Deaf Interpreting Processes

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Deaf Interpreting: Critical Issues Forum
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Introduction/Background

Master in Interpreting Pedagogy (MIP) studies

Spoken language field
- validation/status
- Translation (static) and Interpretation (CI, SI, relay, etc)

Christiane Nord’s work – functionalism
- Influenced by Nida, Vermeer, Reiss
Some Key Concepts

Formal equivalence (source text) vs. Dynamic equivalence (extralinguistic communicative effect)

“A translation of dynamic equivalence aims at complete naturalness of expression, and tries to relate the receptor to modes of behavior relevant within the context of his own culture; it does not insist that he understand the cultural patterns of the source-language context in order to comprehend the message.” (Nida 1964:159) as quoted in Nord, p. 5
Some Key Concepts (cont.)

- **Purpose of the Translation (Nida)**
  - Is one translation/interpretation better than another? Answer is usually another question: “For whom?”
  - Can only measure adequacy based on the extent to which the translation successfully fulfills the intended purpose
    - How the original author/speaker intended the receiver to respond
    - How the receiver actually responded

- **Equivalence (theoretical) vs Functionalist (authentic/applicable)** (Nord, p. 5)
Some Key Concepts (cont.)

Translating and Theory of Action
- Translating as Intentional Action
- Translating as Interpersonal Action
- Translating as Communicative Action
- Translating as Intercultural Action
- Translating as Text-Processing Action

Translational action ("the range of what translators actually do") vs. translation ("what they do when rendering texts")

(Nord, pp. 15 - 26)
Hans J. Vermeer – *Skopostheorie*

His general position:

- “Linguistics alone won’t help us. First, because translating is not merely and not even primarily a linguistic process. Secondly, because linguistics has not yet formulated the right questions to tackle our problems. So, let’s look somewhere else.”
- Situations are embedded in culture systems

Nord, pp 10 & 11
Hans J. Vermeer – *Skopostheorie*

- Cannot draw on linguistic theory alone – must draw on theory of culture too – relationship between verbalized and non-verbalized situational elements
- Strong focus on intended receiver and their expectations, needs and culture specific world knowledge
- “‘offer of information’ that is turned into an ‘offer of information’ for target audience“

Nord, pp 10 & 11
Skopos is greek for ‘purpose’

3 kinds of purpose:

- Purpose of the translator
- Communicative purpose aimed at by the target text in the target situation
- Purpose by a certain translation strategy (show form)

Nord, pp 27 & 28
Skopos Rule

“Each text is produced for a given purpose. The Skopos rule thus reads as follows: translate/interpret/speak/write in a way that enables your text/translation to function in the situation in which it is used and with the people who want to use it and precisely in the way they want it to function.”

(Vermeer 1989a:20, as quoted by Nord, p. 29)
Coherence Rule & Meaning

- The viability of the translation brief (interpreting job) depends on the situation of the target culture, NOT the source culture.

- “the meaning of the source text” vs. “offer of information”

Nord, pp. 31-33
Our goal then is to achieve...

**Intra-textual coherence**
- “coherent (part of) with the receiver's situation”
- “the receiver should be able to understand it: it should make sense in the communicative situation and culture in which it is received”

**Inter-textual coherence**
- must have relationship to the source text
- “fidelity”
- depends on translator/interpreter’s interpretation of source AND the translation skopos
The Skopos Rule

Intratextual Coherence

Intertextual Coherence
Proposed Schema

Interpreting Team

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Hearing team member

Offer of information #2

Deaf team member

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Offer of information #1 or #3

Source/Target Message

Target/Source Message

Inter-textual Coherence

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Offer of information #3 or #1
The Skopos Rule

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Hearing team member

Deaf team member

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Offer of information #2

Interpreting Team

Source/Target Message

Target/Source Message

Intra and inter-textual coherence

Offer of information #1 or #3

Offer of information #3 or #1

Intertextual Coherence