



## TRANSLATION STRATEGIES FOR THE JAPANESE WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Khamidova Nargiza Mirvaxidovna

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

Article history:	Abstract:
<b>Received:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>Accepted:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 <b>Published:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	<p>This article recognizes an actual dual system of translation strategies which are classified as comprehension strategies and production strategies. However, the continues of the discussion regarding the latter and illustrates these production strategies in chapter with textual examples.</p> <p>The use of dictionaries during the textual production of a translation would therefore fall under the classification of semi-production strategies. In domain-specific cases, including official documents, the translator needs to recognise the consultation (in most cases just for confirmation) as an essential translation strategy definitely enhancing the final product. When reading a Japanese text, especially in the case of judicial matters, the translator needs to confirm if the lexical occurrence is regular or irregular with special readings and meanings. For irr stance, Japanese personal names, including family names, are very tricky in that the written representation in characters called "kanji" is not on a one-to-one basis. Instead, in Japanese one character can have multiple readings. With judicial matters, misreading a text and then mistranslating or misinterpreting it is of course a very serious matter that may lead to adverse consequences.</p>
<b>Keywords:</b> translatorial action, judicial matters, hybrid 'translationese', 'afterwords', paratexts, monolingual dictionary, kanji, context, one-to-one basis, Anglophone circles, liminal 'third language', Translation Studies, tapestry.	

### INTRODUCTION

In Japan there has long been an acceptance, and even a welcoming, of language with a distinctly 'foreign' origin and texture. Openness toward this foreign-tinged style in translations into Japanese, and in original writing influenced by translations, contrasts with the inward-looking expectation in Anglophone circles that translations should sound smooth and natural in the target language. The relative pervasiveness of this foreign-influenced style of written Japanese has given rise to talk of a liminal 'third language' that exists between the various source (foreign) languages and the target language (Japanese), as well as talk of a 'third literature' that is neither entirely foreign nor entirely indigenous in nature. In this article, I probe the notion of translational language in the Japanese context, identifying some recurring features and examining how it differs from 'translationese' in its causes, motivations, and how it is perceived. The influence of translational language is also explored, including its use in original Japanese writing.

Japan has a rich tradition of research on translation, yet the discipline of Translation Studies remains somewhat underdeveloped in the Japanese context. Since the emergence of the field in the 1970s, its proponents have worked to combine a range of perspectives on translation obtained through diverse approaches with

the aim of achieving integration of translation theory and practice.

Regarding Japanese, the theories have to be adapted merely on just one point which are considered not to be a translation strategy, but more as (a) translatorial action. For the translation of Japanese in another language there are cases that looking something up, accessing a database, or checking references -is a necessary production strategy which will be directly visible as a translation mistake in the target language (even) if not used. However, perhaps not so much a production strategy as such, this represents a general problem solving strategy.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Accommodating the full global diversity of approaches to translation in a unified theory of Translation Studies may not be possible any time soon but, in order to develop its own regional base, it is important to ask what Translation Studies actually means for Japan-related scholars. This Special Issue aims to inspire thinking about this question by featuring examples of current Japan-related translation research from different disciplinary angles. Building on previous preliminary attempts to combine Translation Studies with existing Japan-related translation research (Wakabayashi and SatoRossberg ,2012), the three



articles that comprise this special issue examine issues omnipresent for scholars of translation as well as translators of Japanese.

#### 1. Comprehension strategies and production strategies

Another matter to consider is the general knowledge of the translator regarding his/her language combinations. Sometimes, it stands in the way of making an accurate translation when the textual purpose is specified by the commissioning side of the translation. When the translator is not engaged in translation work the translator can do his/her updating activity of reading in-house publications and acquiring a higher level of linguistic fluency in translating (but also beneficial for interpreting skills) specific textual material (in my case, official documents from city halls, and other government bodies (prosecution office, police, court of law, correctional facilities). With the recurrence of certain terms on an almost regular interval a secondary function of pre-reading is making the acquired language part of one's active vocabulary. An essential skill when the (licensed) translator is also engaged in the field of language/culture transfer as an (court) interpreter which requires an almost simultaneous transfer of the original message in the target language. This does not mean that verbatim translation, or interpretation, is the favoured norm. If the client or the witness, the accused or other party does not understand the message contents translated/interpreted in the respective target language the legal procedures cannot proceed further. The translator/interpreter must then simplify the message in that case with the official in agreement. It might come to some surprise that I use here the combination translator/interpreter, but that is because interpreters working for the judicial bodies of Japan are required both to have oral abilities as well as written language abilities. The latter abilities come into play for reading back the written statements and transcripts. Academically translation and interpretation can be considered as autonomous disciplines on their own, but in praxis they have a very close connection to each other.

