Lingua Inglese 3
Lecture 2

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Equivalence in Translation

- Translating is generally seen as a process of communicating a foreign text, by establishing a relationship of identity and analogy with it
- The foreign text is generally assumed as a stable object, possessing invariant properties, which can be reduced to a series of precise units and categories of language and textuality
- Equivalence is established on the basis of text type and social function

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Equivalence in Translation (2)

- Opposition between target-based and source-based equivalence:
  - *Target-based* **equivalence** promotes pragmatic correspondences, drawing on terms which are immediately available and understandable to the text recipient
    - → the text is communicated according to the values of the target language and culture
  - *Source-based* **equivalence** is related to formal similarity, and is designed to approximate the linguistic and cultural features of the foreign text
    - →the text adheres to the linguistic and cultural values of the source language
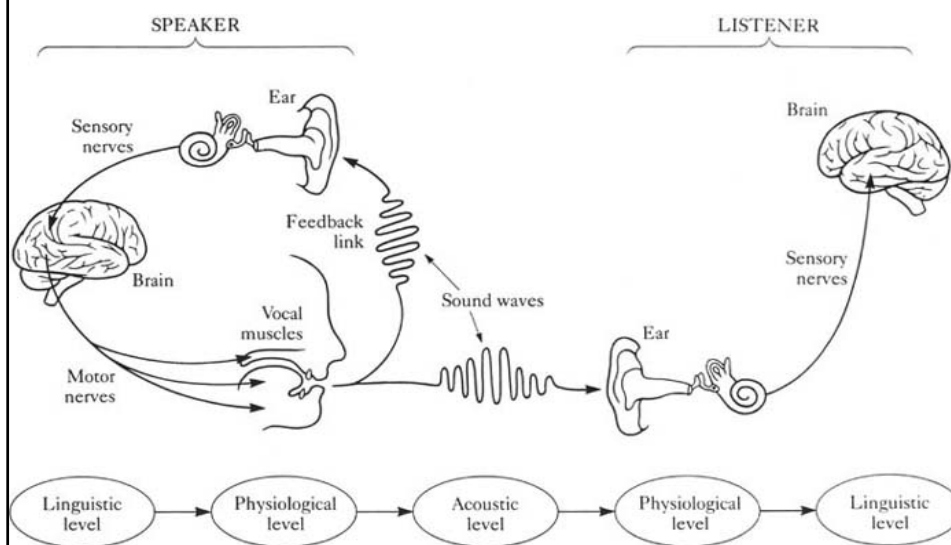
Translation Equivalence is not Formal Correspondence

- K. Reiss "Type, Kind and Individuality of Text: Decision-making in Translation"
- Translating always involves a series of shifts, or deviations from the source text at various levels
- Functionally equivalent translations need to be based on a detailed semantic, syntactic and pragmatic analysis of the foreign text
- But the pragmatic analysis always risks revising any concept of meaning, because it redefines the object of analysis, with the aid of a 'cultural filter'

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Interlingual Translation

- 'A bilingual mediated process of communication, which aims at the production of a TL (target-language) text which is functionally equivalent to the SL (source-language) text'
- It involves 2 media → SL+TL
- 1 medium → the translator, who is a secondary sender
  - Translation is a kind of secondary communication

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A Basic Model of Communication

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A Basic Model of Communication (2)

- Meaning is encoded in sounds produced by speakers by means of **articulatory organs**.
- Sounds are then transmitted through the air to the hearer, who perceives them through **auditory processes.**
- Once the signal has been received by the hearer, it has to be **decoded**, in order to retrieve the original message.

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The Code Model in Translation

- The use of 2 different languages in communication crucially involves a change in the message during the communicative process
- Perfect communication is an ideal, even when a single language is employed, because the hearer/receiver always brings his own knowledge and expectations

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A Series of Changes

- Unintentional changes: due to the different language structures
  - *I went to the station*
  - *Sono andata alla stazione*

  The Italian variant reveals information related to the speaker's gender
- Intentional Changes: are related to changes in the target readership and in the function in the act of communication in the two languages
  - *La France est veuve*
  - **France is a widow/ France is orphaned*

  Different images related to emotional attachment and different possible renderings

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Difficulties in Text Analysis

- A written text presupposes also the partial rendering of non-linguistic elements contributing to the overall meaning (gestures, facial expressions, intonation, speed of speech)
- Spatio-temporal separation between speaker and addressee and lack of possible feedback also lead to a complexification of text analysis

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Text Intentions

- Action is intentional behaviour
- Intention includes speech purpose,speech aim and motives leading to language communication
- The author verbalizes his intention $\rightarrow$ in this way the text receives its communicative function
- Determining the intention of a text involves establishing its **text type** and **text-variety**

