Rasul’s composite model of translation procedures

This composite model of translation procedures (Rasul 2015) is based on an integration of three classic taxonomies of translation procedures, namely: Vinay and Darbelnet’s (1995) translation procedures (originally applied to English and French), Newmark’s (1988) translation procedures (originally applied to English and French as well as English and German) and Dickins, Hervey and Higgins’s (2002) strategic decisions (originally applied to English-French by Hervey and Higgins, and extended by Dickins to English and Arabic). Rasul (2015) has shown novelty in combining these three taxonomies into an integrated model and extending it, effectively, to identify the patterns of translation procedures employed in a corpus of authentic journalistic texts translated from English into Kurdish.

The composite model inclusively covers both linguistic and cultural aspects inherent in translation. It consists of a set of 13 cultural translation procedures (Figure 1 below), i.e. procedures used in translating cultural terms, and a set of 17 general translation procedures (Figure 2 below), i.e. procedures used in translating non-cultural terms. Procedures such as borrowing and calque are found in both sets as they can be applied to cultural as well as non-cultural terms. For the composite model to be a complete one, Rasul (2015) also introduces the notion of ‘cultural redomestication’ as a cultural translation procedure for translating or transferring TL cultural terms that are found in an ST back into the TL. An interesting example is the Kurdish cultural term Peshmerga when it is found in an English ST to be translated into Kurdish. In the translation, the term is to be transferred back to its original corresponding term in Kurdish - پێسەمرگە. Traditionally such a process was labelled as borrowing.

Rasul (2015) has applied the cultural translation procedures to determine overall translation strategies in English-Kurdish translation of journalistic texts in terms of generalising and domesticating translation. On the other hand, he has applied the general translation procedures to determine overall translation strategies in the translation of such texts in terms of semantic and communicative translation. The results show that domesticating translation is the predominant strategy at the cultural level, whereas semantic translation is the predominant strategy at the linguistic level.
The importance of the model is that it is replicable for future descriptive translation studies and can be carried out in other language pairs and on other genres. Moreover, the model is comprehensive in nature and covers almost all translational changes and shifts that may occur in translation. Thus, this current model of translation procedures transcends the previous models (which are generally limited in their scope) in such a way that prospective translation researchers will not need to go back to the older models of translation procedures.