all areas in which a certain terminology, style and perhaps even a sector-specific jargon are used. On top of that, unlike in literary translation, creativity is not really required, but precision is essential as every professional translator knows. And in this article the reader can obtain some knowledge about some of the characteristics of technical translation and their importance in translation process.*

Key words: *features, characteristics, precision, technical, literary translation, arbitrary, subcategory, terminology, creativity, quality, a foreign language, importance, information.*

First and foremost, translation is one of the oldest occupations of man. To translate means to express correctly. Different warehouses of thinking, different literature, different epochs and different levels of development collide in translation. Currently, in today's conditions of updating technologies and industries, a rapidly growing flow of scientific and technical information in foreign languages, there is an urgent need for specialists to possess the skills of rapid search and processing of scientific and technical literature the translation of scientific and technical texts play an important role. And for this reason, the translator should strive for the most adequate and equivalent translation, even if he is not a native speaker of the translation language. The main feature of any technical translation from any language to another is the need to translate documents very accurately, to avoid distortion and inaccuracy, and to try to prevent the loss of meaning. Consequently, this process has its own name – ensuring the adequacy of the translation to the source material, where all the features and rules of the language into which the text was translated must be observed. Very often, in contracts for the provision of translation services, this aspect takes place and a lot of attention is paid to it.

Initially, before the discussion of the features of technical texts, we should give the definition to the technical translation.

What is the exactly technical translation?

Technical translation involves translating documents and materials that are related to technical or specialized fields. This can include texts from industries such as engineering, IT, pharmaceuticals, law, finance, and more. Technical translation costs more than general business translation and may take longer. The extra cost and time



will vary according to the level of scientific or technical knowledge needed for the project, the availability of specialized translators in the required language pair, and the demand for those translators.

For example, English-Japanese translations cost more because of the demand for technical translations in this language pair exceeds the relatively small number of qualified translators.

Technical translation involves translating documents and materials that are related to technical or specialized fields. This can include texts from industries such as engineering, IT, pharmaceuticals, law, finance, and more. The main characteristics of technical translation are:

1. **Specialized Vocabulary.** Uses industry-specific terminology that requires a deep understanding of the subject matter. Vocabulary is generally specific to the sector, and needs to be exactly right. “Close enough” doesn’t cut it: this could lead to errors in meaning and ambiguous interpretations, which is not permissible in areas such as the medical sector or in a legal context. A mistake can have serious consequences. It is easy to imagine the terrible effects of a bad translation of the instruction manual of a medical imaging device or of a contract between two large companies, for instance.

2. **Precision and Accuracy.** Precision and accuracy in technical translation are vital to ensure safety and compliance, as errors can lead to accidents or legal issues. Accurate translations help maintain the correct functionality and performance of products and systems. They also ensure compliance with legal and regulatory standards, protecting intellectual property and avoiding costly penalties. Misinterpretations can cause costly rework and delays, affecting efficiency. Ultimately, precise translations uphold the professional reputation of the company or individual responsible.

3. **Consistency.** Consistency in the translation of technical texts is important because it ensures that terminology and phrasing are uniform throughout the document, which helps avoid confusion and misinterpretation. This uniformity is crucial for maintaining clarity and precision, especially when dealing with complex technical information. Consistent use of terms and expressions helps readers understand and follow instructions accurately, reducing the risk of errors. It also enhances the professionalism and credibility of the documentation. Lastly, consistency supports brand identity and aids in meeting industry standards and regulatory requirements.

4. **Understanding of the Subject Matter.** The translator often needs a background in the technical field to understand and accurately translate the content. Understanding the subject matter is crucial in technical translation because it ensures accurate and precise use of specialized terminology and concepts. A translator with subject matter expertise can correctly interpret and convey complex information, reducing the risk of errors and misunderstandings. This knowledge helps in maintaining the integrity and functionality of technical documents, ensuring they meet industry standards and regulatory requirements. Moreover, it enhances the credibility and professionalism of the translated text. Inaccurate translations due to a lack of subject knowledge can lead to safety issues, non-compliance, and costly rework.



5. Format and Standards. Formats and standards are essential in translating technical texts to ensure consistency and accuracy, especially in fields requiring precise terminology. They help present information clearly, making it easier for the target audience to understand and correctly use the content. Adhering to standards streamlines the translation process, improves efficiency, and facilitates quality assurance. Compliance with industry-specific standards also ensures legal and regulatory adherence. Overall, standards enhance the global accessibility and usability of technical documents.

The technical translation is based on the formal and logical style. This style is characterized by accuracy, impersonality and unemotional features. However, these characteristics cannot fully reflect all the scientific style requirements that must be met when translating technical texts. The scientific style can be characterized by the following factors:

- 1) language selection;
- 2) monological statement;
- 3) preliminary reflection on the statement;
- 4) normalized speech.

To denote these concepts, one should refer to the etymology of the words "technical and scientific". The lexeme "scientific" suggests a connection with science. This connection is described in Chambers' dictionary and is defined as "knowledge obtained through experimentation and observation, critically analyzed, systematized and subject to general principles". The lexeme "technical" is associated with technology, which is defined in the Brief Oxford English Dictionary as "the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes". Thus, we can conclude that the translation of scientific texts is related to science in all its theoretical manifestations, and the translation of technical texts is related to the way scientific knowledge is used for practical purposes. The process of visual-oral translation of a scientific and technical text is a rather complicated didactic process and consists of three phases:

- 1) cursory viewing in order to catch the main idea of the author;
- 2) translation of the silent read text using the dictionary;
- 3) design of the author's thought in his native language.

Successful training in translation of scientific and technical literature implies overcoming a certain number of difficulties, developing certain skills in the student, by means of which these three phases of activity are combined into a single process.

It is also important to remember the main challenges in the translation of technical texts. Translating technical texts poses unique challenges due to specialized terminology, requiring consistency for clarity. Maintaining precision and accuracy is paramount to avoid misunderstandings, particularly in fields like medicine or engineering. Cultural differences and regional variations in standards and regulations necessitate adaptation for the target audience. Translators must also preserve the original style and formatting of the document, ensuring it remains coherent. Updates and revisions demand meticulous attention to detail and effective version control. Dealing with abbreviations and acronyms requires careful consideration of whether to translate or retain them. Localization of graphics adds another layer of complexity, de-

manding accuracy in visual elements. Legal and compliance issues mandate adherence to local laws and standards, enhancing complexity. Lastly, proficiency in translation tools and software aids efficiency and quality in technical translation endeavors. Overall, navigating these challenges requires a blend of linguistic prowess, subject matter expertise, and technical proficiency.

Conclusion.

Contrary to what you may expect, it is not more efficient to ask a doctor or lawyer to translate a text in their field, since translation is a trade of its own which requires thorough linguistic knowledge as well as other skills that other professionals might not have. Thanks to the internet, there are now many websites, lexicons and glossaries available to translators that allow them to learn the basics about a topic quickly and to teach themselves all about an area in order to become specialized. It is necessary to take into consideration that an adequate understanding of the topic and meaning of the text being translated is required from the translator. The translator must convey the meaning of the terms as accurately as possible. He or she may be required to adapt the translation materials in terms of language and meaning.

As in many professions, it is then practice that will show if a technical translator is good or not. In any case a technical translation must be carried out by a professional translator who is specialized in the area in question. Therein lies the key to a successful technical translation.

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