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Module : Translation and Interpreting

Level : 3rd year

Translation of narrative texts

Narrative texts are a form of literary or written expression that presents a sequence of events or experiences. They typically involve characters, a plot, and a narrative structure that unfolds through time. Narrative texts are found in various forms, such as novels, short stories, fables, folktales, and epics. These texts aim to engage readers by taking them on a journey through a story, often invoking emotions, conveying messages, or exploring themes.

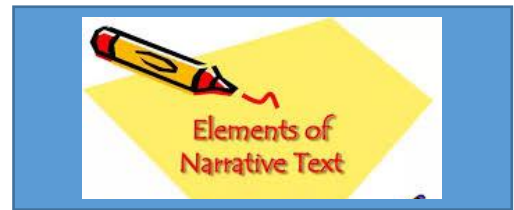
Translating narrative texts requires preserving the essence and storytelling elements while adapting the language and cultural context for the target audience. The translator must capture the characters' voices, the narrative flow, and the emotional resonance of the original text.

Translators face challenges in conveying cultural nuances, idiomatic expressions, and wordplay. They need to make decisions regarding the choice of words, sentence structure, and cultural references to ensure the translated narrative resonates with the readers in the target language.

A successful translation of a narrative text maintains the integrity of the story while considering the linguistic and cultural specificities of the target audience. It requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as creativity and sensitivity to the author's intentions.

In conclusion, narrative texts are captivating literary forms that transport readers into imaginary or real-world experiences. Translating these texts requires skill, cultural awareness, and a focus on retaining the essence of the story while adapting it to a different linguistic and cultural context.





Elements of narrative texts :

Narrative texts have several distinctive characteristics that should be taken into account in the translation process, they include :

- **Characters:** they revolve around characters who drive the story forward. These characters can be fictional or based on real individuals, and they typically have distinct personalities, motivations, and roles within the narrative.
- **The plot :** it refers to the sequence of events that unfold in the narrative. It includes elements such as the introduction of characters, the development of conflicts or challenges, rising action, climax, and resolution. The plot provides structure and coherence to the story.
- **Setting:** it encompasses the time, place, and environment in which the narrative takes place. It helps create a backdrop for the events and influences the mood, atmosphere, and context of the story.
- **Point of view :** they can be told from different points of view, such as first-person, second-person, or third-person. The choice of point of view affects how readers perceive the events and engage with the characters.
- **Language and style :** narrative texts employ creative and descriptive language to convey emotions, sensory details, and imagery. The author's style, including their use of figurative language, dialogue, and narrative techniques, adds depth and richness to the story.



What are plot and setting?

Plot:
The main events of a play, novel, film, or similar work, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence.

Setting:
The place or type of surroundings where something is positioned or where an event takes place.

Task 01 : Identify the structure and features of the narrative texts below.

Task 02 : Comprehension questions

- What is the main theme conveyed in the narrative texts ?
- Who are the main characters and what are their roles in the story ?
- What is the central conflict or challenge faced by the characters ?

Task 03 : Linguistic analysis

- Identify any idiomatic expressions or cultural references present in the text. How would you translate them effectively into the TL ?
- Examine the author's use of figurative language and its effect on the reader.
- Analyse the narrative techniques used by the author, such as foreshadowing or flashback. How would you render them in the translation ?

Task 04 : Writing

- ❖ Write a summary of the story using your own words.
- ❖ Rewrite the narrative text, focusing on using figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification).

Task 05 : Translation practice

- Translate the texts while maintaining the style, tone, and narrative flow.
- Identify any cultural-specific elements in the ST and find appropriate equivalents or adaptations in the TL.
- How would you adapt certain cultural elements such as jokes or references in the TL to make the text more engaging ?

Task 06 : Proofreading and reflection

- ❖ Reflect on the challenges faced in the translation process and the adopted strategies to overcome them.
- ❖ Discuss any linguistic or cultural choices you had to make.

- ❖ Revise your translation, focusing on clarity, coherence, and faithfulness to the ST. Pay attention to grammar, and syntax in the TL.
- ❖ Compare your translation to other versions by your classmates and discuss the differences and similarities in approaches and interpretations.



