

Linguistics and Translation Method

For M.A. II

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This article will consider the kinds of relationship that may obtain between linguistics and Translation Studies and what it may mean to take a 'linguistic approach' to Translation Studies. A number of possible relationships are introduced, and examples of scholarly exploration of each kind of relationship are presented. Subsequently, there is a discussion of the work of scholars who have considered linguistics and Translation Studies to be independent disciplines. This discussion shows that whereas translation scholars tend to import theoretical concepts from linguistics along with data from that discipline, it is rare for linguistics to import theoretical notions from Translation Studies. I argue for the efficacy of the latter practice.

Translation Studies and Linguistics are at the heart of Modern Languages at Nottingham. Our research covers Dutch, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene, Spanish, along with Italian, Arabic and Chinese. Our expertise ranges from historical and sociolinguistics to applied linguistics, translation, interpreting and research into language teaching. We co-ordinate our research via our Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies, and in collaboration with our large Language Centre.

Translation refers to carrying the meaning of a text from one language to another. This process involves interpretation of meaning of the text and producing the same meaning in another language. Translation as an activity is actually as old as written language or text itself.

Linguistics plays an important role in the translation of a document from one language to another. Translating information includes more than just changing each word from the original language to another. One must also decode and decipher all the facets and functions of the original language into the new language. This is where the study and understanding of linguistics comes into play in translation.