

Ways and Difficulties of Translating Auxiliaries, Interrogatives, and Negatives into Kurdish

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Abstract—Undoubtedly, translating auxiliaries, interrogatives, and negatives from English to Kurdish are not an easy task, as most people think so. Both languages have different patterns and various word orders, so different difficulties rise up when one translates the above word forms. This paper attempts to present the ways of translating the above word forms. Besides, it tries to show the difficulties of translating them. This paper demonstrates the problem that a translator faces when translating the above word forms. Moreover, it tackles each word form separately in both languages.

Index Terms—Auxiliaries, Modals, Negation, Questions, Verb *be*, Verb *do*, Verb *have*.

I. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

A. Definitions of Translation

Since there are several theories of translation, it can be defined in several ways:

Translation is “the process of transferring meaning and form from one language, known as the source language, into another language, known as the target language” (Uzeri and Rasul, 2018, p. 9).

Moreover, it is translated by Ghazala (1995, p. 1) as follows:

“Translation is generally used to refer to all the processes and methods used to transfer the meaning of the source language text into the target language.”

Moreover, a rendering from one language into another (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/translation>), it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. Common sense tells us that this ought to be simple, as one ought to be able to say something as well in one language as in another. On the other hand, you may see it as complicated, artificial and

fraudulent, since using another language, you are pretending to be someone you are not (Newmark, 1988, p. 5).

Translation is a phenomenon that has a huge effect on everyday life.

(Hatim and Munday, 2004, p. 3)

B. Types of Translation

Depending on the different theories of translation, there could be several types of translation that can be summarized in the following two main types (Lawrence and M’uaz, 2002):

1. Literal translation
2. Free translation.

Literal translation

Is that type of translation which does not regard the word order of the target language. It involves a literal rendition of a text from the source language into the target language.

(Uzeri and Rasul, 2018, p. 13)

Moreover, Ghazala (1995, p. 5) divides literal translation into three types which are word for word translation, in which each source language word is translated into an equivalent word in target language. The second type of literal translation is one-to-one literal translation which is concerned with translating each source language word into an identical word and phrase in the target language. The third type is literal translation of meaning; it is the translation of meaning in context and takes into consideration the grammar and word order of the target language.

Free translation

It is another type of translation that reproduces the general meaning of the original text. It does not necessarily follow the form of the source language.

Free translation is extremely target language oriented (Uzeri and Rasul, 2018, p. 14).

Following this type of translation, the translator translates freely without any limitations. Here, translation depends on the translator’s understanding.

On the other hand, Uzeri and Rasul (2018, p. 11) divided translation into three other types which are as follows:

1. Interlingual translation or rewording which is concerned with presenting the meaning in some other words or signs in the same language

2. Interlingual translation or translation proper: This is interpreting verbal signs by means of some other language
3. Intersemiotic translation or transmutation that is interpreting the verbal signs by means of signs of non-verbal sign system.

In spite of the previous types, https://www.shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/84903/11/11_chapter-2.pdf mentioned some other types of translation which are as follows:

1. Faithful translation: Attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the target language grammatical structures. It “transfers” cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical “abnormality” in the translation.
2. Semantic translation: It takes more account of the esthetic value of the source language text, compromising on the “meaning” where appropriate so that no assonance, word play, or repetition jars in the finished version.
3. Adaptation: It is a form of translation. It is used mainly for plays (comedies) and poetry; the themes, characters, and plots are usually preserved, the source language culture converted to the target language culture and the text is rewritten.
4. Idiomatic translation: Idiomatic translation reproduces the “message” of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.
5. Communicative translation: Communicative translation attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the reader.

C. Previous Studies

Regarding the previous studies concerning the subject of the paper Hiwa and Jawad (2019, pp. 297-309) under the title of an investigation into the problems of translating English modal auxiliary verbs as used by Kurdish English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners published a paper. The study used 4th year students in the English department at the university level as a modal. The study concluded that modal auxiliary verbs in English and their shades of meaning bring serious difficulties for Kurdish EFL learners.

D. Translating from English into Kurdish

Whereas translating from English into Kurdish, one may face several difficulties; this is due to the systemic differences between English and Kurdish.

One of the basic systemic differences is in sentence structure since the Kurdish basic sentence structure is subject-object-verb, whereas the English sentence structure is subject-verb-object which means that in Kurdish, the verb follows the object, whereas in English, the verb precedes the object, so when the translator translates a sentence from English to Kurdish he has to keep that in mind (Ahmed, 1988, p. 52).

Another systemic difference between the two languages can be found in tense. In Kurdish, present simple and present progressive sound the same, whereas these two tenses are quite different in English; thus, the translator may face

difficulty when he translates a present progressive and present simple sentences into Kurdish, such as (Rasul, 2006, p. 27):

I go to university by bus. دهمچ بۆ زانکۆ به پاس.