Text 01 :

Amusing adventures

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between rolling hills, there lived two best friends named Tom and Jerry. They were known throughout the village for their mischievous nature and their penchant for comedic adventures.

One sunny afternoon, Tom and Jerry decided to play a prank on the village elder, Mr. Johnson. They knew he had a fondness for riddles and jokes, so they crafted a plan to make him laugh like never before.

Tom: "Jerry, I have a brilliant idea! Let's dress up as clowns and visit Mr. Johnson. We'll entertain him with jokes and riddles."

Jerry: "That sounds hilarious! I'll bring my bag of tricks and props. We'll have him rolling on the floor with laughter!"

Dressed in colorful clown costumes, Tom and Jerry made their way to Mr. Johnson's house. They knocked on the door, and when it opened, they burst into a lively song and dance routine.

Tom: "Why did the scarecrow win an award?"

Mr. Johnson: Curious, he replied, "I don't know. Why?"

Jerry: "Because he was outstanding in his field!"

The three of them erupted into laughter, and the fun continued throughout the afternoon. Tom and Jerry shared amusing stories, funny riddles, and endless jokes.

Jerry: "Hey, Mr. Johnson, why don't skeletons fight each other?"

Mr. Johnson: Chuckling, he replied, "I'm not sure. Why?"

Tom: "Because they don't have the guts!"

The trio laughed until tears streamed down their faces. Time flew by, and as the sun began to set, Tom and Jerry bid their farewell to Mr. Johnson.

Tom: "We hope we brought a smile to your face, Mr. Johnson. Laughter is the best medicine!"

Jerry: "Indeed! We had a blast today, and we're glad we could make you laugh."

Mr. Johnson: Grinning, he replied, "You two are the brightest stars in this village. Thank you for the joy you've brought into my life."

With hearts full of laughter and happiness, Tom and Jerry skipped back home, knowing they had created a memory that would be cherished for years to come.



Text 02 :

مغامرات جميل وماجد في الصحراء

في قديم الزمان، في قرية صغيرة تقع على أطراف الصحراء، عاش جميل وماجد، صديقين مخلصين يتميزان بالشجاعة والذكاء. تعرف القرية بموروثها العريق وتقاليدها الثقافية الغنية.

في يوم من الأيام، قرر جميل وماجد القيام بمغامرة استكشافية إلى بحر الرمال، المكان الغامض الذي يعتبره القرويون مقدسًا. انطلقا في رحلتها عبر الصحراء الشاسعة، حيث كانت الرمال الساخنة تحترق بشدة.

في منتصف الطريق، اكتشفا آثارًا قديمة تعود لحضارة قديمة. وجدا رموزًا ونقوشًا غامضة على الصخور، وكانت تلك الرموز تشير إلى كنز مدفون في أعماق الصحراء.

جميل: "يا ماجد، لقد وجدنا اللغز الأكبر! هذه الرموز تشير إلى كنز قديم. هل تتخيل؟!"

ماجد: "نعم، يا صديقي! يجب أن نكون حذرين ونتعامل معها بحكمة. دعنا نتبع الرموز ونبحث عن الكنز."

استمروا في المشي بترقب، يتحدون الصعاب ويتجاوزون العقبات في طريقهم إلى الكنز المفقود. تواجههم العواصف الرملية والحيوانات البرية، لكنهم يستمرون في السعي والبحث.

بعد أيام من السفر، وجدا الكهف الذي تشير إليه الرموز. دخلوا الكهف واكتشفوا كنزًا هائلًا من الألماس والذهب والجواهر، يتلألأ في ضوء الشمس المتسلل من الفتحة في السقف.

جميل: "يا لها من ثروة! يجب أن نقدر هذا الكنز ونحتفظ به بحكمة."

ماجد: "بالطبع! سنقوم بإعلام القرويين ونستخدم هذا الثروة لمساعدة القرية وتطويرها."

عادوا إلى القرية وبادروا ببناء مدارس ومستشفيات ومشاريع لتنمية المجتمع. استخدموا الثروة لتعزيز التعليم وتحسين الرعاية الصحية وتطوير البنية التحتية.

أصبحت القرية مزدهرة ومتقدمة، وتذكر سكانها دائمًا جميل وماجد بالخير الذي قدموه لهم وبالقيم الثقافية التي يمثلانها.

