



A Study of Problems of Translation: A Case Study of English into Thai
ศึกษาปัญหาการแปล: กรณีศึกษาภาษาอังกฤษและภาษาไทย

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Abstract

The aim of this research study is to identify, categorize and explain the solution of the problem of English and Thai translation encountered by professional translators who live in Bangkok, Thailand and nearby areas.

In data collection, it used two parts of collection; the first is an interview with ten professional translators, the second is the study from the textbook, thesis, academic journal, and so on. Research tool used in this study is an interview form, interview question, self-introduction letter, mobile phone and recorder etc.

The results based on an analysis from the interview with ten professional translators are presented in this research. There are 1) the solutions of each translation problem, the translation confrontation and the translation strategies of professional translators served as a reference in translating English-Thai or Thai-English, 2) after studying this research, it will make us know the number of the kinds of problems in

translation, 3) the results of this study can be adopted in conducting additional studies in translation.

To solve the problem of English and Thai Translation, understanding vocabulary, idioms, language structure of sentences and technical terms is very important or necessary for translators. Professional translators must use various dictionaries, encyclopedias, academic books and documents as tools for elucidating the meaning of difficult words, idioms and expressions. They must also use the techniques of paraphrasing and transliteration.

All professional translators pointed out that translators should have both background and specialized knowledge, as well as broad knowledge relevant to the subject matter of the material they are translating. They must unceasingly read books, journals, current news reports, translated works, and so on. When they discover new words, technical terms, idioms and expressions, they should store them in a word banks for use in the future.

ชื่อวิทยานิพนธ์	:ศึกษาปัญหาการแปล กรณีศึกษาภาษาอังกฤษและ ภาษาไทย
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บทคัดย่อ

วัตถุประสงค์ของการศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้ คือการระบุปัญหา, รวบรวมประเภทปัญหา การแปลและอธิบายถึงวิธีการแก้ปัญหาคำแปลของภาษาอังกฤษและภาษาไทย โดยนักแปล อาชีพที่อยู่ในกรุงเทพมหานครฯและบริเวณใกล้เคียง

ในการเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลที่จะใช้ ในงานวิจัยนี้ แบ่งออกเป็นสองส่วนคือ ๑) สัมภาษณ์นักแปลมืออาชีพ ลิบท่าน ๒) ศึกษาจากตำราวิทยานิพนธ์, วารสาร, ตำราวิชาการ, หนังสือทั่วไป และอื่น ๆ เครื่องมือ หรือวิธีที่ใช้ในการเก็บรวบรวมข้อมูล งานวิจัยครั้งนี้คือ แบบฟอร์มการสัมภาษณ์, คำถามสัมภาษณ์, หนังสือแนะนำตัวเอง(ผู้วิจัย), โทรศัพท์มือถือ และเครื่องบันทึกต่าง ๆ เป็นต้น

ประโยชน์ที่คาดว่าจะได้รับในงานวิจัยครั้งนี้ คือขึ้นอยู่กับการวิเคราะห์จากการสัมภาษณ์นักแปลมืออาชีพที่ท่านดังต่อไปนี้คือ ๑) สามารถใช้กลยุทธ์การแปลของนักแปลมืออาชีพ แก้ปัญหาการแปลต่างๆได้ และสามารถใช้เป็นข้อมูลอ้างอิงในการแปลภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาไทย หรือภาษาไทยเป็นภาษาอังกฤษได้ ๒) หลังจากที่ได้ศึกษาวิจัยครั้งนี้แล้ว จะทำให้เราทราบถึงจำนวนชนิดของปัญหาในการแปล ๓) ผลการศึกษานี้สามารถใช้เป็นแนวทางในการดำเนินการศึกษาเพิ่มเติม ในการแปลต่อไป

การแก้ไขปัญหาการแปล ภาษาอังกฤษและแปลภาษาไทยก็คือ การเข้าใจคำศัพท์สำนวน โครงสร้างประโยคและศัพท์ทางเฉพาะทางเหล่านี้ เป็นสิ่งสำคัญหรือจำเป็นสำหรับนักแปลเป็นอย่างยิ่ง ๆ นักแปลจะใช้พจนานุกรมประเภทต่าง ๆ สารานุกรม หนังสือ และเอกสารสอบถามจากผู้เชี่ยวชาญในเรื่องที่แปล และเจ้าของภาษาช่วยแก้ปัญหาความไม่เข้าใจศัพท์สำนวน และเนื้อหาที่แปล รวมทั้งการใช้วิธีการบัญญัติศัพท์และการทับศัพท์ในกรณีไม่สามารถเทียบความหมายได้ตรงตามต้นฉบับ

นอกจากนั้น ผู้แปลยังให้ข้อเสนอแนะและเทคนิคที่ช่วยให้งาน แปลมีประสิทธิภาพมากขึ้น คือผู้แปลต้องมีความเข้าใจเรื่องที่จะแปล ความรู้ทั่วไปเพื่อจะได้แปลและถ่ายทอดความหมายได้ถูกต้องตรงตามต้นฉบับมากที่สุด

ผู้แปลต้องเป็นนักอ่านหนังสือ บทความ และผลงานแปลมาก ๆ และเก็บสะสมคำศัพท์ สำนวนใหม่ ๆ ไว้ ในคลังศัพท์ เพื่อเป็นเป็น ข้อมูลอ้างอิงในการแปลต่อไป ๆ

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The Buddhism taught about the wholesome and unwholesome action and also the Buddha said *Danam Deti*, it means giving or sharing and because "The more you give, the more you get" . Why? Because everything we share our knowledge is our giving. That we give in the present life, the best result we will get back in the present and future life for sure. Therefore, everything we give becomes everything that we get. In the *Dhammapada*, Chapter 24, Verse 354 said also "*Sabba Danam Dhammadanam Jinati*" means Giving Dhamma is the best giving in everything. That is why I believe on my thesis that it is upon the translation which is one of Dhamma.

I hope that this thesis will be helpful for the translation of English into Thai and Thai into English. The people who are interested in translation will be satisfied when reading it. May I share my Dhamma Dana to parents, teachers, friends and living beings in the world. May all be happy and free from suffering throughout your lives. May all attain Nirvana where is the most peaceful place in Buddhism.

Phra Nawseng Aggasena

3/ Feb/ 2015

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background and Significance of the Problem

Languages have been used as a tool for communication in the social relationship and serving as a means to bridge the cultures of various groups of people around the world for a long time. All countries in the world have its own distinct culture, tradition and living styles. People from different areas of the world communicate through various communication channels including books, letters, telephone, movies, and internet. In order to achieve the goal of communication for people with different backgrounds, translation becomes very important.

Translation is also ultimately a human activity which enables human beings to exchange ideas and thoughts even though expressed in different tongues. It helps bridge cultural gaps and promotes mutual understanding among people around the world.

All translation activities have a more specific purpose that means translation work can help to disseminate the values of writers and important literature, including poetry. Translation also can be a communicative between people to exchange the knowledge and an experience among different societies. It can help human to understand in different culture and tradition each other. On the other hand, translation is a tool for studying, communication, exchanges the knowledge to each other, and it makes human be easy to live together in the same society. Knowing the language only is not enough, but we also have to understand about culture too. Due to the different place, language, culture, and living style of people in the world, translation work becomes necessary and important.

Besides, increased technology in modern society makes translation work increasingly for developing educational system in every country. Before fifteenth century,

most of the educated people in Europe used the Latin language for communication. Based on advancing knowledge come from the West where use English language in direct and indirect contact, it makes translation from the English language to another language become more important. Because every country around the world is trying to find the way of developing their country, including business, education, seen, politics, society and so on. And most people who are not English native have the problem in translation for them, so translation works become very important in all countries around the world.

In the 15th century, translated work become more popular and widespread in Europe. At that time, It made some scholars have to think about problems of translations.

In the 19th century, studying translation became more theoretical.

In the 20th century, translation study was a greatly increased flow of transaction in every field and profession.

In the 21st century, translation study has developed in many countries of the world, and also brings together work in many fields, including linguistics, history, economics and so on.

As we have known, the English language is an international language. But some people don't understand English perfectly. They need to translate English into Thai to understand the meaning of the knowledge from the original texts. Furthermore, translation is a tool to help people who different language and culture to understand and communicate with each other. Having a well-translated work, most people get the knowledge and more experiences in daily life. Being increased in translation work is very important, professional translator also become important people in transferring accurate information from one language into another.

Translations mean the changing the form from that first language to the second language (Campbell, 1998). In translating from the first language to the second language, to be a good translator, keeping the main knowledge from the original text, translators should understand in the source language and target language in deeply.

Translation is one of the problems of English learner who is not English. Especially, in this research shown that English and Thai translation. Most of the translators have been translated for a long time, but they always encounter problems when they are translating English and Thai. That's why, I would like to do the research on this topic and find out the problem to solve it. So it may help to understand translation better and help to translate correctly.

Finally, in this research study, The results will show the linguistic and cultural problems that influenced the professional translators use every translation. It hopes that the results are useful and can help some areas that need to improve their English and Thai translation. It would like to be useful for translators, students, and general people who are interested in translation work and might show the techniques of translation how to be effective in terms of the use of language in translation and the way to maintain the main knowledge from the source texts. Thus, this study was conducted to explore translation problems by some of the Thai professional translators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyala University, Wangnoi, Ayutthaya, Thailand and freelance translators who live in Bangkok and nearby areas.

1.2 Objectives of the Research

The main purposes of the study are as follows:

- 1.2.1 To identify the problems in translating English into Thai.
- 1.2.2 To categorize problems in translation and solutions to be used in this research.
- 1.2.3 To describe the solution of the problems of translation.

1.3 Statement of the Research Questions

- 1.3.1 What are the problems in translating English into Thai?
- 1.3.2 What kinds of problems in translating English into Thai?
- 1.3.3 How to solve the problems in translation focusing on English into Thai?

1.4 Scope of the Research

This research is designed to study the problems of English into Thai translation in general translators and study the ways in which they solve problems. This research of translation problems focuses solely on the problems of English to Thai and Thai to English translation in the fields such as education, law, short story and so on. A prototype system which can perform Thai-English translation will be built based on the framework. Since the purpose of the implantation of the prototype system is to verify whether the framework can be implemented, all sentences/phrases used to develop the system will be limited to simple phrases/sentences.

1.5 Definition of the Terms used in the Research

1.5.1 **Translation** refers to a process of reading, understanding and conveying information that was originally written in a different language and from within a different cultural framework. It specially carries meaning from one language to another one.

1.5.2 **Problems of Translation** refers to the slight or great differences between two languages often cause problems in various aspects of translation, such as culture problems, language structure problems and semantic problems etc.

1.5.3 **A Case Study** refers to a process or record of research into the development of a particular person, group, or situation over a period of time.¹ In this research, A Case Study means English and Thai translation.

1.6 Expected Benefits

The Expected Benefits to be obtained from doing this research are:

1.6.1 The solutions of each translation problem, the translations confront and the translation strategies of professional translators can serve as a reference in translating English-Thai or Thai-English.

¹ Oxford University, แห่ดิ่งที่ม้: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/case-study>, (2-10-2014).

1.6.2 After studying this research, it will make us know the number of the kinds of problems in translation.

1.6.3 The results of this study can be adopted in conducting additional studies in translation.

Chapter Two

Literature Review and Research Works Concerned

This chapter presents the review of literature. It is divided into five important areas: 1) definitions of translation, 2) types of translation, 3) theory of translation, 4) process of translation, and 5) translation problems.

