



FACOLTÀ DI STUDI UMANISTICI

Lingue e culture per la mediazione linguistica

Traduzione

LESSON 2

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Approaches to the text to translate 1/3

- Werlich's Functional approach (1975)
- Francesco Sabatini (1999) Pragmatic taxonomy
 - Binding texts
 - Close texts, explicit and rigid discourse: scientific, technical and legal
 - Semi-binding texts
 - Expository and educational/didactic
 - Slightly binding texts
 - Open texts, minimum degree of explicit and rigid discourse: literary texts and poetry



Conditions

- Text structure
- Coherence
- Ligature
- Punctuation
- Co-text and context structure



Approaches 2/3

- Mary Snell-Hornby (1988-1995) – an integrated approach:
 - Literary translation
 - General language translation
 - Special language translation
- A continuum between maximum translation openness of interpretation to maximum closure of translation interpretation



- Werner Koller (1979)
 - Imaginary texts
 - Realistic texts
- Georges Mounin 1965
- Susan Bassnett 1993
- Laura Salmon 2003
- Bruno Osimo 2004



Some definitions

- diachronic variation - variation in a language across time
- diatopic variation - variation in a language across place
- diastratic variation - variation in a language across social groups
- diaphasic - variation in a language across degrees of formality
- diamesic - variation in a language across medium of communication

(www.quora.com)



Communication modes

- Diamesic variables (media – witten, oral, technologies)
- Verbal and non-verbal+visual communication codes
- Context relevance on translation as a process and as a result



Textual Macrotypes

- Written translation (traditional written texts)
- Multimedia translation (comics, theatre, songs, audiovisual texts, online texts)
- Transmitted oral translation (simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, chuchotage, audiovisual interpretation, etc.)



Werlich's functional approach (1975)

- what rhetorical functions may the SL writer use?
- ❖ Persuasion by: narrating, describing, arguing & counter-arguing, instructing, exposing
- Werlich's dominant contextual focus (the predominant function of the text)
- Lg MARKERS identify each text type
- Translator's aid to select linguistic features in the TL



- The textual organisation of the domain is reflected in the way linear relations develop: they stand for temporal, causal, spatial, or social relations between referents in the world described by that text (Ramm 2000, 156).
- Text types: Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Instructive and Argumentative



Narrative text types

- “The election was bound to be messy. But on March 4th Italian voters came up with a result that has surpassed the worst predictions, and cast a pall over not only Italy but the rest of the European Union, too”.
- Historic/temporal factual or conceptual events, action-recording sentences.
- Events and participants are chronologically portrayed through temporal circumstances or participant roles.



- Narration is often agent-oriented. Narration refers to the development of the trip through the use of predicate verbs such as *start* and *change*. Facts develop along an itinerary: *we spotted, we did not, we continued, we came across*, etc. Adverbials of place but especially of time are frequent.
- 1st ps + simple past. The report as the most formal one
- From positions and directions in space, to technical objective descriptions



“According to tradition, the castle of Acquafredda was built by the Donoratico della Gherardesca family when they took possession of the southwestern part of the Sardinia. In fact, count Ugolino dei Donoratico, a nobleman of Cagliari who was immortalized by Dante in Canto 23 of Inferno in the Divine Comedy, became the owner of the castle in 1257, while the fortress is older and was mentioned in a papal bull of 1215.”
(<http://www.sardegnaturismo.it/en>)



Descriptive text types

- Analysis of places, people and relations (subject matter), by the use of spatial chaining strategies indicated by spatial positions in the sentence.
- Spatial circumstances occupy the theme position
- Descriptions range from technical, objective neutral properties to, and more frequently, attitudinal and evaluative/hyperbolic, metaphorical, comparative and evocative viewpoints
- Subjective impressions of relations and qualities, impressionistic descriptions. Adverbials of place to reinforce the style.



- “*There’s only so much panini, pizza and pasta you could stomach everyday so we went to a Chinese restaurant just downstairs our hostel for dinner. The food was not bad but we had the most ridiculous fried wantan here, which was a deep fried ravioli actually lol*” (vkeong).
- Use of the simple past + simple present of static or motion verbs (not leading to a change) is existential (e.g., *There’s*) and shows timelessness. We may get a vivid image of the writer’s experience.
- Use of 1st p and of a non-personal third p.



“An unusual and `unobtrusive' approach to Sardinia. A journey, or several journeys, through parks and marine protected areas, inside which, in any period of the year, you can do some trekking, cycling and horse-riding along the beach, take kayak or boat trips in the emerald green waters or dive down to see the breathtaking seabeds. Sardinia is an island - park: five marine areas over nearly 80 thousand hectares of unspoilt and 'protected' territory, where you will experience the strong emotions of itineraries on which you will discover nature, culture, food and wine.”

(<https://www.sardegnaturismo.it/en/island-park-be-explored>)



“There are sheer cliffs and white beaches. Like in Capo Caccia, where enormous massifs plunge into the sea, their walls dotted with caves high up in the air and under the sea, like those of Nereo, the largest in Europe, and Nettuno, where 636 steps and a half- kilometre walk will take you to an underwater lake with enormous stalactites.”