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Identifying the Text Intentions

- Language is a temporal phenomenon, and is subject to the conditions of time.
- This leads to the necessity to retranslate a text, if the TL has changed,
  - the previous version can no longer guarantee functional equivalence
  - It might be impossible to recover the original SL text function

  Ex. Swift's *Gulliver Travels*, a satire against contemporary social ills, is taken for a fantastic adventure tale with an expressive communicative function, when taken out of its original social context

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Analysis of the Source Text

- A three-step process involving:

  - Establishment of the **text type**

  - Establishment of the **text variety**

  - Analysis of the **style**

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Text Types

- Establishing the dominant function of a text
- Texts can perform various communicative functions:
  - They can inform about a given situation
    - → **informative type**
  - They can express an artistically-organized content
    - → **expressive type**
  - The can have a persuasive character
    - → **operative type**

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Text Types (2)

- Not a unique classification of text types
- Informative Texts
  - *Descriptive*:enrich knowledge of objects and situations
  - *Narrative*:arrange actions and events in a particular sequential order
- Operative Texts
  - *Argumentative*: promote the acceptance or evaluation of certain beliefs or ideas about certian situations as true or false, or as good or bad
  - *Instructional*: they direct the addressee towards a certain course of behaviour (recipes, directions, instructions)

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Text Types (3)

- Some key signals can help establishing the text type:
  - Title, headline
  - Frequency of certain words, expressions, rhetorical figures
- Texts usually present "mixed text types": the communicative intention and communicative form cannot be unambiguously adapted
  - Ex. texts appealing to an affirmative attitude on the part of the addressee, without intending to trigger any specific kind of behaviour, i.e. newspaper articles

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Text Variety

- Specific socio-cultural patterns of communication belonging to a given speech community
  - Ex. Structure of a recipe: title, list of ingredients, instructions; short sentences, imperative forms, ellipsis, reference to situationally relevant actions and objects
  - Wedding announcement
  - Economic Commentary

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Style

- Ad hoc selection of linguistic signs and possible combinations supplied by the language system
- What linguistic means are employed to realise specific communicative functions
- How a text is constructed (lexical choices, figures of speech, register, syntactic constructions)

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The Translating Process

- Text Analysis gives us a canvas on which to shape our process of **reverbalization**
- It consists in constructing the TL text out of words, phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs in the SL text
- Choices have to be made to balance the need of functional equivalence, in consideration of the text types and varieties analysed

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The Translating Process (2)

- The text type determines the general method of translating

- The text variety is crucial for determining language and text structure conventions

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Possible Kinds of Translation

- Case 1: *The SL text is aimed at conveying a content*
  - **Translation according to sense and meaning**
  - What is implicitly conveyed in the SL, should be explicated in the TL

- Case 2: *The SL text is aimed at conveying artistic content*
  - **Translating by Identification**: the translator identifies with the artistic and creative intentions of the SL author to keep the artistic quality of the text

- Case 3: *The SL is written to convey persuasively structured contents to trigger special types of behaviour*
  - **Adaptive Translation**: the use of persuasive language should be adapted to the needs of the new linguistic community

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Informative Text – Descriptive Text

I do like the underground. There's nothing surreal about plunging into the bowels of the earth to catch a train. It's a little world of its own down there, with its own strange winds and weather systems, its own eerie noises and oily smells. Even when you've descended so far into the earth that you've lost your bearings utterly and wouldn't be in the least surprised to pass a troop of blackened miners coming off shift, there's always the rumble and tremble of a train passing somewhere on an unknown line even further below. And it all happens in such orderly quiet: all these thousands of people passing on stairs and escalators, stepping on and off crowded trains, sliding off into the darkness with wobbling heads, and never speaking, like characters from Night of the Living Dead.

Informative Text – Narrative Text

Once there was a little brown bat named Billy. Billy had soft, brown fur, tiny, pointy ears and lovely, graceful wings. Billy lived in the belfry high up in the First Church, which was located on the corner of Maple and Main Streets. Every night Billy flew out of the belfry and with his strong wings, would soar and glide and dip around the street light by the church. As you probably know, bats can't see very well, so Bill had to hear extremely well. His favourite pastime was squeaking and then listening to all the echoes coming back to his sensitive ears. Each echo had a different sound, and Billy learned to identify everything on his block by its echo. He especially liked to hear the echoes whining, buzzing mosquitoes, his favourite food, and some nights, when he was really hungry, he ate thousands of mosquitoes.

Mixed Type – Informative Type and Operative Type

How can we protect children from internet hazards?