According to Chuwicha and Filbeck, serial verb is a string of verbs occurring in sequence or serially within a clause. Many studies were done on syntactic and semantic characteristics of Thai serial verbs. In terms of translation studies, the previous study was briefly done on techniques of serial verb translation from Thai into English. Besides, it was focused on Thai serial verb constructions with directional verbs in terms of their syntactic and semantic aspects in comparison with their English translations.¹

In translation strategies from English into Thai and Thai into English, there were a few studies on parallel corpus. The previous studies were focused on the structure of the language such as The strategies of translation in passive voice of literary work from English into Thai, a study of strategies in translation of adjective – noun collocations from English into Thai, the strategies of translation in passive voice of literary work from Thai into English, and Thai serial verb constructions with directional verbs in terms of their syntactic and semantic aspects in comparison with their English translations.²

¹ Aungsuwan, Wimonwan. “A Translation of Serial Verbs from Thai into English in Parallel Corpus Perspective: A case study of the Happiness of Kati”, **The 4th International Conference on Language and Communication**, (13-14, December, 2012): p. 44

² Aungsuwan, Wimonwan. “A Translation of Serial Verbs from Thai into English in Parallel Corpus Perspective: A case study of the Happiness of Kati”, **The 4th International Conference on Language and Communication**, (13-14, December, 2012): p. 45

A Synthesis of Master's These in Environmental Education, Mahidol University during the Academic Years 1980-1994 by Content Analysis and Meta Analysis Techniques. The population used in this study was 149 master's theses in environmental education written during the academic period 1980-1994. The instrument used in collecting data was the research work conclusions form. The statistical procedures used in this study were percentage, mean and standard deviation.³

2.1 Definitions of Translation

Traditionally, translation is considered to be a change of form, that is a change of surface structures from a source language into a target language. A rather simple definition of translation as “the replacement of textual material (SL) by equivalent textual material in another (TL)” is suggested by Catford. In this respect, Catford is more concerned with formal language rules and grammar, rather than the context or the pragmatics of the text to be translated. Nonetheless, he stressed that: “Since every language is formally sui generis, and formal correspondence is, at best, a rough approximation is clear that the formal meaning of source language items can rarely be the same.”⁴

Indeed, form is a vehicle of meaning, and translation consists mainly of transferring the meaning of the source language text into the target language. Hence, translation, according to Nida, “consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.”⁵

This definition reveals a notion of equivalence in translation at the semantic and stylistic levels. It views translation as a reproduction of a similar response of the target

³ Jitladawan Srisunthornthai, “A Synthesis of Research in Translation During 2541-2546 B.E”.M.A Dissertation, (Faculty of Graduate Studies: Mahidol University, 2006), p. 17

⁴ J. C. Catford, **A Linguistic Theory of Translation**, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965), pp. 20-36.

⁵ Nida, E.A, "Linguistics and Ethnology in Translation Problems" **in Word**, vol.1 (1945): pp. 194-208.

language reader by reproducing equivalent meaning and style. In other words, it favours a maximum equivalence of meaning and effect as suggested by Tytler.⁶ “A good translation is one in which the merit of the original is so completely transfused into another language as to be distinctly apprehended and as strongly felt by a native of the country to which that language belongs as it is by those who speak the Language of the original”. Most definitions of translation describe an aim being sought from translation. Others are instructions on how to translate, or a List of factors that should be taken into consideration when translating. Mounin (1, for example, suggests that to translate is not only to respect the structural or linguistic meaning of a text but also the global meaning of the message including the environment, the period, the culture, etc. In brief, it seems that definitions differ from one another in certain aspects. While some definitions present the aim of translation, others describe the profession itself, the translator as a mediator in a communication process, or consider the general aspect of interlingual transfer. The present study is concerned more with the process of translation itself. Hence, we shall consider translation as a mediation and as a complex interlingual transfer. We do not intend to give a new definition of translation, for any definition is bound to be limited in its scope. The profusion of definitions to translation and the problem of finding a unified definition are, most probably, due to the complexity of the process of translation itself.⁷

Generally, translation is a process of rendering meaning, ideas, or messages of a text from one language to another language. There are some considerations which follow this process, which mainly related to the accuracy, clarity and naturalness of the meaning, ideas, or messages of the translation. It means that it is an important thing to consider whether the readers of the target text accept equivalent information as the readers of the

⁶ Tytler, **Lord Woodhouslee Essay on the Principle of Translation**, (London: Dent, 1793), p. 15.

⁷ Layachi Aissi, “An Analytical Study of The Process of Translation (With special reference to English / Arabic)”, **Ph.D Dissertation**, (Faculty of Arts, Department of Modern Languages, The University of Salford, 1987), p. 12.

source text do. These considerations are clarified in some definition of translation stated by some experts.

One of the most prominent definitions of translation is stated by Newmark who defines translation as “rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text”. This definition stresses on rendering meaning of the source language text into the target language text as what is intended by the author.⁸

Hatim and Munday define translation as “the process of transferring a written text from a source language (SL) to target language (TL)”. In this definition they do not explicitly express that the object being transferred is meaning or message. They emphasis on translation as a process.⁹

Nida and Taber, on the other hand, state that “translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message”. This definition is more comprehensive than the previous ones. Nida and Taber explicitly state that translation is closely related to the problems of languages, meaning, and equivalence.¹⁰

From the definitions mentioned above, it is found that translation is a process which is intended to find meaning equivalence in the target text. Rochayah Machali and Mona Baker underline the term meaning equivalence because it is the meaning which is transferred in the target language. In this case, translators are faced with text as unit of meaning in the form of sets of words or sentences. This means that language which is used is a unit of meaning in discourse which can be understood by the participants of the communication.¹¹

⁸ Newmark, **A Textbook of Translation**. (Hertfordshire: Prentice Hall International, 1988), p. 5.

⁹ Hatim dan Munday, **Translation: An Advanced Resource Book**. (London: Routledge, 2004), p. 6.

¹⁰ Nida, Eugene A and Charles R. Taber, **The Theory and Practice of Translation**. (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1982), p. 12.

¹¹ Baker, Mona, In Other Words, **A Coursebook on Translation**. (London: Routledge, 1992), pp. 34-36.

In addition, Sanchawee Saibua (1995) gives the meaning of translation as a process concerned closely with conveying meaning, language and communication. In other words, translation is transferring meaning from a source language to a target language. Transferring the correct meaning is always the main aim of translation.

2.2 Types of Translation

Catford J. C. categorizes translation into three types.

Word-for-word translation

Word-for-word translation is a translation which the selection of target language equivalents is deliberately confined to one rank (or a few ranks, low in the rank scale) in the hierarchy of grammatical units, termed as rank-bound translation. The translation attempt is set up word-to-word or morpheme-to-morpheme equivalence, but not equivalence between high-rank units such as a group, clause or sentence.

Free translation

Free translation is a translation which equivalences are set and shift freely up and down the rank scale in text language, termed as unbound translation. These unbounded equivalences may shift up and down the rank scale, but tend to be at the higher ranks or sometimes between larger units than the sentence.

Literal translation

Literal translation lies between these extremes. It may start, as it were, from a word-for-word translation, but make changes in conformity with target language. This may make it a group-group or clause-clause translation. “Word-for-word translation” and “literal translation” tend to remain lexically word-for-word, to use the highest (unconditioned) probability lexical equivalent for each lexical item while Lexical adaptation to target language collocational or idiomatic requirements seems to be characteristic of “free translation.”¹²

¹² J. C. Catford, **A Linguistic Theory of Translation**, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965), pp. 38-40.

Peter Newmark (1981) demonstrated the two approaches of translations. There are semantic and communicative translations.

1. Semantic translation is based on the meaning of the original text; illustrate the meaning and structure of the source text in the translated text. It transfers meaning from the original text to the translated word by word or phrase by phrase as well as preserve its local flavor dialect, slang and culture terms.

2. Communicative translation is intended primarily to achieve a certain effect on its readers' mind. The translator adapts or makes the thought and cultural content of the original more accessible to the readers. Moreover the translator may add or omit some details.¹³

According to Owens (1996), translation topic can be provided six types.

1. Cultural

Cultural Texts include adaptations of comedies and farces, many advertisements, propaganda and public notices. In principle, since a particular language group is being targeted, source language, cultural expression and styles are replaced by equivalent receptor language expressions and styles.

2. Informational Texts

Information texts may be standardized or ordered. The facts are all important, and the purpose of the language is to clarify them and make them agreeable to the readership. Information texts can be a standardized or ordered but under a standardized form. Standardized texts include medical reports, technical reports, the agendas and minutes of meeting, recipes, direction for use, instruction manuals, higher degree theses, menus, algorithms, rites and ceremonies, patents, treaties, laws, specification, valuations, expert evidence, and judicial sentences.

¹³ Despoina Panou, "Equivalence in Translation Theories: A Critical Evaluation", **Theory and Practice in Language Studies**, Vol. 3 No. 1 (January 2013): 4.

3. Social Texts

Social texts range from psychology and sociology to texts about the arts and the humanities.

4. Legal and official Texts

Legal texts are the tightest univocal and monospermous texts, to such an extent, that the sense of their terms frequently has to be defined therein. Legal language is turned towards verb - nouns, classifying adjectives and copulative verbs; qualitative adjectives and adverbs are not drawn on. There is a heavy focus on verbs such as “determine”, “propose”, “advise”, “recommend”. Plus their nouns, so that legal language and defining language often appear to overlap. The niceties of distinction have to be rendered in translation.

5. Literary Texts

Since literary texts are concerned with the world of the imagination and are center in human beings, sometimes reflected in their physical characteristics and their natural and climatic backgrounds, whilst non-literacy texts describe the facts of reality, modified by human intelligence. The translator cannot take literary language at its “face” singular denotative value, and has to bear second often multiple connotative meaning in mind. Other particularly important elements are: the allegorical and symbolical nature of the language. Often regarded as typical, or a moral comment on human behavior; sound; in general terms; personal and emotional language; closeness to speech rhythms and spoken language; the balance of sentence and paragraphs; retention of the functional sentence perspective.

6. Poetry Texts

Poetry calls on the resources of language, and in parallel, these become the factor that the translation has to weigh up and priorities differently for each poem, depending on its nature and function.¹⁴

¹⁴ Owens, R., *The Translator's Handbook*, (Landon: Aslib. 1996), p.161.

2.3 Theory of Translation

Nevertheless, it may be said with some confidence that translation theory as a discipline was initiated in the middle of the sixties by Nida, Catford, Mounin, etc. They attempt to apply certain linguistic theories to translation and shed some light on its process. In the seventies, translation theory advanced considerably thanks to numerous contributions and new achievements in language-related theories, particular semantics, text-linguistics, communication theory, psycho and socio-linguistics which provided a new stimulus to the systematic study of the process of translation.

Many 'theories' of translation have been constructed on the basis of theories of language. Linguists believed that translation difficulties are mainly linguistic in a narrow sense rather than semantic or aesthetic. Hence, translation occupies a central position in linguistics, for it entails some fundamental issues the science of language has to tackle.

Fedorov, on the other hand, incorporated the study of translation in the general framework of linguistics and insisted that translation is a purely linguistic operation. He considered translation theory as “deriving from observation and providing the basis for practice”. Contrary to Humboldt, he believes that all experiences are translatable.¹⁵

Mounin discussing translation theories and their relation to semantics, suggests that for each language corresponds a particular organization of experience. According to this notion, language is a reflection of culture, and since each culture has its own organization and characteristics, similarly each language has its own organization. Consequently, the experience formulated by one language cannot occur with the same form in another language. Thus, for Mounin, the experience formulated by a source language text can be rendered in the TL by analysing the characteristics of the situation expressed by the message.

Different languages do express, with different linguistic structures, the same physical event; but as Humboldt sees it, they do not reflect the same experience of the event

¹⁵ Newmark, P., **Some Notes on Translation and Translators**, (in: *The Incorporated Linguist*, 1969), pp. 79-85.

similarly. Mounin considered translation as point of contact between languages and believed that linguistics may throw some light on the process of translation itself which constitutes a theoretical problem for linguists. However, he stresses that, to a certain extent, it is not possible to include all aspects of translation in an exhaustive definition which depends exclusively on linguistics.

