

The Case for Interpretive Translation and Interdisciplinarity

Elmouloudi Aziz

English Department, Umm Al-Qura University
Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

The present paper explores theoretical and practical evidence for 'interpretive translation' as an interdisciplinary activity which is informed by insights from a variety of disciplines including semantics, pragmatics, reading and reception theories, communication theory, text-linguistics, literary studies, cultural studies, and critical theory. The imperative of 'interpretation' in translating is clearly seen in the translation of literary texts where connotation, metaphor, symbolism, diverse cultural allusions and various other types of 'implicit meaning' are predominant features. Thus, explication, commentary, annotation, or other strategies are required to facilitate the comprehension of the translated text and its effective 'exploitation' by the receptor language reading community. The interpretive nature of translation is also reinforced by the increasing need for global understanding and cooperation. This situation highlights the strategic role of translators, their 'visibility', responsibility and consequently their scholarship and interpretive competence as global mediators. While it emphasizes the 'epistemological' and 'hermeneutical' orientation of translation, the paper calls for an expansion of the field to be an area of research and scholarship which truly exploits its interdisciplinary, intellectual, communicative, reflective, critical, and educational potentials to disseminate human thought and knowledge, and to foster cross-cultural understanding and mutual enrichment.

Keywords: interpretive translation, interpretive imperative, interdisciplinarity, translator visibility, target readership, literature in translation.