Should we have a .kid domain?
One in two European children regularly surfs the internet and they are vulnerable to its dangers, which can range from pornographic images to violent and racist content. So how do we protect our children and teenagers from the hidden dangers of this vast new territory without exercising censorship or damaging freedom of expression? The European Parliament is coming up with new proposals to reinforce the rules already in force.

We often hear of predators who meet their victims on-line. It is all too easy for a paedophile to pretend to be someone else in a chat room or online game. Children tend to more technologically aware than their parents, making it difficult to exercise control. It is hard to find reliable statistics, but a recent survey in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland and Iceland found that 24% of children who used the internet had experienced unwanted sexual attention. Some 34% of those using chat rooms were invited to meet people, while 22% had actually met up with people via the internet. Today, letting a child surf without control is like letting them go out alone at night.

Where should action be taken?

Initially providers were self-regulating, but rules about content and action against illegal content varied widely prompting the EU to come up with a recommendation on the protection of minors in 1998 and the Safer Internet program. Given the pace of change in the sector a new recommendation is currently making its way through the institutions. Last week the Culture Committee adopted a report by French liberal Marielle de Sarnez highlighting three areas for action. "The pace of technological development in the area of communications media is such that ... new and more innovative measures which are better targeted and meet the concerns of the users of these new technologies" are needed, she said.

The report says the responsibility for protecting the young falls into three areas: the on-line industry, better education and government control, with the best method of protection automatic filters or blocks which stop children from accessing harmful information. The report calls on providers to provide regularly updated lists of harmful sites with common abbreviations.

Expressive Text

From J. Joyce A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo

His father told him that story: his father looked at him through a glass: he had a hairy face.

He was baby tuckoo. The moocow came down the road where Betty Byrne lived: she sold lemon platt.

O, the wild rose blossoms
On the little green place.

He sang that song. That was his song.

O, the green wothe botheth.

When you wet the bed first it is warm then it gets cold. His mother put on the oilsheet. That had the queer smell.

His mother had a nicer smell than his father. She played on the piano the sailor's hornpipe for him to dance. He danced:

Tralala lala,
Tralala tralaladdy,
Tralala lala,
Tralala lala.

Uncle Charles and Dante clapped. They were older than his father and mother but uncle Charles was older than Dante.

Dante had two brushes in her press. The brush with the maroon velvet back was for Michael Davitt and the brush with the green velvet back was for Parnell. Dante gave him a cachou every time he brought her a piece of tissue paper.

The Vances lived in number seven. They had a different father and mother. They were Eileen's father and mother. When they were grown up he was going to marry Eileen. He hid under the table. His mother said:

-- O, Stephen will apologize.

Dante said:

-- O, if not, the eagles will come and pull out his eyes.--

Pull out his eyes,
Apologize,
Apologize,
Pull out his eyes.

Apologize,
Pull out his eyes,
Pull out his eyes,
Apologize.

The wide playgrounds were swarming with boys. All were shouting and the prefects urged them on with strong cries. The evening air was pale and chilly and after every charge and thud of the footballers the greasy leather orb flew like a heavy bird through the grey light. He kept on the fringe of his line, out of sight of his prefect, out of the reach of the rude feet, feigning to run now and then. He felt his body small and weak amid the throng of the players and his eyes were weak and watery. Rody Kickham was not like that: he would be captain of the third line all the fellows said.

Operative Text

From George W. Bush: Address to the Nation on the Five-Year Anniversary of 9/11

Good evening. Five years ago, this date -- September the 11th -- was seared into America's memory. Nineteen men attacked us with a barbarity unequaled in our history. They murdered people of all colors, creeds, and nationalities -- and made war upon the entire free world. Since that day, America and her allies have taken the offensive in a war unlike any we have fought before. Today, we are safer, but we are not yet safe. On this solemn night, I've asked for some of your time to discuss the nature of the threat still before us, what we are doing to protect our nation, and the building of a more hopeful Middle East that holds the key to peace for America and the world.

On 9/11, our nation saw the face of evil. Yet on that awful day, we also witnessed something distinctly American: ordinary citizens rising to the occasion, and responding with extraordinary acts of courage. We saw courage in office workers who were trapped on the high floors of burning skyscrapers -- and called home so that their last words to their families would be of comfort and love. We saw courage in passengers aboard Flight 93, who recited the 23rd Psalm -- and then charged the cockpit. And we saw courage in the Pentagon staff who made it out of the flames and smoke -- and ran back in to answer cries for help. On this day, we remember the innocent who lost their lives -- and we pay tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live.