Mounin supports Cary's claim that translation is a sui-generis operation, and therefore should be studied as such in all its aspects. As a literary translator himself, Cary believes that literary translation is primarily a literary operation and not a linguistic one. His argument is that the linguistic content constitutes only the basic tool for the process of translation. It is the context and the relations between two cultures which characterize translation. Hence, for Cary, translation should be studied separately from other disciplines. Literary translation is indeed a literary endeavour, but linguistic knowledge or analysis is necessary for the understanding of a source language text. Some translations, on the other hand, cannot be solely the result of a linguistic process. A translation of a theatrical play cannot be the result of a purely linguistic analysis but mainly a product of a dramatic activity.

2.4 The Process of Translation

The process of translation, according to this model, involves a transformational analysis and synthesis, that is, a reconstruction of a deep structure representation from a surface structure through an analysis into kernels (basic sentences), a transfer of the elements resulting from the analysis, and finally a restructuring of these elements in the target language. In other words, it consists of reducing or splitting up the source language (SL) sentence into basic structures and most semantically evident basic sentences. Then, the translator transfers these structures into the target language (TL) on a structurally simple level, and proceeds, via necessary transformations, to restructure the message into a target language (TL) text where stylistically and semantically appropriate expressions are generated.

In considering the process of translation as involving a deep structure transfer, Nida and Taber's model of translation is based on the assumption that the deep structures of different languages are similar whereas the surface structures vary infinitely himself puts it clearly "languages do not differ primarily in the content of what can be communicated but in the diversity of ways in which the content is expressed."¹⁶

Gerver proposes that translation involves three major processes:¹⁷

(1) Analytical study and understanding of the source text or discourse in the Source Language (SL)

(2) Switch between two linguistic codes

(3) Production of the text or discourse in the Target (TL)

Similarly, Nida and Taber also present a model of translation process which concerns three steps of task: 1) analysing and decoding, 2) transferring, and 3) restructuring. The model of the translation process is illustrated below:

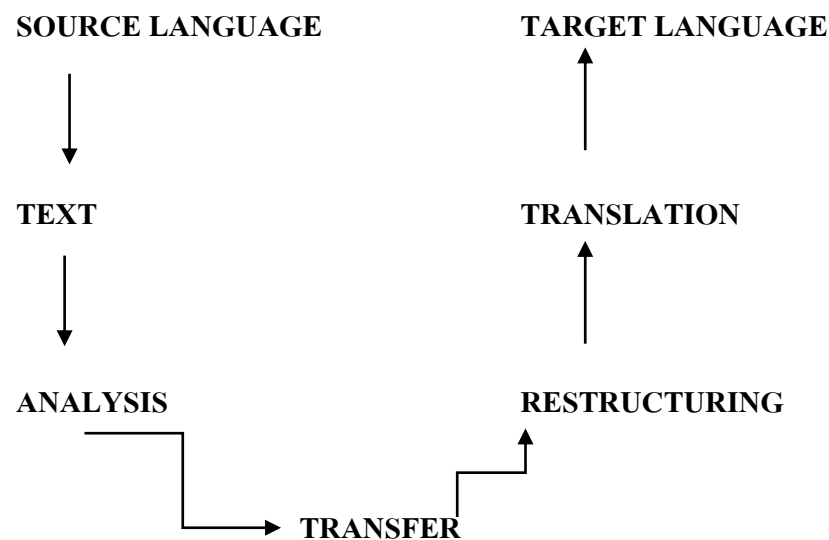


Figure 1: Nida and Taber's Model of The Translation Process

¹⁶ Nida, E.A. & Taber, C.R., **The theory and practice of translation**, (Leiden: Brill, 1969), p. 214.

¹⁷ Gerver, D & Sinaiko, H.W. (ed.), **Language Interpretation and communication**, (New York / London: Plenum Press, 1978). pp. 25-33.

The first step of Nida and Taber's model of the translation process is to analyse and decode the meaning of the source text by considering the grammatical structures and the semantic meaning of the target language. The second step is to transfer the message. The third step is to adjust the grammatical structures of the target text without altering the meaning of the source language.

Several prominent translation theorists have proposed techniques to transfer messages that are suitable for different text types. The general concepts of translation can be generally divided into two approaches: word-to-word translation and free translation.

Word-for-word translation (Literal translation) focuses on conforming to the original wording, phrases, style, and structure of the source language into the target language as much as possible. This type of translation is used for law documents, religious documents, etc.

Free translation focuses on the receptor. It is the method in which the translator tries to convey the meaning from the source language into the target language, not the form of the source language as in word-for-word translation. This translation method is used for literature documents, etc. Furthermore, Saibua also proposed that the consideration in employing literal or free translation depends on the purpose of the translation and the kind of text type.¹⁸

In addition, Saibua suggests useful specific steps in the translation process to enhance effective translation as follows:¹⁹

1. Study the original text in order to find its message, content, meaning, tone, flavour, and feeling between the lines.
2. Analyse the original text meaning carefully in order to transfer it as accurately as possible.

¹⁸ Nida, E.A. & Taber, C.R., **The theory and practice of translation**, (Leiden: Brill, 1969), p. 250.

¹⁹ Saibua, S., **Principle of Translation**. (6th ed. Bangkok: Thammasart University Press, 1997), pp. 63-68.

3. Transfer the original text into the target language by the following steps:

Step 1: Define the translation purposes and choose the translation approach.

Step 2: Analyse the target language kernel sentences and transfer them into the target language.

Step 3: Reproduce the analysed kernel sentences to be naturally close to the target language while keeping the original meaning, tone and style.

Step 4: Check the translated text in order to find whether its effects are equivalent to the original.

4. Check the translated text for quality assurance. This process is to check whether or not the reader responds equivalently to the translation as they do with the original text. These activities include checking the original meaning, style, register, and tone.

To sum up, the first step of translation begins with reading the whole source text in order to understand its meaning. Then, the translator finds an appropriate process to translate the text. Next, the translator translates the text into the target language. Finally, the translator revises and corrects the translated text.

2.5 Translation Problems

In translating English texts into Thai, although many Thai translators are professionals and experts, they still face various problems in the translation process such as cultural differences, unknown concepts or ideas in the source language, and different grammatical and semantic features between the Thai and English languages. Similar to other translation work, in translating children's literature, translators can face these difficulties.

Translators normally employ their skills to appropriately select equivalent words of the receptor language to replace the original words in order to reconstruct them in the receptor language. The style of translation depends on the translator's competence in both languages, especially the application of their lexicons. However, previous studies report

many problems concerning semantic equivalence between English and Thai. The problems of semantic equivalence often arise when translating languages that have different cultures.

Besides, Supon stated that the problems in translation can be divided into three levels: cultural problems, language structure problems, and semantic problems. She introduced the guidelines for solutions to deal with these problems as follows:

1. Solutions for cultural problems: The translator should learn the culture of the SL which is relevant to the text.

2. Solutions for language structure problems: The translator should learn to understand the area of language structure in which there are differences between the source language (SL) and target language (TL). Translators should be well-prepared before starting work and should not subject the target language (TL) under the source language (SL) or vice versa.

3. Solutions for semantic problems: the translator should study the meaning of words, both their referential meaning and their connotative meaning. This can be done by consulting dictionaries, text books, and experts.²⁰

More specifically, Baker classifies translation problems into eleven types covering all linguistic, semantic, and cultural aspects and discussed possible ways to deal with those problems. The following are some common types of problems of non-equivalence at the word level.

1. Culture-specific concepts: Culture-specific concepts are unknown or rarely understood in the target culture particularly with the concept of religious beliefs, social customs, or types of food. Understanding cultural concept encourages accurate translation.

2. The source language concept is not lexicalised in the target language: The source language concept is known in the target language, but there is no equivalent word to express it. A solution to this problem is to give related words or a paraphrase as shown above in the target language.

²⁰ Supon, D., **Theories and Strategies of Translation**, (Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Press, 1998), pp. 20-28.

3. Semantic complexity of the source language: It is sometimes difficult to give an equivalent of the source language in the target language because the source language word may be semantically complex. Instead of expressing the source language in a single word, a phrase or sentence is needed so as to give an accurate translation. Rather, a paraphrase is needed to convey the exact meaning.

4. Different distinctions in meaning between the source and target languages: Generally, there are a number of distinctions in meaning between the source language and the target language. The target language sometimes has more or less distinctions in meaning than the source language or vice versa. In translation, it is the duty of a good translator to observe the distinctions in meaning so as to give accurate translation.

5. Lack of a general word in the target language: The target language may not have a general equivalent word in the source language. Rather, it has only a specific word and it can differ in meaning in the source language.

6. Lack of specific words in the target language: The target language sometimes may lack a specific word to refer to a word in the source language. English has various hyponyms but in some languages, there are no equivalents. It is difficult to find precise equivalents in other languages; therefore, a paraphrase is used to convey the accurate meaning

7. Differences in physical or interpersonal perspective: A language may be different in physical or interpersonal perspective. A physical perspective is concerned with the relationship between people, things and places. Despite the same meaning, these pronouns are used on different occasions depending on the register or the level of formality or the relationship of both messages, sender, and the receiver.

8. Differences in expressive meaning: A word in the source and the target languages may have the same propositional meaning, but not the same expressive meaning. The translator may add an evaluative element of the expressive meaning in the form of a modifier, adverb, etc. to convey the same or almost the same meaning as the source language.

9. Differences in form: There is no equivalent of some particular forms in the source and target languages. For example, English has prefixes such as un-, im-, in- (e.g., unseen, impossible, independence) and suffixes such as -able, -ish, -ment (e.g., believable, boyish, management) whereas Thai does not have these equivalent forms.

10. Differences in frequency and purpose of using specific forms: In English, there are changes of verb and noun forms depending on the time frame, the singular or plural form, the active or passive voice, etc. These do not exist in Thai. Problems arise when Thai translators are influenced by their first language. In English, the tense of verbs plays an important role, whereas in Thai, verb tense does not exist.

11. Difference in the use of loan words in the source text: In translation, loan words are used when there is no equivalent in the target language; however, it is not always possible to find a loan word with the same meaning in the target language.²¹

Hatim and Mason broadly summarize problems of translations in 3 aspects as follows:²²

1. Comprehension of source text

- (a) parsing of text (grammatical and lexis)
- (b) access to specialized knowledge
- (c) access to the intended meaning.

2. Transfer of meaning:

- (a) relaying lexical meaning
- (b) relaying grammatical meaning
- (c) relaying rhetorical meaning, including implied or inferable meaning, for

potential readers.

²¹ Yaowamarn nuanrattanatrakul "An analysis of translation strategies Employed in translating English-Thai Dialogues in the children's short story 'what men live by'", **M.A Dessertation**, (Graduate school Kasetsart Universtiy, 2011), pp. 15-17.

²² Hatim, B. & Mason, I. **Translation as communication**. (London and New York: Longman. 1992). pp. 24-28.

3. Assessment of target text:

- (a) readability
- (b) conforming to generic and discursal TL conventions
- (c) judging adequacy of translator for specified purpose.

As remarked by Mildred L. Larson the most difficult problem in translation is cultural differences. The reason is that people in different cultures tend to view things from their cultural perspectives. A word that seems to give the same meaning and replace that meaning in one language might not convey such a meaning in another culture as cultural implications always involve. The word “pig”, for example, has negative meaning in Jewish culture, but gives positive meaning in the Papua New Guinea culture.

Apparently, the message of the source text plays an important role in translation. Occasionally, mistranslation that causes miscommunication to the target reader can take place in three levels: level of equivalence at word level, level of equivalence above word level and level of pragmatics.

Level of equivalence at word level. Baker discusses the problems of non - equivalence at word level and grammatical equivalence resulting from the translator cannot select an appropriate word for the target language.

Baker especially provides 11 types of problematic translation for the word level as the following:²³

- a. Source languages have culture - specific concepts.

