

EQUIVALENCE IN TRANSLATION TEACHING ISSUES: TYPES, CHALLENGES, AND ISSUES, APPLICATIONS

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Abstract. Equivalence in translation refers to the degree to which the translated text accurately reflects the meaning, style, and communicative effect of the original text. In modern translation studies, equivalence is considered a central concept because translators must ensure that messages are conveyed clearly across linguistic and cultural boundaries¹. This paper reviews key theoretical frameworks, including Nida's dynamic equivalence, Catford's formal equivalence, and Koller's equivalence types. Common barriers such as

¹ Equivalence is an important concept in translation because it helps convey the correct meaning of the message.

cultural gaps, idioms, context dependence, and structural differences between languages are analyzed. Practical strategies—including contextual interpretation, cultural adaptation, compensation, and maintaining pragmatic meaning—are explored in depth. Findings indicate that achieving equivalence requires both linguistic competence and cultural sensitivity. Effective equivalence ²improves clarity, avoids misinterpretation, and enhances cross-linguistic communication. Therefore, translation equivalence is a fundamental requirement for producing accurate and meaningful translations. **Teaching issues** refer to the common problems and challenges that teachers face during the teaching process. In language learning, these issues can affect students' motivation, participation, and overall learning outcomes. Understanding teaching issues helps teachers choose effective methods and improve classroom management.

Methods: This study employs a qualitative research design to investigate equivalence in translation across different linguistic and cultural contexts. A document analysis method is used, focusing on peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, and theoretical frameworks that discuss linguistic equivalence, translation strategies, and intercultural meaning transfer.

Sources were selected according to three criteria: academic credibility, relevance to translation equivalence theories, and the presence of empirical or conceptual evidence supporting equivalence models. Key frameworks examined include Nida's Dynamic Equivalence Theory, Catford's Linguistic Theory of Translation, and Koller's five types of equivalence, which provide structured tools for understanding how meaning is transferred across languages.

The collected materials were evaluated through thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns such as linguistic meaning, cultural adaptation, and challenges in idiomatic translation. Themes were categorized to illustrate how equivalence influences meaning preservation, stylistic choices, and translator decision-making. This methodology ensures a systematic and comprehensive analysis of equivalence in translation. This study

² Equivalence can only be achieved when the translator understands both the language and the culture well.

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Discussion: The discussion interprets findings from the analysis of equivalence in translation. Evidence indicates that translators must balance linguistic accuracy with cultural and contextual meaning to produce effective translations. While formal equivalence focuses on preserving the structure and wording of the source text, dynamic equivalence prioritizes communicative effect and reader understanding. For instance, idioms, metaphors, and culture-bound ³expressions often require dynamic or pragmatic

³Culture-specific items such as idioms and metaphors often cannot be translated word for word. Translators must find natural and meaningful equivalents to keep the original sense.

equivalence rather than literal translation. Failure to apply the correct equivalence strategy may lead to loss of meaning, confusion, or cultural misrepresentation.

Equivalence also plays a critical role in maintaining tone, style, and emotional impact. Translators who demonstrate strong linguistic knowledge and cultural awareness are better equipped to interpret context-dependent meanings, transfer nuances, and ensure naturalness in the target language. These findings align with Nida's and Catford's theories, which emphasize that equivalence is not achieved through word-for-word translation but through conveying the intended message and effect. In contemporary translation settings, technological translation tools introduce further challenges, particularly with idiomatic and contextual meanings. Therefore, human translators must apply equivalence principles to ensure the accuracy and coherence of the final text.

ANALYSISE: Equivalence in translation encompasses several interrelated components, including linguistic equivalence, cultural equivalence, pragmatic meaning, and stylistic equivalence. Translators must be aware of both the semantic structure of the original text and the cultural expectations of the target audience.

One influential framework is Nida's Dynamic and Formal Equivalence Theory,⁴ which differentiates between literal translation (formal equivalence) and meaning-based translation (dynamic equivalence⁵). Formal equivalence attempts to match the grammatical structure and wording of the source text, whereas dynamic equivalence focuses on producing the same effect on the target audience that the original had on its audience.

Another important model is Catford's Theory of Translation Shifts, which explains how structural differences between languages make certain shifts—such as class shifts, structural shifts, and unit shifts—necessary to achieve equivalence.

⁴Nida's theory explains two main ways of translating: keeping the original form or focusing.

⁵ translation can follow either the original form or the intended meaning for the reader. This helps translators decide which approach makes the message clearer in the target language.

Additionally, Koller's five types of equivalence—denotative, connotative,⁶ text-normative, pragmatic, and formal—offer comprehensive tools for identifying how meaning is conveyed across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Cultural differences, idiomatic expressions, and stylistic variations often complicate the process. Translators must apply interpretation, adaptation, and compensation techniques to preserve meaning when direct equivalence is not possible.

CONCLUSION: Equivalence in translation is a core principle that ensures the accurate and meaningful transfer of ideas between languages. Translators who understand different types of equivalence and apply them appropriately can better preserve meaning, style, and communicative impact. By integrating theoretical models and practical translation strategies, translators can overcome linguistic and cultural barriers, producing texts that are both faithful to the original and natural in the target language. As global communication continues to expand, mastery of translation equivalence remains essential for high-quality and culturally sensitive translation practices.

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⁶ Denotative meaning refers to the basic, connotative meaning includes its emotional or cultural associations.