

## Translation:

The rendering of a text into another language. Applied to literature, the term connotes the art of recomposing a work in another language without losing its original flavor, or of finding an analogous substitute.

Translation can also be described as the conversion of one language into another; often used specifically with reference to written texts, as opposed to the **interpretation** of spoken language. There are various types of translation: **word-for-word translation**, in which each word is found an equivalent, carrying over the grammatical and lexical features of the original, often makes little sense, because it breaks the structural rules of the target language; **Literal translation** adheres to the linguistic structure of the original, but transposes it into the appropriate grammatical conventions of the target language. **Free translation** translates the 'sense' of the text, relaxing the shackles of strict linguistic equivalence, and seeks an idiomatic equivalent for the Welsh expression, giving something like 'It is raining cats and dogs'.

## Back Translation

Some think this is a test of the quality of a foreign language translation. This is completely incorrect. With Back Translation the translated text is re-translated into the original language, and the two versions are compared. Another translator supposedly does this. And the closer the correspondence, the better the translation. However whom ever came up with this term, was clearly not a translator, because they forgot to take into account semantics, componential analysis, connotation and of course Synonyms.

## Semantics

The study of the meaning system of a language. The word *meaning* has itself many meanings, and semantic approaches vary widely. In one view, meaning is the relationship between language and the external world (*referential* or *denotative* meaning), and semantics enquires into the precise relationship between a word and the concept it stands for. In another, it involves the mental state of the speaker, as reflected in a range of personal and emotional overtones (*affective* or *connotative* meaning). In a third, it refers to the social context in which language is used, and from which it derives part of its significance (*contextual* meaning). In a fourth, it refers to the sense relations which link words and phrases, by which we know, for example, that some words have the 'same' meaning (eg *car*, *automobile*), some have 'opposite' meaning (eg *single*, *married*), and some have an 'included' meaning (eg *banana*, included within *fruit*). Within linguistics, it is useful to distinguish between *lexical* meaning (the 'dictionary meaning' of a word), and *structural* meaning, which a form derives from its position and function in the grammatical system of the language. A considerable part of the present-day subject is

devoted to the study of the meanings of expressions in terms of formal systems of analysis, or calculi (**formal semantics**).

## **Componential Analysis**

In semantics, an approach which analyses words in terms of a series of identifying features or 'components' of meaning. For example, *boy* could be analyzed with reference to the components 'male', 'young', and 'human'.

## **Connotation**

In linguistics, the emotional associations connected with the meanings of words; for example *green* carries implications of 'youth' and 'inexperience'. It is contrasted with **denotation**, the objective reference a word has to an object outside language, such as the physical properties of a colour.

## **Synonym**

A word which is similar enough in meaning to another word for it to be usable as a substitute in some contexts, such as *illuminate* and *light*. An **antonym** is a word which has the opposite meaning to another, such as *light* and *dark*. A **hyponym** is a word whose meaning is included within that of another, such as *horse* and *animal*. The study of sense relations of this kind is part of the subject of semantics.