This problem occurs when some source languages may have a specific word meaning which is unable to reproduce a direct equivalent word in target language. Saewong showed the examples: In Thai the word ไบซีวี่/ baisii / (in respect to the spirits of this place, to the grace of good angels) and ตะพด/tapod/ (a nice big weighty cane) are

²³ Baker, M., **In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation**, (London and New York:Routledge.Acquisition. 1992). pp. 17, 20, 26.

difficult to express in other languages because each language is different in terms of religion, belief and cultural aspects.²⁴

b. The source language concept is not lexicalized in the target language.

A word in the source language may not be translated into a target language word, although its cultural meaning is understood in target language. However, the translators may find the equivalent words or paraphrase of it. The instance of the word *landslide*, which has no ready equivalent in a number of languages.

c. The source language is semantically complex.

A word in the source language may have such a complicated meaning that the translators have difficulties translating it. For example, the word ศาติกรรม /phaa ti kam/ in Thai may be translated as the barter of things or places in Buddhism such as dismantling a monastery and rebuilding a better one or compensating things to monks.

d. The source and target language make different distinctions in meaning. This problem arises due to the concept of distinction in word meaning between languages. The apparent example of Indonesian words *kehujan*, which is defined as going out in the rain without the knowledge that it is raining, and *hujanhujan*, which has a similar meaning but with the knowledge that it is raining. Anyway, the occurrence does not appear in English.²⁵

e. The target language lacks a subordinate.

The target language may not be translated into a general word to complete the semantic field, thus a specific lexicon is employed instead. For instance, the word ทัพพี /thappii/ (the large spoon that is used to ladle the rice into the alms bowls of monks). In Thai language, it has no superordinate term as English which employs *cutlery* to replace spoons, knives, forks used for eating and serving food. Take another example, Baker shows

²⁴ Saewong, J., "An analysis of translation strategies used in the short story: the Song of the Leaves", **M.A Dissertation**, (Bangkok: Graduate School, Srinakharinwirot University, 2004), p. 67.

²⁵ Baker, M., **In other words: A Coursebook on Translation**, (New York: Clays Ltd., St Lves Plc. 1992), pp. 21, 22, 42-48.

a word in Russian **sredstva peredvizheniya** (means of transport) which is more specific than its real meaning.

f. The target language lacks a specific term (hyponym).

This problem may emerge when general words in the target language exist but specific words do not exist because each language makes it different in meaning based on its environments. For example, English words such as bungalow, cottage, chalet, lodge, hut, and mansion have no equivalents to other languages.

g. Differences in physical or interpersonal perspective

Physical or interpersonal perspective involves things or people interrelated. The occurrence may emerge when the participants in discourse use the words differently in physical perspective concerning where things or places are associated one another for example, *come / go, take / bring*.²⁶

h. Differences in expressive meaning

A target lexicon may have a similar propositional meaning like the source language, but no expressive meaning. The problem may be handled by adding modifiers or adverbs. For instance, English verb **battering** in the context of child / wife battering is rendered by Japanese verb **tataku** (to beat) which may have more neutral meaning rather than the source language word. Thus, the translator can use equivalent modifiers such as savagely or ruthlessly.

i. Differences in form

Due to the differences in word formation of each language, the translator may encounter difficulties in finding equivalent target words for the source language words. For example, English has particular suffixes such as *boyish, greenish, and hellish*, but Thai has no such suffixes. Hence, the translator should use an appropriate paraphrase to fill the meaning of the original word.

j. There are differences in frequency and purpose of using forms

²⁶ Baker, M., **In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation**, (London and New York: Routledge.Acquisition. 1992), p. 23.

The problem emerges when a particular form is equivalent between the source and target language, but it may be employed in different frequencies and purposes. For example, English tends to use the continuous-ing form for joining clause rather than other languages which have no equivalents for it.

k. The use of loan words in the source text

Another problem in translation is loanwords which have the different meaning in both the target and source languages in spite of their frequent use in the target language. For instance, the English word *fit* is frequently used to mean “tight” in a Thai context, but the word actually conveys the positive meaning as “appropriate” in English. So, translators may get lost in translation if they can’t find a loanword with similar meaning in target language words. Another example is the word *false friends*, which have the similar form in various languages, but relate to a different meaning.

Level of equivalence above word level

This level specially shows the violation of collocation and idiom. In translation, the translation problem may bring about when translators cannot convey the exact meaning of collocation and idiom to the translated text. Collocation is defined as its frequent co-occurrence/s or word partner/s and Baker assert that the fundamental translation problems arise because of misinterpretation of collocation in the original language, the lexical choices between accuracy and naturalness in translating. Baker gives examples as follows:

Source text: These young pandas in the Beijing Zoo are great crowd pullers.

Target text: These young pandas in Beijing Zoo attract a lot of spectators.

From the above statement, **crowd pullers** is not an acceptable collocation in Chinese. Also, it reveals that the Chinese do not familiarize with the informal style in written mode; therefore, the formal style is used instead. Additionally, Kongsap stresses the difficulties the translators may face when translating idioms”. For instance, A hot potato means “something that is difficult or dangerous to deal with”. Uncle Sam means “the government of the United States”. Therefore, a translator should study a great deal of

idioms in the original text to succeed in the goal of translation that is accurate, natural and communicative in the work.

Level of equivalence at pragmatic level.

In this level, Baker additionally focuses on textual equivalence which deals with cohesion and pragmatic equivalence. The main details concern coherence and the process of interpretation as well as implicature. In short, this level conveys the language use in different contexts. Sometimes, there is an untranslatable word in the text. So, the translator has to place the importance on word meaning within the context of the situation as well. The translator is also required to have competence in producing words which incorporate different cultures and what the text addresses to people in each situation. However, in the pragmatic level in the poem, Dahlgren importantly cites that “ the pragmatic equivalence will be posted on the level of the whole poem. Moreover, in poetry, the effects and interpretations are caused not only by bold metaphor and images but by crafted lines of inference and lack of clues for interpretation.”

Furthermore, Suntiworawut states that the translation is a cross- cultural communication that may cause non-equivalence at word level between the source language and target language. Aside from the lack of language equivalence between both languages in terms of words and phrases, the cultural differences are the principle difficulties that hamper translating. She exemplifies that the name of the river may relate to different meaning in the poetry such as the Niles, the Mississippi, the Congo. Thus, the translator should understand why the poet uses the names and know their significance to relate the theme of the poem.

In conclusion, poetry translation problems arise in a wide range of aspects, dealing with linguistics, cultures, and semantics. Apparently, they are derived from non-equivalence between the source and target languages. However, these problems can be handled by employing translation strategies which will be presented next.

2.5.1 Linguistic problems

Since language differs from one to another as to which information may be left implied in a text and the text can still be understood and needs to be made explicit for good communication, the translator must take careful note of all implied information. What this information needs to be expressed overtly in the target language will depend on the structure of the target language and what is understood by the speakers of that language. Based on the classification of implicit information made by Beekman & Callow, implicit information can be divided into linguistically and culturally implicit information.²⁷

Linguistically Implicit Information

Linguistically implicit information is present in the co-text which the structure of the source language does not require to make explicit. One type of linguistic implicit information to be discussed in this study is a figurative expression. Figurative expression is interesting to be analyzed since it carries implicit meaning as well as conveys figures of speech such as a rhetorical device using words in distinctive ways that achieve a special effect²⁸. In addition, he also stated that every sentence containing a figurative expression could make the reader or hearer confused and try to imagine what the real meaning is.

2.5.2 Cultural problems

Culturally implicit information is derived purely from the external context; in other words, it is not implied by the syntax of the language, for example, cultural term.

In 1988, Newmark defined culture as "the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression", thus acknowledging that each language group has its own culturally specific features. He also introduced '*cultural word*' which the readership is unlikely to understand and the translation strategies for this kind of concept depend on the particular text-type, requirements of the

²⁷ Beekman, J. & Callow, J., **Translating the Word of God, Summer Institut of Linguistics** (sixth edition 1986), pp. 48-49.

²⁸ McArthur, Tom (ed.), **The Oxford Companion to the English Language**. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1992), p. 402.

readership and client and importance of the cultural word in the text. Peter Newmark also categorizes the cultural aspects into five aspects, as follows:²⁹

a. Ecology: flora, fauna, winds, plains, hill, etc. Geographical features can be normally distinguished from other cultural terms that are usually value free, politically and commercially. Nonetheless, the diffusion depends on the importance of their country of origin as well as their degree of specificity. For example: plants, animal, rain, seasons, hills, etc.

b. Material culture: there are many objects included in material culture, namely food, clothes, houses and towns, transportation.

c. Social culture: work and leisure. In considering social culture, one has to distinguish between denotative and connotative problems of translation. There is rarely a translation problem, if the words can be transferred, they have approximated one to one translation or they can be functionally defined. For example, pork-butcher, hardware, etc. whilst, the obvious cultural words that denote leisure activities are frequently related to national games and their lexical sets. Like: cricket, bull-fighting, hockey, etc.

d. Social organization: politics and administration, religion, arts. The political and social life of a country is reflected in its institutional terms and social addressing terms, where the title of a head of state (e.g. King, President, etc) or the name of parliament. Where the name of a parliament is not readily translatable, it has recognized official translation for administrative documents. Here, the concepts include: political and administrative, religious, artistic, historical and international terms. In popular texts, the transferred word can be replaced by the functional or descriptive term.

e. Gesture and habits: there is a distinction between description and function that can be made where necessary in ambiguous cases, thus if people smile a little when someone dies, kiss their fingertips to praise, all of which occurs in some cultures and not in others. These actions will give a different interpretation for those who see them and whose cultures are different.

²⁹ Newmark, P., **Approach to translation**. (Oxford: Pegamon Press. 1988), pp. 55-62.

Pornpimol Senawong categorizes culture into five aspects: ecology, material culture, social culture, religious culture, and linguistic culture. These 5 cultural aspects cause difficulties when translating, yet some methods can be applied to transfer different cultural meanings.

A study by Jelena Stefanovi “Problems in Translation Practice How are we to overcome them?” aimed at finding out types of translation problems and ways to overcome them. In this study, high students at a Serbian School were asked to do some translations. It was found that there were a lot of errors in translation. It was explained that the choice of texts were not appropriate as they were long, dull, and uncommunicative extracts from Victorian novels. When the teacher switched to more modern texts, it was found that students were able to do better although they were still making mistakes.

Translation Problems Instrument (TPI): There are two parts to the TPI. The first is the task of translating a text-with a translation brief where four translation problems have been previously identified. The four types of problems chosen are linguistic, extra-linguistic, transfer, and pragmatic. These types of problems are chosen because in order to solve them, the translator has to mobilize nearly all the translation competence sub-competencies. The specific problems chosen were as follows:

a) Linguistic problem: flying. This is a language comprehension problem because in this text the usage of flying is not the most usual one. Furthermore, there is a reformulation problem because bilingual dictionaries do not offer an adequate equivalent.

b) Extra-linguistic problem: Sunday and weekly papers. This is a cultural problem because the distinction does not exist in Spain;’ although the weekly papers have a Sunday edition, the concept is not quite the same. Therefore, following the brief, the translator has to make a cultural adaptation or find some other solution.

c) Transfer problem: It’s ideal for beginners. Details free. No cost. No obligation. Send the coupon. The transfer problem here is a conflict between cohesion patterns in English and Spanish. The normal pattern in Spanish would be a single sentence or two at the most, with the ideas linked by connectors and references.

d) Pragmatic problem: Britain. The translation brief specifically states that the translation is an advertisement for a writing course in Spanish, offered by a company based in Madrid. Therefore, it makes no sense to give the reader information about what happens in Great Britain, and the information should be adapted to the new context, substituting Britain with Espana.

2.6 Techniques of Translation

Furthermore, Antoine Lemaistre, 1608–1650. French religious writer and translator. Extract from his *Règles de la traduction française* (Rules of French Translation), published in 1650.

