

Techniques of translation:

Equivalence in Translation

1. Definition Equivalence is one of the most important indirect techniques of translation, it refers to the process of achieving the **closest natural meaning, impact, and function** in the target language while maintaining the **intent** of the source text. Different scholars have classified equivalence in various ways, each emphasizing different aspects of translation. You find below the most common cases in which equivalence is applied in addressing translation issues.

2. Cases of Equivalence & Examples

1. Idioms and proverbs: Focuses on conveying the same meaning in a natural way.

Example:

- **Source (English):** "It's raining cats and dogs."
- **Target (French):** "Il pleut des cordes." (*It's raining ropes.*)
- **Target (Arabic):** "إنها تمطر بغزارة." (*It's raining heavily.*)

Example:

- **Source (English):** A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- **Target (French):** *Un tiens vaut mieux que deux tu l'auras.*
- **Target (Arabic):** عصفور في اليد خير من عشرة على الشجرة

2. Denotative Equivalence (Same factual meaning)

Example:

- **Source (English):** "Heart attack"
- **Target (French):** "Crise cardiaque"
- **Target (Arabic):** "نوبة قلبية"

3. Text-Normative Equivalence (Following language norms)

Example:

- **Source (English):** "Yours sincerely"
- **Target (French):** "Je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, mes salutations distinguées."
- **Target (Arabic):** "تقبلوا مني فائق عبارات التقدير والاحترام."

4. Formal Equivalence (Grammatical and stylistic consistency)

Example:

- **Source (Shakespeare, English):** "To be or not to be, that is the question."
- **Target (French):** "Être ou ne pas être, telle est la question."
- **Target (Arabic):** "كن أو لا تكن، ذاك هو السؤال"

5. Intersemiotic Equivalence (between different sign systems)

Example:

"🚫🐕" = "No dogs allowed"

French: -----

Arabic: -----

3. **Conclusion:** Equivalence is about meaning, not just words. Translators must balance **accuracy, culture, and readability** to ensure effective communication.

4. Exercise: Apply Equivalence in Translation

Translate the following expressions into Arabic, considering different types of equivalence:

1. **Actions speak louder than words.** -----
2. **Time is money.** -----
3. **A piece of cake.** -----
4. **Further ado.** -----
5. **First of all.** -----
6. **I think, therefore I am.** -----
7. **In the name of Allah the most Gracious, the most Merciful.** -----
8. **Ask and it is given.** -----