Translation software in the light of one's active vocabulary will not have this effect if the translator only uses it automatically to make a textual translation without making it an active part of his/her vocabulary skills. Printed resources, I have the impression, probably have a more long term effect on the translator's memory than the electronic devices have with the convenience of quickly opening up and closing files, documents and/or software applications. This would create then a

transient memory condition for the translators if not recognised as a danger.

With the recognition of the value of preparatory translation stage the translator acquires and advances his/her competence further to do the next translation (and also their interpretation competence if that is the case) work with better results.

#### 2. Translational language

Translational language has also been widespread in academic translations, perhaps because in such works the interest in content outweighs concerns over unnaturalness, although these stilted renditions have also attracted their share of criticism. An example of translational language in an original academic work is the following extract from Hirano Yoshitarō's *Nihon shihonshugi shakai no kikō* (The structure of Japanese capitalist society; 1934), in a reference to Prussia's outwardly constitutionalist parliament: "ippō de wa, tsuka sareta kanfu toshite no ichi kōsei bubun o nashi zenjinmin ni tairitsu suru to tomo ni, tahō de wa, sono gaikenteki jidōsei ni oite, burujōa shakai no genjitsu o, sono keishiki no uchi ni kaishō suru." Markers of the translational style here include the overall density resulting from the high proportion of Chinese-based words relative to native Japanese words (the use of *zen-jinmin* to signify the concept of all the people), the use of opaque vocabulary such as *jidōsei* (self-identical sameness), and opaque wording such as the underlined section.

Translators in Japan tend to be more visible than in the Anglo-American world. This has led Isabelle Bilodeau to examine the comments attached by Japanese translators to works as 'afterwords' in 'Bending conventions: agency and self-portrayals in Japanese translator commentary'. Unlike Wehmeyer, Bilodeau uses recent Translation Studies theory to investigate this particularly Japanese phenomenon of 'afterwords' and to analyze how Japanese literary translators engage with their discursive visibility in paratexts. From this, Bilodeau develops perspectives on translator agency and visibility that challenge 'Western' conventions. Matthew Fraleigh's article, 'Rearranging the figures on the tapestry: what Japanese direct translation of European texts can tell us about "*kanbun kundoku*"', looks at the early modern phenomenon of "*obun kundoku*", whereby Japanese scholars applied "*kundoku*" methodology to European languages, including Latin, Portuguese, Dutch and English; they kept the original text and added side notes, akin to interlinear translation. Fraleigh sees this unique form of Japanese translation as a hybrid 'translationese'. Invoking a recent argument that translations stand in



dialogue with their sources, Fraleigh develops new perspectives that have the potential to inspire Translation Studies more widely beyond Japan.

## CONCLUSION

Although all aspects are essential in a full discussion of translation studies, here I wanted to introduce the matter of strategies from the perspective of what strategies are used during the actual production of a translation, specifically in the case of translated Japanese. Therefore, I am leaving out the training and assessment in the present paper.

Especially during the process of translating Japanese, it is possible to make a first translation without checking dictionaries. However, after that it is necessary to check certain elements that appeared in using reference works, monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, and even a thesaurus of the language to find an expression or a hint for supplanting the monolingual dictionary explanation into the single or multiple items in the m. Because of time limitations I normally highlight the uncertain parts/phrases/ expression in the first translation draft to be dealt with in the revision stage in the translation process. With the translation strategies described by Chesterman, the translator has the conceptual tools to overcome temporary roadblocks. For instance, if the work requirement is producing a literal translation, but the product as a result thereof is hindering a clear understanding by the reader, there is a need to solve the problem by going from syntactic/ grammatical to semantic or further to pragmatic strategies in succession in order to find the optimum problem-solving strategies depending on the level of difficulty.

## REFERENCES

1. 'The Task of the Translator,' in *Readings in Translation Theory*, (ed.) Benjamin, W. 1989 [1923], A. Chesterman, Oy Finn Lectura, Helsinki, 13–24.
2. *Translating the West: Language and Political Reason in Nineteenth-Century Japan*, Howland, D. 2002, University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu.
3. "The Emergence of Translation Studies as a Discipline in Japan." Takeda, K. 2012. In *Translation and Translation Studies in the Japanese Context*, edited by N. Sato-Rossberg and J. Wakabayashi, 11–32. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
4. *Memes of translation*. Chesterman, A. (2000). (2nd ed.) Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
5. "Foreignization and/vs Domestication Strategies in Japanese Translation: The Linguistic and Cultural Embedding in Popular Literature" ,Nohara, K. 1998, Unpublished paper presented at CETRA Research Seminar in Translation Studies