1. The first point you must take into consideration when you translate into French is that you must be extremely literal and faithful, i.e. you must render into our language, all that is in the Latin and you should do that so well that if Cicero had spoken our language he would have spoken as we make him speak in our translation.

2. You must try to render one felicitous passage by means of another and one figure of speech by means of another. You must try to imitate the author's style and to come as close to it as you can. You must vary the constructions and the figures of speech and make the translation into a painting, a vivid representation of what you translate, so that people will say that French is as beautiful as Latin and have the confidence to quote famous authors in French instead of in Latin.

3. We must distinguish between the purity of our verse and the beauty of our prose. The beauty of our verse is to be found in its rhymes, at least in part, whereas our prose claims to have no rhymes since rhymes are avoided in prose, as a general rule.

4. We must not write long sentences in our translations, nor affect a style that is too concise. Since our language runs longer than Latin anyway and needs more words to render the whole sense, we must try to strike a just balance between excessive abundance of words that would make the style sluggish, and excessive brevity that would make it obscure.

5. All parts of a sentence must be so well measured and so equal among themselves that they are perfectly symmetrical as far as possible.

6. We must not put anything in our translation if we cannot justify it, or explain why we put it in. That is more difficult than you think.

7. We must be careful never to begin two sentences, and certainly not two parts of a sentence with a particle like “for, but,” and the like.

8. We must also try never to use words with the same initial sounds in succession, as in “which one withholds,” or “can conflict,” since the whole point of harmony in discourse is that it should be pleasing to the ears, not the eyes.

9. The most beautiful part of a sentence is always the one that is below or above the halfway mark of a great heroic line, i.e. the part that consists of five or seven syllables.³⁰

Finally, the significance of this chapter was in its assembly of various concepts of translation involved in the definition of translation and in the theory of translation. In regard to the process of translation, it provided understanding about analyzing the source text, decoding the meaning of the source text and re-cording its meaning into the target language, and the way to evaluate and test translated works. This chapter also discussed factors to be considered in the area of translation; qualifications of the translator, the source language, culture, and new technologies as connected with the computer, machine translation, and electronic dictionaries.

In addition, this chapter provided the method or strategies of English-Thai translation in regard to linguistic fundamentals: the sentence, transformation, transition verbs of feeling, vocabularies, pronouns, conjunctions, punctuation marks, and transliteration. Finally, the three basic skills of the translator were discussed: reading comprehension, research capacity, analytic ability and skill in composition, all of which were presented for the sake of better understanding.

³⁰ Andre Lefevere, **Translation/ History/ Culture: A Sourebook**, (London and New York: Laylor & Francis e-Library, 2003), pp. 9-10.

Chapter Three

Research Method

This chapter is explained on the carrying research, which concerned with professional translator background and methodology which used in this study. It can be divided into five parts: 1) Research Direction 2) Research Design 3) Population 4) Data collection 5) Data analysis.

3.1 Research Direction

3.2 Research Design

3.3 Population

3.4 Data Collection

3.5 Data Analysis

3.1 Research Direction

This research is the qualitative research that aims at to identify, categorize and describe the solution of translation.

3.2 Research Design

This is a qualitative research and data analysis. There were two parts in this study; 1) in-depth interviews with professional translators and 2) the language documentations. The research collects and analyzes the results of information of English and Thai translation is to identify and categorize problems from informants, general academic textbooks, thesis, academic journals as well as solve problems.

3.3 Key Informants

In this research study, it is a qualitative research aiming to identify, categorise and analyze the data which is interviewed from professional translators. This research uses the techniques of in-depth interview with translators. All translators in this research consist of ten translators who are contacted to take a participation in the interviews and six translators are now giving a lecture at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya Universtiy, Wangnoi, Ayuthaya, Thailand, and one translator who has been working at the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, and three of translators who are freelance translators and all of them live in Bangkok and nearby areas. Translators have a good technique and an experience in translation work more for than two years and having different background knowledge in translation. Some translators hold Thai nationality, and some of them are foreigners, all of them have special knowledge on translation. They have translated the works concerning education, law, psychology, and movie sphere, and so on.

3.4 Data Collection

3.4.1 Primary Data

Conducting in the process of informal interview with Thai and Foreign translators in this study in order to help the translators to feel free to answer all of the questions, giving out suggestions from translators who are the lectures of Mahachulalongkornravidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Ayutthaya, Thailand. One of translators worked at the Ministry of Foreign Language of Parliament in Bangkok, Thailand, while other translators are English teachers and freelance guide, translators who stayed in Bangkok and nearby areas.

According to the aim of the research is to identify and categorize English into Thai and Thai into English translation problems, these were solved the problems of translation by professional translators who live in Bangkok and nearby areas. Before interviewing with professional translators were preparing an interview guide, including recorder, interviewee's form and possible questions to be useful in this research study.

Typically, the questions could start from words such as ‘When, What, and How’ etc. (See In the Appendix C). However, while interviewing with them, it should be noted that importantly, answers and knowledge which are from questions.

The aim of the interview is to get data or information from informants. These are carried on in face to face conversations or interviewed by telephone. After that the researcher sent a letter of self- introduction, research topic and research objectives to the translators who participate in giving information, to be used in this research study. All of the translators who join with interviews give their opinions, experience of translation work. Importantly, the appointments with the translators could be made the date, time and place of the interviews are confirmed.

Interviewing process has used time over one and a half month. They commenced in the period between 1 January to 15 February 2015. In these interviews, the researcher used an interview form to obtain basic biographical information and information pertaining to the background of the informants, such as given name, surname, address, gender, age, position, Mobile number, and work experience. All information was written down in the form show in Appendix B.

As the researchers have already informed the translators of the aims at this research study, informal face to face conversational interviewing was conducted. All the answers, opinions and suggestions from them were recorded by tape recorder and taking notes. The interviews with professional translators were conducted in Thai and English. It used more times in the interviews; someone is one hour, 30 minutes, 20 minutes and difference time according to the translators. After collecting data already, the researcher sent a ‘Thanks letter’ to the all translators for interviews. The letter could be shown in Appendix E.

3.4.2 Secondary Data

In collecting data from many books, to select documents and journals from the original text by emphasizing on studying the problems as well as the words that differ from Thai culture in order to study the techniques of the translators used to solve these

difficulties in translating the books in order to transfer meaning as well as maintain the form of the source text.

3.5 Data Analysis

Having finished data collection, the researcher listened to the tapes, recording from translators and wrote transcripts of the interviews. All of the answers were related to the research questions. Transcripts were written in English as shown in chapter four. All of data collections was re-read by researchers in order to provide useful information to identify, categories and analysis problems of English and Thai translation, it can help to solve the problems of translation for professional translators.

Translation subject is a matter of conveying the meaning and maintaining form of the source text. When the translation related to the meaning, the translator is responsible to make the readers understand the meaning of the original. When considering a translation in terms of maintaining the form of the source text to convey the meaning, the translator must try to convey to the readers the structure of language or style of the original.

Data analysis is in accorded with informational transcripts that it has collected from professional already. The information were explicated and proved useful in this research study English and Thai translation problems by researcher. All answers in these transcripts were analyzed to explain clearly and giving suggestions which may be useful to help in solving the same problems in the upcoming future.

Finally, This Chapter carried on the qualitative methods to use in this research study. Collecting the data was conducted by interview with professional translators. It was useful for getting information base on their experiences and suggestion. All information collected from ten Thai and foreign professional translators. Most of the data take from the interview with translators concerning English and Thai translation problems. Finally, it hope to find the problems, how to solve it and will be useful in translation in the future.

Chapter Four

Results of Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This chapter explains the results and identify the problems which are from interviews with ten professional translators, focusing on English and Thai translation problems. And it also presents background information about their names, surname, age, gender, education and address. Finally, the results are taken from the interviews that collected from every translator.

4.2 Translators Background

The ten professional translators who participate in the interview are divided into two groups. The first group consists of six translators who are from Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi District, Ayuttaya Province, Thailand. The second group is four freelance translators.

Gender		Age		Education		Experience	
	Number		Number		Number		Number
Male	8	30-35	2	B.A	3	1-2 Years	1
Female	2	36-40	4	M.A	2	3-5 Years	2
		41-45	1	Ph.D.	5	6-10 Years	3
		56-73	3			11-20 Years	4
Total	10		10		10		10

All translators have ever translated many fields of translation such as Psychology, Movie, Social Studies, Magazine, Education, Legal, Medicine, Contract, Short Story, Business, General Documents, Abstract, Law, and Labor legislation.

According to the information which has been shown above, the age of professional translators is between thirty and seventy three years old. Three of them are 56-73 years old. One of the translators is 41-55 years old. Four of them are 36-40 years old and two of the translators are 30-35 years of age. Translators who give information for this research are two females and eleven males. Two of translators are a holder of Bachelor's Degree, only one is a holder of Master's Degree and six of them are holders of Doctoral Degree. Two of the professional translators have worked in the translation field for 20 years and the other two of them have 10 years in translation experience.

Another translator also has an experience in translation career more than two years. Different backgrounds working as a translator; someone starts from translating music document, short story, article and so on. Most of them have ever translated more than five fields such as education, medicine, movie, psychology, politics, social sciences and law. And all professional translators are living in Bangkok and nearby area.

4.3 Interview with translators

Mr. Duangdee Aotsoo, who is a teacher, officer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University said that the problems of the translation are technical terms or terminology. For example, the word 'meditation'; it is more than one meaning, such as Bhavana meditation, Kammathana meditation and Vipassana meditation. For this reason, it is very difficult to translate into English. Thai people have understood the meaning of meditation already. It is not problematic for them, but, on the contrary, but it is a problem for English people. So if translators translate from Thai to English, they have to understand the technical terms clearly. Furthermore, the longer sentences, different language structure, is also the problems in translation, because it makes difficult to get the main knowledge

from the original text. In addition, idioms, slangs, metaphors, and proverbs are also problematic too.¹

Ms. Potchamanphajee Sawangphol, who is a Foreign Relation Officer, working at The Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bangkok, Thailand, points out that the problem of translation is the language structure, too long sentences, the limitation of time, and having no experience in translation work. As English is an international language, writing and speaking style is also different according to the culture of the countries around the world. Sometimes, translators don't have more time to translate because of a time limit for them, that is a big problem. If translators don't have time enough to read it, it makes them confused to get the main points from the original text. Furthermore, in a group translation, it should have a perfect leader or editor to edit these works. She also suggests that when translator encounters the problems of translation, the translator must find the way to solve such problems such as using dictionaries, asking some professional translators and searching from the internet, etc.²

Venerable Dr. Phramaha Phuen Chalermchan who is the Head of Department of Psychology of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi District, Ayutthaya Province, Thailand, said that the main problems in translation is not understanding the main knowledge of the source language, and different cultures between two languages. Not understanding the main knowledge is a big problem in translation, because if the translator cannot get the main knowledge from it, it is not possible to translate perfectly, it may confuse the reader for their translation work. Not understanding of two languages perfectly is also one of the problems in translation, too. Most of translators are perfect in language skills, but face the problems in different cultures among two languages that they are going to translate. On the other hand, the problem occurs not only that the translator does not

¹Interview with Mr. Duangdee Aotsoo, who is a teacher, officer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 28, January, 2015.