I am going to the university by bus. دهمچ بۆ زانکۆ به پاس.

There are many other difficulties that may be faced while translating from English to Kurdish. In this paper the difficulties that are faced while translating auxiliaries, questions, and negation will be clarified.

II. TRANSLATION OF AUXILIARIES

Translating auxiliaries from English to Kurdish can be regarded as a difficult task since English language contains several auxiliaries, whereas in Kurdish, there are three auxiliaries which are **تئيبهد** for present and **ووب** for past (Muhammed, 1976, p. 146) (Quirk *et al*, 1985, p. 175).

A. Translation of Verb *be*

The verb *be* is used in several situations such as in the present progressive sentences. When translating such sentences into Kurdish, the verb *be* is dropped out, for example:

1. I am eating pizza. من پیزا دمخۆم.
2. You are eating pizza. تۆ پیزا دمخۆی.
3. She is eating pizza. ئهو پیزا دمخوات.

In the above English sentences, the auxiliaries (am, are, and is) are forms of verb *be* which do not appear in their Kurdish equivalents.

4. A letter is written. نامهیهک دهنووسریت.

On the other hand, when (is) is followed by an adjective in English, it is translated to (هه) in Kurdish such as:

5. Kurdistan is beautiful. کوردستان جوانه.

Here, in the Kurdish equivalent of sentence (5), (هه) in the word (ههواج) is regarded as an auxiliary although there is not any other verb in the sentence, still in Kurdish, it is regarded as an auxiliary, whereas (is) in the English (Kurdistan is beautiful) is regarded as the main verb of the sentence.

In translating the past forms of verb “be” (was, were) when used as main verbs, are translated into Kurdish using the Kurdish auxiliary **بوو، بوون**:

6. The girl was elegant. كچهكه ريكپوش بوو.
7. The swimmers were fast. مهلموانهكان خيرا بوون.

In sentence (6), (بوو) is an auxiliary which indicates singularity and (بوون) in sentence (7) is an auxiliary which indicates plurality.

On the other hand, when they are used in past progressive sentences, the verb “be” is not translated into Kurdish, as in:

8. He was writing the research. ئهو توويزينهوهكهی دهنووسی.
9. She was preparing food. ئهو خواردنی نامادهمکرد.

In past passive voice, also, the auxiliaries (was, were) cannot be translated into Kurdish except in some cases, such as:

10. The food was eaten. خواردنهكه خورا.
11. The keys were lost. کلپههكان بزر بوون.

In sentence (10), there is no auxiliary in the translated sentence, but in sentence (11), the auxiliary (was) is translated into (بوو) which is also an auxiliary in Kurdish.

This means that the above two sentences are translated differently, this is because in (10), there is no auxiliary, whereas

- The verb *be* disappears when it is translated to Kurdish as in present progressive, present simple passive, and past progressive
- The verb *be* is treated as a main verb, especially in present simple form, but it is viewed as an auxiliary when it is translated to Kurdish (ب). The same case applies on (was) and (were)
- In the translation of past passive voice, the auxiliaries (was) and (were) are regarded as auxiliary Kurdish verb, and they are leaved out in others
- The English auxiliary verb (been) is translated into a Kurdish auxiliary verb (بوو), and it disappears in other sentences. The same Kurdish verb (بوو) can be translated to (had been) as in past perfect tense
- The auxiliary verb (do) has no equivalent in Kurdish when it is used in negative and interrogative sentences, but in some case, the Kurdish word (ئایا) is used to mean it
- The Kurdish speaker faces difficulties in translating the verb (do) when it is used to emphasize the main verb, and the Kurdish word (بە ئنڤایهوه) refers to it
- The auxiliary verb (have) is translated to Kurdish auxiliary verb (بوو), whereas the main verb (have) can have various meanings. Thus, a Kurdish speaker must be careful in translation it to Kurdish
- There is no modal in Kurdish, so the verb particle (ـه) is added to the main verb to refer to futurity
- The modal verb (can) has different meaning in English, but it has only one in Kurdish
- The translator should be very careful in translating modals because each has a distinct meaning, and they express gradable possibility and obligation
- In general, Kurdish and English have different word order, so translating tag questions are confusing because there is no subject verb conversion. Thus, the word (ئایا) is used and the auxiliary disappears
- The negative word (not) has various forms in Kurdish, so the translator should trace the tense of the sentence
- The words (do not) and (does not) have the same translation, so the translator should be familiar with both languages
- The word (never) causes another problem in translating negatives. It is translated to two words in Kurdish, and these two words are written in different positions in a sentence.

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