For many of our citizens, the wounds of that morning are still fresh. I've met firefighters and police officers who choke up at the memory of fallen comrades. I've stood with families gathered on a grassy field in Pennsylvania, who take bittersweet pride in loved ones who refused to be victims -- and gave America our first victory in the war on terror. I've sat beside young mothers with children who are now five years old -- and still long for the daddies who will never cradle them in their arms. Out of this suffering, we resolve to honor every man and woman lost. And we seek their lasting memorial in a safer and more hopeful world.

Since the horror of 9/11, we've learned a great deal about the enemy. We have learned that they are evil and kill without mercy -- but not without purpose. We have learned that they form a global network of extremists who are driven by a perverted vision of Islam -- a totalitarian ideology that hates freedom, rejects tolerance, and despises all dissent. And we have learned that their goal is to build a radical Islamic empire where women are prisoners in their homes, men are beaten for missing prayer meetings, and terrorists have a safe haven to plan and launch attacks on America and other civilized nations. The war against this enemy is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century, and the calling of our generation.

Our nation is being tested in a way that we have not been since the start of the Cold War. We saw what a handful of our enemies can do with box-cutters and plane tickets. We hear their threats to launch even more terrible attacks on our people. And we know that if they were able to get their hands on weapons of mass destruction, they would use them against us. We face an enemy determined to bring death and suffering into our homes. America did not ask for this war, and every American wishes it were over. So do I. But the war is not over -- and it will not be over until either we or the extremists emerge victorious. If we do not defeat these enemies now, we will leave our children to face a Middle East overrun by terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons. We are in a war that will set the course for this new century -- and determine the destiny of millions across the world.

For America, 9/11 was more than a tragedy -- it changed the way we look at the world. On September the 11th, we resolved that we would go on the offense against our enemies, and we would not distinguish between the terrorists and those who harbor or support them. So we helped drive the Taliban from power in Afghanistan. We put al Qaeda on the run, and killed or captured most of those who planned the 9/11 attacks, including the man believed to be the mastermind, Khalid Sheik Mohammed. He and other suspected terrorists have been questioned by the Central Intelligence Agency, and they provided valuable information that has helped stop attacks in America and across the world. Now these men have been transferred to Guantanamo Bay, so they can be held to account for their actions. Osama bin Laden and other terrorists are still in hiding. Our message to them is clear: No matter how long it takes, America will find you, and we will bring you to justice.

On September the 11th, we learned that America must confront threats before they reach our shores, whether those threats come from terrorist networks or terrorist states. I'm often asked why we're in Iraq when Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The answer is that the regime of Saddam Hussein was a clear threat. My administration, the Congress, and the United Nations saw the threat -- and after 9/11, Saddam's regime posed a risk that the world could not afford to take. The world is safer because Saddam Hussein is no longer in power. And now the challenge is to help the Iraqi people build a democracy that fulfills the dreams of the nearly 12 million Iraqis who came out to vote in free elections last December.

Al Qaeda and other extremists from across the world have come to Iraq to stop the rise of a free society in the heart of the Middle East. They have joined the remnants of Saddam's regime and other armed groups to foment sectarian violence and drive us out. Our enemies in Iraq are tough and they are committed -- but so are Iraqi and coalition forces. We're adapting to stay ahead of the enemy, and we are carrying out a clear plan to ensure that a democratic Iraq succeeds.

We're training Iraqi troops so they can defend their nation. We're helping Iraq's unity government grow in strength and serve its people. We will not leave until this work is done. Whatever mistakes have been made in Iraq, the worst mistake would be to think that if we pulled out, the terrorists would leave us alone. They will not leave us alone. They will follow us. The safety of America depends on the outcome of the battle in the streets of Baghdad. Osama bin Laden calls this fight "the Third World War" -- and he says that victory for the terrorists in Iraq will mean America's "defeat and disgrace forever." If we yield Iraq to men like bin Laden, our enemies will be emboldened; they will gain a new safe haven; they will use Iraq's resources to fuel their extremist movement. We will not allow this to happen. America will stay in the fight. Iraq will be a free nation, and a strong ally in the war on terror.

Operative Text 2

Pumpkin Pie Cake I

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (29 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a 9 x 13 inch pan with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and cloves. Mix until smooth and pour into a 9x13 inch pan.
3. Sprinkle dry cake mix over pumpkin mixture, then sprinkle chopped nuts and pat down gently. Melt butter or margarine and drizzle over cake.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for approximately 45 to 60 minutes. (Be sure to check the cake after 45 minutes because oven temperatures vary.)
5. After cake cools, turn it upside down so the top of the cake will be the crust. Remove the parchment paper. Top with dessert topping (optional) before serving.