²Interview with Ms. Potchamanphajee Sawangphol, Foreign Relation Officer, working at The Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bangkok, Thailand, 29, January, 2015.

understand the main point of the text and different culture, but also the old version of English that has been written in the old style, using the old vocabularies. It is so hard to translate and a big problem in translation works.³

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preecha Khanetnok who is a the Director of Ph.D. Program in Linguistics and a lecturer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University suggested that the problems of the translation are the original text which is not clear and complete. It makes the reader confused with it. One of the most important for translators is that they must be more careful on spelling the name of the authors. All translators have to be perfect in language skills that they have translated and they should have more experience in translating. In English into Thai translation, it is not a straightforward translation. For example, 'she is in the room'. It can translate in two ways; 1) หล่อน อยู่ในห้อง 2) หล่อน อยู่ห้อง. Two of these are the same meaning. So, some sentence structures are not necessary to translate directly.⁴

Phra Thitawong Anuttaro, a lecturer of the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University explained that using the word in English is problematic. It means translators are confused about how to use the word or vocabulary; idiom, adjective, adverb and noun in writing style, lack of confidence in using the word in writing the translation. In addition, being poor in a base of language is also a problematic translation.⁵

Miss Nang Num Htwe who is a teacher, a freelance guide and translator said that in many problems of translation, idioms, slangs, technical terms and time limit are a big

³ Interview with Venerable Dr. Phramaha Phuen Chalermchan, Head of Department of Psychology of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi District, Ayutthaya Province, Thailand, 3, February, 2015.

⁴ Interview with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preecha Khanetnok, Director of Ph.D. Program in Linguistics and a lecturer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 3, February, 2015.

⁵ Interview with Phra Thitawong Anuttaro, lecturer of the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, 28, January, 2015.

problem. Because English writer often uses idioms in writing style, and in the movie as well many slangs are always used. For Idioms and slangs, it cannot be translated directly or word by word. Therefore, translating Idioms, and slang are too hard to get the main point and keep the main knowledge from the original text. For example, in slang 'I am blue.' It can't be translated as “ผมเป็นสีฟ้า”. It should be translated as “ผมกำลังยุ่งอยู่”. In technical term, for example, 'Ministry of Education' 'กระทรวงศึกษาธิการ', it cannot be translated into another meaning or by our own language that we understanding, it must be translated in accordance with its original name.

Furthermore, formal translation is one of the problems in translation, because the translator must be careful in using formal language all the time, especially in a Law Court. For example; 'lover' it can't be translated แฟน, it should be translated คนรัก. 'Father, Mother' it can't be translated พ่อแม่. It should be translated as มารดาบิดา etc. Moreover, the time limit is also a problem in translation. Time is very important for the translator, if they do not have enough time to read it before translating, the mistake can occur or it may get the main knowledge in error. Finally, she also suggested that some techniques of translating are; 1) every translator must be skillful in both languages that they have to translate such as grammatical structure, vocabulary, slang, and Idiom, 2) they must love doing translation work, 3) they must know more technical terms of both languages, 4) they should always listen to the news or media.⁶

Dr. Kham-Ing Kongsin who is a lecturer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University pointed out that the problem of translation is the language skills; grammatical structure, the meaning of the sentences, culture and technical term. For example, immovable property - อสังหาริมทรัพย์ movable property- สสังหาริมทรัพย์. It means that translators must know more technical term, and using the correct word. The translators must lastly have target language at least 60 percent. He also said that translators have to know their target

⁶ Interview with Miss Nang Num Htwe, who is a teacher, a freelance guide and translator, 30, January, 2015.

group. Finally, he suggested two kinds of translations; the first one is literal translation and the second one is free translation.⁷

Mr. Khur Leng who is a teacher and a freelance translator said that the main problems of the translation are idiom, slang, technical term and language culture. And translators should know about how to translate these words. The translation should be either word to word or free translation. All translators should know more technical terms to use in translation, So they should always learn about it, because English has become an international language, and it can be changed all the time according to the circumstances, We cannot remember one word of one meaning. So, the translator can't stop leaning on it. He gave some examples, such as 'Song Kran' if you are Thai, it is not problematic, and easy to understand the meaning of that word, but for foreigners it is a problem and difficult to understand. For this reason, the translator has to explain the meaning of that technical term and make it clear for them.⁸

Mr. Nanda Kher who is a teacher, freelance translator said that the main problem of the translation is new vocabulary and longer sentence. The problem of new vocabulary means that some vocabularies are from the religion, foods, and culture which have many theories behind of these. For example, the word *Vedana*, it is a word of Theravada Buddhism. And if translating into English, most of the translators now translate it into English 'suffering'. But it is not completely the meaning of *Vedana*. Here, it explains that some words are from religion, foods and culture, have many theories of the words. If translators face the situation like that, they should have the technique to borrow the words of the original language or using the technique of transliterating and write down footnote of the words.

The second, especially from Thai to English translation, a longer sentence is a problem of the translation. Because Thai language usually writes too long sentence or has

⁷ Interview with Dr. Kham-Ing Kongsin, lecturer of Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyala University, 27, February, 2015.

⁸ Interview with Mr. Khur Leng, who is a teacher and a freelance translator, 25, January, 2015.

no full stop, it makes translators difficult to translate from Thai to English. He also suggested that translators should choose what kinds of English they are going to translate, especially, British English or American English. One of the most important things of the translator is to be honest. To solve the problems of translation, he gave some techniques on translations; 1) translators should read more and more, 2) after finishing translation, translators should edit again and again to improve their own translation skills, 3) translators should have more dictionaries to use while translating.⁹

The last translator's name is Venerable Seng Lurng Sunanda gave some information about the problems of the translation that translators are not skillful in both of the two languages of which they translate. To be a perfect translator, everyone should have reading and writing skills, and try to find out new vocabularies that cannot be found in dictionaries which they usually use for translation. To solve the problems in translation, he also suggested that every translator should have more dictionaries, ask translation specialists, and search from the internet etc.¹⁰

4.4 Linguistic Problems

In terms of linguistic problems, this aspect has been investigated as the following:

Lexical level

According to the research study, the lexical translation is very difficult, including: metaphor, idiomatic expressions, pronouns, proper names, slang, the use of technical terms.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a word or expression which is a literal usage denoting one kind of things or action which is applied to a distinctly different kinds of things or action, without asserting a comparison (Abrams, 1999).

⁹Interview with Mr. Nanda Kher who is a teacher, freelance translator, 11, February, 2015.

¹⁰ Interview with Venerable Seng Lurng Sunanda, 12, February, 2015.

For example;

Source text (The Merchant of Venice, p.82):	Target text (เวนิสวาณิช, น.114):
For having such blessing in his Lady, He finds the joys of heaven here on earth, And if on earth he do not mean it, it Is reason he should never come to heaven.	เพราะเมียดีเป็นที่สุโขดม รื่นรมย์ราวอยู่ในชั้นฟ้า ถ้าแม้ไม่ทำดีในแดนดิน จะถวิลถึงสวรรค์นั้นอย่าหา

Idiomatic expressions

A person's competence in actively using the idioms and fixed expressions of a foreign language hardly ever matches that of a native speak (Baker, 1992).

For example:

Source text:	Target text:
Somsak was in the clear after the thief told the police that he stole the watch.	สมศักดิ์ไม่เป็นที่สงสัยอีกต่อไป หลังจากที่ หัวขโมยบอกตำรวจว่า เป็นคนลักเอานาฬิกาไป

Proper names

A proper name or proper noun is a noun that is the name of a single particular thing or person, and is spelt with a capital letter (Longman Dictionary of English language and Culture, 1998: 1072).

For example:

Source text (Bill's New Frock, p. 1):	Target text (กระโปรงใหม่ของเด็กชายบิลล์, 25):
When Bill Simpson woke up on Monday morning, he found he was a girl.	เมื่อบิลล์ ซิมพ์สัน ตื่นขึ้นมาในเช้าวันจันทร์ เขาก็ รู้สึกว่ ตัวเขาเองกลายเป็นเด็กผู้หญิงไปแล้ว

Pronouns

In the Thai language, the segmentation of personal pronouns is much more detailed than in English. While in English, personal pronouns are roughly divided into first to third persons, singular and plural, the usage of Thai pronouns is more classifiable in terms of kinship, occupation, social status, etc. (Sasee Chanprapun, 2542).

For example;

Source text:	Target text:
I	ฉัน ดีฉัน ผม อาตมา.

Slang

According to the Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learner (2006: 1341) defines: slang means words or expressions that are very informal and are not considered suitable for more formal situations. Some slang is used only by a particular group of people.

For example:

Source text	Target text
I am blue.	ผม งานยุ่ง

Technical terms

The main problem in translating specialized knowledge is technical terms. The translators may face the hindrance because they cannot find Thai equivalent terms.

For example;

Source text: (A Legal Theory of International Terrorism):	Target text:
Member	สมาชิก
Call center	ศูนย์บริการ

4.5 Interview Results

To reveal the analysis of the interview transcripts, any comments, opinions of source language and target language are agreed by the most important qualification of professional translators. Most of the translators said, having knowledge relating to idioms, grammatical structure, terminology and understanding the culture of both languages are very important. For example, In this research study, translators should have much more knowledge relating to source language and target language. On the other hand, before starting to translate from a source language into the target language, translators should read the source language every page. It can help to maintain the meaning of the source language and make it easy for translation. Most of the translators said that not only professional translators should have good reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, but also must love in doing translation works, too. When translators translate from source language to target language, they must keep the main knowledge from the original text. However, all translators have to make understanding for all concepts in the text and read it all. It is the best way to keep the knowledge of the original text.

4.6 Identify the Problems of Translation from the Interview

The big problems that professional translators usually have faced in their translation are linguistic problem, cultural problem and time limit problem. In the linguistic problem it can be divided into five aspects, such as idiom, slang, grammatical structure, terminology and metaphor. Most of the translators are confused with translating the idiom and slang, and some of them have the problem of translation such as the metaphor and the longer sentence structure. Especially, In English to Thai translation, a long sentence is very difficult to translate. Other problems are the different culture between two languages.

For this reason, all translators not only have the knowledge of languages, but also have to understand the culture as well. Because some words are from the culture and it cannot be translated directly into the target language. Some translators said that time limit is also a big problem in translating. It can possibly make a mistake in translating because

they have no more time to read for making understanding of the original text. In addition, most problems are the general problems such as having no more experience in translating, building a good sentence structure, lack of knowledge on the subject that they received for translation.

Language Problem

Language problems are concerned with idiom, slang, grammatical structure and terminology. Having a big problem in translation is idiom and slang, pointed out by professional translators. All translators have always studied idiom, slang, grammatical structure more and more. Lack of understanding of idioms, slang, and grammatical structure may make misunderstandings in the meaning of translating. For example, in idiom ‘I am blue.’ Blue means สีฟ้า. But, when it translates into Thai, It should be translated as ‘ผมกำลังยุ่ง.’ It usually uses in conversation or in the movie according to the movie translators. In slang, ‘give me a hand’, translated into Thai ‘ช่วยเหลือผมหน่อย.’ The different grammatical structure of English and Thai language are problematic, difficult to translate, and to provide clear meaning of the source text. Longer sentence also makes difficulties to the translators in understanding about what it does mean. If translators misunderstand the source text, it can make the impact for the target text as well. So all translators must study about idiom, slang, grammatical structure as much as much they can.

Terminological Translation Problem

Furthermore, being careful in using a terminology is very important, and terminological word is one of the problems in translation. Professional translators should take into account of it and remember the word relating to the field of their translation such as the name of the Ministry; Ministry of Education, Ministry of Law etc. These cannot be translated by our own language that we understanding. Using the word is one kind of problems in translation. In English language, some words have no only one meaning, but having many meanings, and some are new words because they always are increased every day. Some words are not available in old dictionary, so the translators have to know about how to use the words correctly.

Law Translation Problem

Some translators point out that technical terms always generate the problem on legal text. It is very difficult to find its equivalence of Thai language conveying the exact meaning of such terms. So translators who work in legal translation should know more about vocabularies of this field, because the vocabularies used in the legal translation are different from other translation, for example, 'Father and Mother', it can translate in Thai as 'ผู้ปกครอง'. It should not translate as 'พ่อแม่'. 'Son and daughter', it should translate into Thai 'บุตรธิดา', 'spouse', it should translate as 'คู่สมรส'. Some translators said that they must be skillful in legal vocabulary. It is an easy way to help them with legal translation.

