**Is Translation a Science or an Art?**

Translation is defined by Peter Newmark in his book "a textbook of translation" as "rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text." (1988a, p.5) Deciding whether the translation is more of a science or an art, or even a craft has become a controversial issue evoked by many learners and even translators. Each group has its reasons to convince its opponents, and has its proofs to refute the other's claims. However, if someone asks me about that, I will answer that translation can be considered as a form of art, science, and skill bonded in one. Although many people are still arguing against that, I am wholly persuaded that translation is a mixture of all these elements for the reasons that will be set forth.

# According to Veronica Tsvetkov in his article" Professional Translation - Is it an Art or a Science?", the definition of translation as a science is "A skill, especially reflecting a precise application of facts or principles; proficiency" while the definition of translation as an art is " A skill that is attained by study, practice or observation." Peter Newmark said that translation is a skill by taking into consideration the appropriate and acceptable usage of language. Also, he added an extra level that the translator works on which is that translation is "a matter of sense" which means that translation is a reflection of individual differences. All these definitions can refute the common myth which claims that translation is simply copying word for word from the source to the target language ,and it is easy to everyone to perform it. In fact, translation process in much more complicated concept and practice, so I see translation as a mixed form of science, art and skill.

# First, I would like to consider the state of translation as a science and why it can be classified as a branch of science. According to Massoud Azizinezhad, he said that translation is not a science.He claims that although translators use scientific data and theories, still, there is an area for imagination, bias, and individual taste. In fact, this is true, but does not give a justification to exclude translation from science world. . I can say that it is not a pure science, but it has some characteristics which give us the right to describe translation as a science. Since the translator needs in-depth knowledge and understanding in both languages, and he/she must follow some principles and implement certain facts in particular types of translation such as legal translation, we can consider that as a good reason for describing translation as a branch of science. Also, the professional translator is not required to be bilingual only but bicultural too. Being a bicultural person calls for deep understanding and knowledge of how people think, behave, and receive messages in both languages. In addition, the awareness of idioms, slangs, and fixed expressions in the two languages cannot be acquired without focused studying especially for those who do not have the chance to live in the target language country or even interact with its people. Last but not least, translation uses scientific information and theories taken from different branches of linguistics such as semantics and sociolinguistics in addition to its important rule in giving inspiration to invent computer-aided translation and machine translation. All these reasons can justify my claims of translation as s science.

Moving along translation as a science to translation as an art; I need to consider different points. Massoud Azizinezhad states:"The major factor that prevents translation from being considered an art is that, unlike translators who have to solve a range of different problems, the defining factor of an artist's work is esthetics."; however, I do not agree with him on that. The word art itself symbolize beauty, creativeness, attractiveness, and esthetics. Also, the Art of translation can be considered the inspired and intuitive element of the translation. Translation is a skill which is required and enhanced through studying and practice. Having a Bachelor degree in translation is not enough to improve your performance as a translator; rather it is a first step on the hard road. The need for practice is pressing and that what makes translation an art. Also, the translator should bear in his/her mind the diversity in texts involved in translation. When we come to literary texts, we find that the need for creativity and proficiency increases, and actually not everybody can be skilled in it. In addition to that, the appropriate choice of vocabulary in an acceptable structure and context is not a skill that anybody can have as well as the style of writing which plays an important rule in attracting and impress the readers. In reality, I see that this is the element which raises our admiration and appreciation in certain translated works. The nature of science is theoretical and as a result is boring while the nature of art is aesthetical, so when they combined together, translators come up with a complete, brilliant, and effective work.

In conclusion, categorizing translation as an art or a science can be a difficult task since everybody has his individual reasons and point of view to persuade the other. Some people believe that translation in a science because it cannot be quantifiable while the others say that it an art because of the beauty that should accompany it. There is another group who stands in the middle saying that translation is a mixture of both. In fact, I see that translation cannot be restricted to one of them. The elements that involved in translation process make it the most complex field of study and job in the world. There is no limit for the translator to stop; he/she must be a veracious reader, hard worker, and professional researcher. Translator is the tireless person, so many people tend to describe translation job as "It is the career of looking for difficulties"!. After that, I am not exaggerating when I say that translation is the spirit of life; without it no science, inventions or art can be reached or even in hand.

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**Very well done ; logical ; organized ; credited and comprehensive!**

**A+**

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