LANGUAGE PECULIARITIES OF WRITTEN TRANSLATION

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Introduction

Written translation is a complex and intellectually demanding process that involves transferring meaning from one language into another in a written form. Unlike oral translation, it gives the translator time to analyze, edit, and refine the text. However, this also increases responsibility, as the final product must be accurate, clear, and stylistically appropriate. Written translation reflects not only linguistic competence but also cultural awareness, critical thinking, and subject knowledge. The peculiarities of written translation arise from differences in language systems, cultural contexts, and communicative purposes.

Chapter 1: Lexical and Grammatical Peculiarities

Lexical choices play a crucial role in written translation. Translators must consider polysemy (multiple meanings of words), synonyms, and context-dependent meanings. False friends often lead to errors if not recognized. Terminology is especially important in specialized texts such as legal, medical, or technical documents, where precision is essential.

Grammatical differences between languages also create challenges. Languages differ in sentence structure, word order, tense usage, and the presence or absence of articles. For example, English requires strict word order, while other languages may allow more flexibility. Translators must often restructure sentences to ensure grammatical correctness and natural flow in the target language.

Chapter 2: Stylistic and Textual Features

Style is a defining feature of written translation. Each text type—scientific, literary, journalistic, or official—has its own stylistic norms. Translators must preserve tone, register, and communicative intention. For example, scientific texts require clarity and objectivity, while literary texts demand creativity and emotional expression.

Idioms, metaphors, and figurative language present particular difficulties. Literal translation often fails, so translators use equivalent expressions or descriptive techniques. Cohesion and coherence are also essential: the translated text must be logically connected and easy to read, with consistent terminology and appropriate linking devices.

Chapter 3: Cultural and Pragmatic Aspects

Language and culture are deeply interconnected. Cultural references, traditions, and values influence meaning. Translators must adapt culture-specific elements through localization, explanation, or substitution. For instance, food names, holidays, or institutions may require clarification for the target audience.

Pragmatics focuses on meaning in context. The translator must understand the speaker's intention, implied meanings, and tone. Politeness strategies, humor, irony, and sarcasm vary across cultures and must be carefully adapted to preserve their effect.

Conclusion

Written translation is a multifaceted process that requires mastery of vocabulary, grammar, style, and cultural understanding. A successful translator not only conveys meaning but also recreates the text in a way that is natural and effective for the target audience. Understanding the peculiarities of written translation is essential for producing high-quality and professional translations.

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