If the translators encounter the problem in translation that makes them to confess about it or they do not understand the main point of it, they should read again and again until understanding it all. Many problems in legal translation are included with no experience, lack of legal knowledge and misunderstanding of the meaning.

Pronoun Translation Problem

Some of the translators said that Being easy in making mistake in translation is tense, personal and impersonal pronoun because English and Thai grammatical structure are different, for example, '**The time her husband got home, she had already slept.**' In English grammatical structure, verbs change in accordance with the subject or the pronoun in writing sentences of the present, past, and future. But, it is unimportant in Thai language because both of the language's grammatical structure are different. So, this is the reason why it is difficult in translating correctly from English into Thai and Thai into English.

Because some of the translators misunderstand in using grammar, especially using pronouns erroneously. Indefinite pronouns are; 'one, some, someone, somebody, everyone, everybody, other, others, another'. For example, '**You are the one I have ever seen before,**' where the pronoun 'one' is an indefinite pronoun, the translator must consider the context in order to translate the meaning correctly. So, it should be translated as คุณคือคนที่ผมเคยพบมาก่อน.

Otherwise, in Thai language, the segmentation of personal pronoun has much more details than in English. The English pronoun has only more levels such as 'I' referring to the first singular personal pronoun, whereas the use of Thai pronoun is representing that person such as 'ข้า ดิฉัน นั้น ผม and ญ'. This problem can be solved by the use of addition, deletion and interpretative translation.

To solve the problem of grammatical structure and semantic is brought out from the interviews with translators. Before translating into the target language to get the same meaning with the source text, firstly, translators have to read and analyze the problematic features of what is being translated by determining with the precision of the original meaning. Then, translators seek the word and expression that its meaning is close to the context of the original. This is done either through literal translations.

All translators should use various dictionaries or modern dictionaries to help them in understanding the meaning of word and idiom, such as bilingual dictionaries, monolingual dictionaries, dictionaries of technical terms in each field, and so on. Also encyclopedias, glossaries, and the Internet are highly significant tools or sources used in helping them overcome barriers in conveying the meanings accurately.

If any words and expressions cannot not be directly translated, they will give the explanation in footnote or reference. If there are no viable alternative, the interviewees can use transliteration as a last resort. They use the techniques of transliteration provided by the Thai Royal Institute. Regarding the problem of grammatical structure, most translators have deciphered the correct meaning by virtue of taking into account of the circumambient context in which the problematical grammatical structure is added to assist and solve in translating.

Cultural Translation Problem

As the translators make abundantly clear, they often have encountered cultural translation problems. Most of them are confronted with the issue of how to treat the cultural aspects implicit in a English text translated, and of finding the most appropriate means for successfully conveying these aspects in the Thai language. For example, English terms of

address have only a single subject pronoun form (I/you), but Thai terms of address as reflective of Thai culture exhibit a plurality of forms which vary according to sex, age, kinship, status level, as well as social status. Terms of address in Thai such as ‘พี่, น้อง, คุณ, ป้า, ย่า, ยาย’ and the like commonly used in the daily lives of the Thai people.

With regard to similes and metaphors, some informants pointed out that they are not easy to comprehend, and sometimes cannot not be translated literally because both English and Thai have an idiomatic expression which is unique and culture bound. The problem often lays in the facet that the image used in the simile or metaphor is indescribable in the Thai language or even that the points of similarity are not made explicit in the original. It is hard to transfer or render all the information contained in culturally loaded expressions. For example, consider phrase like ‘white as snow.’ In English, when talking about the concept of whiteness, one would think about the core of a banana bole, the literal meaning of ‘หขวกกกล้วย’ as in the phrase ‘ขาวเหมือนหขวกกกล้วย’. As snow does not fall in Thailand, it is absurd to such as ‘Carrying coals to Newcastle’ was literally translated as เอาถ่านหินไปนิวคาสเซิล’, the Thai reader would not understand the meaning. So, translators use a close equivalence such as เอามะพร้าวห้าวไปขายสวน’ that Thais would find more understandable.

To cope with cultural problem such as the absence in Thai culture of terms or concepts in works being translated, the informants devised the strategy of finding the functional equivalence. Techniques include using a Thai term or expression that is the nearest equivalence or making use of paraphrasing. They explained the equivocal concepts that would be unfamiliar to the Thai reader. They also provided explanations in those cases in which there are no equivalent institutions or concepts in Thai culture and when a literal translation would make no sense. They also used to make transcriptions without and explanation as the meaning can usually be surmised on the basis of context. And lastly, they would ask native speakers to clarify the confusing words and expressions in the original text.

General Translation Problem

Lacking background knowledge in translation relating to the subject, receiving for translation, is a big problem for them, 'the translators said'. Translating words in all fields cover a wide range of knowledge. To cope with the problem of the translating background knowledge, most of the translators pointed out that they always keep reading books and listen to the news and gathered information. Furthermore, translators should study the areas related to the subjects in which they have translation work. For example, the translators of technology texts ought to study technical terms of technology, translators of texts in education should have knowledge in the areas of educational administration, teacher training, and so on. They also should have broad knowledge of the subject matters of the texts they translated.

Additional Translation Problem

In addition, all problems are mostly derived from linguistics and cultures. Those are concerned with the lack of general knowledge background and one of the problems encountered by the translators is the problem of incomplete or unclear original texts. This includes the texts contained incorrectly in spelling words or incorrectly printed with some words and phrases that are omitted.

Some of the translators said that sometimes problems stem from stylistic incongruity, such as using an informal style of the language where a formal one is needed. For example, legal and technical terms differ from ordinary words, since they do not exclude emotional associations and implications. Besides, translator is encountered with the problem of understanding for unfamiliar abbreviations concerning the name of organization and commission, especially in the field of Ministry and journalism.

Next, the translators give opinions and some suggestions on techniques for efficiently English and Thai translation as the following:

1. Firstly, the translators should read each page of the source text one time or until being acquainted with the topic or textbook that they will translate and understanding

the subject and concept of the original text. Then they should attentively read them, underline unknown words and paragraphs, sentences of the original texts.

2. The translators should read and study what has to be translated, trying to maintain the original knowledge.

3. The translators should have an information background and special knowledge relevant to the subject which they often translate. The translator must always read various books, journals and translated works.

4. The translators should maintain the new words, main knowledge and expressions taken from various source texts for further use.

5. The translators should have the tools for helping in the translation such as various dictionaries, grammatical concordances, terminological glossaries, encyclopedias, dictionaries of technical terms, and so on. They should also make use of various tools such as Internet, computer, electronic dictionaries, etc.

6. The translators should use the dictionaries suitable for the subject area in which translations are being made. For example, translators of legal texts should have law dictionaries, and translators of educational texts should have educational dictionaries.

7. The translators should study background information concerning the text which will be translated.

8. The translators should use the method of translations suitable for the type of work being translated, for example, the method of legal, educational, scientific and technological translation is that of literal translation. And the method of free translations is used for translations of short stories, cartoons, and cinema script.

4.7 Results

The results of this study show that professional translators have run into a lot of problems in translation because translations require many qualifications on the part of translators, including knowledge, skill, meticulousness, improvisation, balance and logical acumen. The main linguistic problems are involved in semantic, lexical and syntactic

ambiguity. The translators of English and Thai need to be well-versed in both English and Thai. The main problems in linguistics are semantic, lexical and syntactical ambiguity. Some of translators often misunderstand the term, idiom and incorrect translation in regarding to semantic and lexical problems. The term idiom refers to ‘an expression unique to a language.’ Both English and Thai have their own idioms which are unique and culture-bound.

In addition, grammatical structure problems become barriers to effective translations because of the syntactical differences between English and Thai. So these states of affairs importantly contribute to failures in providing clear meaning, and cogent conveyance of ideas and so on.

Being different language presuppose different culture is the nature of languages. Lacking knowledge of language culture can make translating works and communication fail. So, English and Thai translation problem is the language culture. As well-known, translation is a kind of work that is involving two languages and two cultural traditions. It has been found that professional translators have also encountered cultural problems when treating cultural aspects implicit in source texts and trying to find the most appropriate techniques of successfully conveying these aspects in target texts. Thus, cultural difference brings about communication difficulties for translation.

Furthermore, some translators who are fluent in both languages, but, sometimes run into the problems of insufficient background knowledge of the subject that is being translated. This is principally because the works being translated often presuppose knowledge on a very wide scale. Such a problem is encountered by translators having to translate materials in unfamiliar subject areas. Therefore, translators need to be well-rounded which in itself is a consequence of striving consistently to improve and to adapt oneself to a constantly changing world.

In solving the problems of translation of English and Thai, the translators have to manage to cope with semantic and lexical ambiguity through various mechanisms such as explanatory notes, loan words, transliteration, paraphrasing etc. To get general and

specialized knowledge in a particular field relating to their translation works, they use the methods of reading, writing, listening information from textbooks, media sources and electronic sources. They always must try to update their skills in the utilization of information technology so as to hone and enhance their knowledge. To explain the meaning of unknown words and expressions, all of them usually search information from the internet, various dictionaries, textbooks and encyclopedias. Finally, they also consult professional translators or specialists.

The translators also give information and identify various techniques of English and Thai translation, which may be prove helpful for those striving to improve their translation work. In translation works, translators should understand the meaning of the words, sentences and semantics being translated.

Translators must also be able to use the Thai language effectively in expressing concepts embedded in English language texts in order to achieve appropriate results. They must be familiar with the conventional rules and styles governing English text in various fields of endeavor. Both prior to and after the work of translation, they should spend a decent amount of time conducting research, compiling glossaries, and seeking out dictionaries. In the course of such assiduous investigation, they should be well-equipped with ferret out answers to terminological problems.

It can be concluded that English and Thai translation in any fields of law, education, science and technology or literature, the translators should focus not only on linguistic transference, but also on cultural transposition. Translators must be both bilingual and bicultural. In translation, therefore, the translators must be able to understand not only what the words and the sentences mean, but also how specific details of a particular field bear upon the content of a translation being made. They must be familiar with the conversational rules and styles of English texts in every field of subjects with which they deal. Accordingly, the professional translators must be highly energetic in order to carry out the tasks of reading, comprehending and interpreting original documents as prerequisites to producing translated texts.

Finally, in this chapter it explains the results of the study interviewed from professional translators about their background information and problems of English and Thai translation. It found two mainly kinds of problems of professional translators; 1) linguistic problems, 2) cultural problems of translation. English and Thai language is not only different language structure, but also different culture from each other too. To cope with the problems of the differences between two languages is to get some suggestions and techniques of translation to be useful for practitioners in the field of English and Thai translations which are from professional translators who are cooperative with the interview.

Chapter Five

Conclusion, Discussion and Suggestion

5.1 Conclusion

This study is a qualitative research aiming to identify the problem of translation, and to categorize problem of translation, the research in translating the problems encountered by professional translators who are lecturing at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Ayutthaya, Thailand, and freelance translators who live in Bangkok and nearby areas. After analyzing the data and presenting the results of the problems of English and Thai translation pointed out by professional translators, in this chapter, it presents conclusions, discussion, and suggestions of translations which are taken from professional translators.

Translation works have been viewed basically activities and produced on the basis of an interpretation of the meaning of the source text to the target text. The aim of translation in this research is to produce equivalent expressions in both of languages focusing on an accurate communication in meanings. However, various constraints must be taken into account. These constraints involve questions of context, the rules of grammar and cultural distance. Therefore, this research was carried out to study English and Thai translation problems encountered by professional translators. Data collection was provided through interviewing ten professional translators who stay in Bangkok and nearby areas.

Furthermore, this research study explains the way to solve the problem of translation encountered by translators who are working in various fields of translations. The method of using in this research is in-depth interview. Additionally, reviewing the literature on English and Thai translation problems are in the areas of education, law, contract, movie, and

psychology etc. The interviewing data was recorded on tape and summarized in notes. The data was transcribed in order to analyze in accordance with the purposes of the study. The interpretation of the results was explained in the descriptive portions of the thesis and given in terms of answers to the research questions.