“Cagliari is Sardinia’s main and most populous city, at the centre of an urban area that counts 430,000 inhabitants (150,000 of them in the capital city alone) as well as the island’s gateway port and main Mediterranean cruise liner hub.”



Instructive text type

- Stages to be followed by the reader, constructed through sequential chaining strategies of temporal circumstances or processes. People and objects are related through intended future behaviour (Bondi 1999: 16). The reader is expected to follow the steps: *“Start out at the FORK WHERE THE SURFACED ROAD ENDS by following the gravel track to the right. (...) Cross the bridge, go up the opposite embankment for a few paces. And turn right at the junction. Now follow ...”* (Flower Landscapes 2001: 70)
- Recipes, instructions or prescriptions *“Take a tablet every two hours”, “Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large bowl, combine the dry ingredients”.*



- An evident future behaviour, an action-demanding sentence, constructed through sequential chaining strategies of temporal circumstances or processes. The reader is expected to follow the steps, through the use of the imperative form, e.g., *Trust me, always remember*, the passive voice and modal verbs.
- *Would* is used to give advice and when history is uncertain; *must* shows evaluation, e.g. “*must be delicious*”; *will* is employed when giving recommendations and introducing the following site on the itinerary, as in “*you will need to spend at least three good hours to see...*”, “*you will also see ...*”.



- *If clauses* are employed with the same purpose: persuasion. Directions are followed on the authority of practical validity
- The point of view may be subjective, as in instructions, or objective, as in directions and regulations. It is expressed through the 1st person or the 2nd person

“If you like the idea of butter in your glass, you’ll love the classic style of oak-aged Chardonnay wine. On the other hand, if words like “Pinot Grigio” make you feel woozy with love, then your perfect Chardonnay is the unoaked kind. How can a single grape offer such a variety of flavors?”

Well, in addition to the difference in winemaking (oak vs. no oak), ripeness has a lot to do with flavor.”



Argumentative text type

- Present, through the use of through- and counter-argument patterns, and of a conjunctive theme:
“The PD may yet play the role of kingmaker. But the available kings are disturbing. M5S backs an unaffordable universal basic income and wants to scrap pension reforms.”
- Attitudes sustained in relation with their opposites.
- Recommendation is often introduced by expressions such as *It is advisable, would be the best time*



- *“Dripping with washing strung across the balconies, many of the high blocks are run-down and don’t admit much light, though the lack of fuss or traffic makes for an agreeable stroll through the long alleys ...” (2002: 73)*
- *“Although Poetto may do for a morning dip or an evening out, it probably won’t meet your requirements for the perfect beach – and you don’t need to go very far from Cagliari to find something nearer the mark.” (ibid.: 94)*



- Typical expressions are opinion verbs, or expressions of intention, decision, expectations and beliefs. Expectations may not be fulfilled:
“But honestly most of the food did not really suit our tastebuds, and I am not a drinker so I wasn’t able to appreciate their wine too. So, only the spicy roast pork managed to leave us with a memorable taste.” (vkeong, 2010, Rome).
- Negative sentences and contrastive expressions
- Five types of argumentative style: informal, ironical, appreciatory, depreciatory, and persuasive (1st p. s. & present tense)



Expository text type

- Generic concepts are dealt with, as well as the definition or explanation, along various degrees of subjectiveness (through characterisation specified by participant roles)
- Ideas and impressions are summarised from constituent elements of concepts, ideas or impressions, or analysed into their constituent elements
- The writer presentation of statement & stance aims at persuading the reader and generate consensus
- Verbs are often in the present tense, passive voice and impersonal forms
- Five styles: the formal, the comparative, the informal, the illustrative, and the technical/formal ones.



What is Malolactic Fermentation?

After the wine is fermented, an additional fermentation called Malolactic Fermentation (MLF) will give wine an oily texture. MLF turns tart malic acid (the acid in apples) to smooth lactic acid (the acid in milk). A malolactic fermentation involves a different kind of yeast that gobbles up malic acid and poops out lactic acid. If you want a rounder, more creamy-feeling wine, look for wines that have gone through MLF.



For the translator...

- Understanding the dominant contextual focus to understand how the text is manipulated & its main lg markers
- Identification of the lg function “for the creation and reception of coherent discourse and for successful communication and translation” (Ulrich 64)
- Interpretation of SL writer, matching them w the linguistic features of the TL to achieve the same effect in the TT



Degrees of Asymmetry

- The communicative asymmetry between the writer and the translator
 - Highest asymmetry between the TR and God/the Prophet: (holy texts such as the Old Testament or the Quran) -> ST-oriented {literal translation, data logging, TR visibility, ...}
 - High asymmetry bet the TR and the writer in terms of prestige and fame {from an autonomous rielaboration to “les belles infidèles”}



- Specialised competences -> lexical and textual dimension at stake
- Symmetry bet the speaker and the interpreter in Liaison interpreting and Community interpreting {the interpreter may help with the content as well}
- An almost opposite role in audiovisual translation -> dubbing and subtitles, song and online texts

(Diadori 91-101)