This research study is presented on the basis of informational problems of translation by professional translators. There are four main parts: 1) language, 2) culture, 3) general background knowledge, 4) Other problems are the barriers to effective translations. In linguistic problems, they are from semantics and grammatical structure. Semantic problems are from misunderstanding on idiomatic expression, slang, technical term, and pronoun. Because English and Thai languages are different from each other in terms of their structure etc. and another problem faced by translators. The professional translators also point out that they must be careful in using the verb of time in English, because, in English language, time is very important. Additionally, using pronoun in English language is very important, so we must be more careful in using it. Only one pronoun that can be explained carefully about its meaning, for example, ‘I’ ฉัน, ดิฉัน, ผม, ญ, และ อาตมา etc. This is to show that one word of English can be translated into Thai in many meanings and on different situations.

With regard to the cultural problem of translation, and techniques of translation problem, they are based on four main areas; 1) ecological culture, 2) material culture, 3) social culture, and 4) religious culture. Cultural problem is a big problem of translation that is often encountered by every translator because English and Thai language on culture is different. Sometimes, when translators translate from the source text to the target text, they are confused in the way of keeping the main knowledge of cultural features as original text. To understand clearly the English text, they try to find the best techniques to reach their success in translating. In the end, the problem of translation is that they do not have enough general background knowledge. It often arises when they are translating with which they are unfamiliar. Translation work needs to be knowledgeable over a wide range of subjects.

In addition, to find out the techniques of the English and Thai translation is involved in the studies which analyze the source text and the translated text. The importance of the aims of this study is not only the techniques of translation, but also the language usage in the translated version. Most professional translators who participate in the interview used the techniques of translation as a literal translation, free translation, and techniques to transfer the original meaning into the natural structure of the target language. Regarding the language usage, it is fundamental for the translators to analyze the source language thoroughly in order to select the words and transfer to the target language. But, some mistakes, however, are also found in translating works such as language interference, mistranslation, and incomplete translation.

The categorization of the problem of translation is encountered by professional translators and possible solutions for each problem. The translation problems can be divided into three parts: linguistic problem, cultural problem, background knowledge problem. Solving the problem of translation techniques is used to check the words or idioms from dictionaries, consulting Thais and foreigners, searching for more supportive data from textbooks and electronic source and using meaning-based translation methods pointed out by translators.

5.2 Discussion

There are four kinds of factors leading to distinctions between two languages translation: 1) purpose of translation, 2) target group, 3) experience of the translation, and 4) individual preference. Before translating, translators should set the translation purpose and the target group, and then interpret the source text according to their experience. And the differences in translation method and language use also depend on personal section.

The main subjects are to present three main points of translation process in the course of which the meaning of the written text is transferred from the source language to the

target language. The first step is the process of analysis and interpretation of the source language. The second step is the process of transferring the meaning from the source language to the target language. The step of revision and evaluation of the translated text is the last process of translating. Also, a major sub-theme is the depiction and analysis of translation problems faced by translators and analysis of solutions used by translators in solving these problems.

The results of this research study have analyzed and categorized the problems of translation concerning grammatical structure, meanings, knowledge and solutions of problems of translation which conduct in the process of translation in English and Thai. The model depicts the flow of concepts and ideas regarding the problems and solutions of English – Thai translation when translators engage in the process of translating.

As the results, translators have to manage for solving the problems of language that is semantic and grammatical structure, before translating into the target text, it has to analysis the original meaning of the text. After that, they try to find the words, vocabulary and expressions that have similar meaning of the original text, and translating the meaning into the target text. They use various dictionaries to help them for better understanding the meanings of words and idioms such as law dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries, dictionaries of technical terms in different fields, and so on. Also encyclopedias, glossaries, and the Internet are the important tools in helping them overcome the barriers for proper understanding of the meaning of the texts being translated. And resorting to translation is sometimes a technique of the last resort.

With regard to cultural problems of translation, to be absent from the problem of translation in culture, translators have to use techniques of paraphrasing to explain unfamiliar institutions to understand easily for readers or target group. When they face the problem of translation that is not equivalent institutions in the culture of target language or cannot find the similar meaning of the original text to clarify the meaning of the words and expressions, they finally ask professional translators who have more experience in translation work.

Another important feature of their work is the pre-editing of the original text so as to detect the defects in the source text, while post-editing of the translated text is used to verify whether the most appropriate syntactic and semantic levels are used in the translation. They also continuously read books, listen to the news, gather information, and keep their eyes open for new advances. They cope with impediments with a wide range of translation techniques. The selection of the techniques depends on the type of problem, context, and the translators' purposes. The following solutions in this study can be concluded.

- 1) Literal translation
- 2) Transliteration
- 3) Interpretation
- 4) Footnote explanation

5.3 Suggestion

According to the analyzing data that presents in this research study, they have shown some suggestions about techniques of English and Thai translation, and these can help in the production of effective translation works. In the process of translation, firstly, translators should deeply read the whole target text or the original text until understanding the main idea or knowledge of the text and then analyzing all the paragraphs, sentences and the words in order to convey the same meanings of the original language. Moreover, they should compare their translation as it unfolds in the original English text for the meaning continuity of thought, feeling, and style.

With regarding to the abilities of the professional translators, they should have background knowledge, and specialized knowledge relevant to translation works. Further, they should continuously read many kinds of books, journals, news reports, academic books etc. And they also have to keep some information from all of these to be useful in translation works. As they found the new words or vocabularies, technical terms, idioms and expressions,

they should collect these terms in their notebook to be useful in the future study. In addition, translators should have more dictionaries such as encyclopedias, dictionaries of technical terms, internet, computers and electronic dictionaries to help them when they face any problems of translation in a word, grammar, meanings and so on.

Generally, this study explains and identifies the problem of English and Thai translation encountered by professional translators. The main problem of translation is linguistic problem and cultural problem of translation. Linguistic problem is the grammatical structure, idioms, slang, metaphor and others. As the cultural problem of translation is divided into four kinds of culture; 1) ecological culture, 2) material culture, 3) social culture and 4) religion culture. Most importantly, translators must have background knowledge of translation works. To solve the problems of translation, they must understand the language structures, idioms, terminology, vocabularies, meanings, and the culture of two languages. Finally, the outcome of this study is allowed for the derivation of a linear verbal model that the reader would possess a clear view and understand the English and Thai translation problem as seen from the vantage points of the actual process of translation viable for solutions of the problem. Finally, suggestions show as the following;

5.3.1 This study is the smallest number of studies. Therefore, the studies should be conducted with a larger number of professional translators.

5.3.2 In investigating, it should be conducted in other specialized areas of translation works.

5.3.3 There should be the study of other fields of translation or different kinds of translations; news, journal, history and so on.

5.3.4 There should be the study of problem of English and Thai translation at other universities and other translators who live in Thailand.

5.3.5 Further, there should be the study of other translations such as English and Japanese, English and Korean, and so on.

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Interview

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Preecha Khanetnok who is a Director of Ph.D Program in Linguistics and a lecturer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Interview, 3/Feb/2015.

Dr. Kham-Ing Kongsin who is a lecturer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Interview, 27/Feb/ 2015.

Mr. Duangdee Aotsoo, who is a teacher, officer of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Interview, 28/Jan/2015.

Ms. Potchamanphajee Sawangphol, who is an Foreign Relation Officer, working at The Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bangkok, Thailand Interview, 29/Jan/2015.

Miss Nang Num Htwe who is a teacher, a freelance guide and translator Interview, 30/Jan/2015.

Mr. Khur Leng who is a teacher and a freelance translator Interview, 25/Jan/ 2015.

Mr. Nanda Kher who is a teacher, freelance translator Interview, 11/Feb/ 2015.

Phra Thitawong Anuttaro, a lecturer of the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Interview, 28/Jan/ 2015.

Venerable Dr. Phramaha Phuen Chalermchan who is the Head of Department of
Psychology of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi District,
Ayutthaya Province, Thailand Interview, 3/Feb/2015.

Venerable Seng Lurng Sunanda, Interview, 12/Feb/ 2015.

Appendix

Appendix A

4 February 2015

Dear.....

Asst. Prof. Dr.

Faculty of Buddhism,

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wangnoi, Ayutthaya, Thailand.

I, Phra Nawseng Aggasena, a graduate student of the International English Program, Majoring in English for Communication, Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Wat Srisudaram, Bangkok, Thailand, am now conducting a research on the topic of “ **A Study of Problems of Translation: A Case Study of English and Thai** ” in partial fulfillment of the Master’s Degree Program.

The main points of data collection will specially be in the box of my research objectives. It is the most important part of the Master's Degree in English Program before graduation.

There are three main objectives as the following:

1. To identify the problems in translation English into Thai, and vice versa.
2. To categorize problems in translation and solutions to be used in this research.
3. To describe the solution of the problems of translation.

You are kindly requested to be one of my interviewees. Please do not hesitate to express your valuable opinions the interview period. Your answer will help my research more comprehensible data. Your answer will be kept confidential.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and kindness for the interviews.

Yours sincerely

(Phra Nawseng Aggasena)

(MCU Graduate student (MA in English))

Appendix B

Interview Form

Thesis Title

A Study of Problems of Translation: A Case Study of English and Thai

Part one: General information

1. Gender

Male Female Buddhist monk Buddhist nun

2. Status

Single Married Divorced

Others (live-in relationship)

3. Age

18 - 20 years old 21 – 30 years old 30 up

4. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

Trade school

Technical college – certificate / Diploma / Adv Diploma

University or other tertiary – (Under) graduate

University or other tertiary – Postgraduate

Appendix C

Results of the Index of Item Objective Congruence (IOC)

Questions Used for Interviewing People	The Committee of Research Tool Evaluation			Note (if any)
	1	2	3	
1. How long have you worked as a translator?	+1	+1	+1	useable
2. What kind of fields do you translate?	+1	+1	+1	useable
3. What kinds of translation work do you usually do?	+1	+1	+1	useable
4. As a translator, what are the major problems encountered when you translate English to Thai and Thai to English? Please give some examples if it is possible.	+1	+1	+1	useable
5. What kinds of problems did you usually face when you translate?	+1	+1	+1	useable
6. When you encountered with problems, how do you usually cope with the problems?	+1	+1	+1	useable
7. What often cause you problems in translation?	+1	+1	+1	useable
8. What were the difficulties in translating?	+1	+1	+1	useable
9. What are the important qualifications of a good translator?	+1	+1	+1	useable
10. What are your suggestions on techniques to be used in translating English to Thai and Thai to English?	+1	+1	+1	useable

Appendix D

The index of Item Objective Congruence (IOC)

Question	The Committee of Research tool Evaluation			IOC	Note (if any)
	1	2	3		
	Questions Used for Interviewing People				
1	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
2	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
3	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
4	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
5	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
6	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
7	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
8	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
9	+1	+1	+1	1	useable
10	+1	+1	+1	1	useable

Appendix E

.....Feb/ 2015

Subject: Thanks for your interview

Dear.....

I would like to express my sincere thanks for your kind cooperation in helping me to complete the research on ‘ A Study of problems of translation: A Case Study English and Thai’ which is in partial fulfillment of the Master’s Degree Program. The information you gave me was very precious and valuable to my research.

If there is anything you want to suggest, please feel free to do so, and I will appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,

(Phra Nawseng Aggasena)

(MCU Graduate student (MA in English))

Biography of Researcher

Name:	Phra Nawseng Aggasena
Date of Birth:	20 August, 1985
Date of Ordination:	1993 Novice ordination: At the age of 8 years, at Wat Srimanghala, Wan Naung, Namsang, Shan State, Myanmar.
2006 Higher Full Ordination:	At the age of 20 years, at Wat Veluwan, Par Mai Road, Taunggyi, Shan State, Myanmar.
Nationality:	Shan (Tai Yai), Myanmar.
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