Changements dans le texte traduit : entre fidélité et trahison du texte source

Anda RADULESCU Université de Craiova

Abstract: In his/her effort to render the author's message from one language to another, the translator makes all sorts of changes that facilitate the transfer of meaning in order to get an effect on the foreign reader comparable to that of the original text. We categorize the differences between the source text and the target text, produced by translational changes, into two types: quantitative and qualitative. While the former are easier to observe (additions or removals of elements) and imposed by the language system of the target language, the latter are more complex, imposed in particular by different cultural practices or by the need for clarity and textual cohesion. Thus, the translator uses a series of indirect translation processes, including transposition, which involves changes of a grammatical nature (recategorization), modulation, where the changes are especially semantic (different points of view), equivalence and adaptation, involving cultural transformations. We study the use of these processes in two Romanian-French translations and the way of maintaining a balance between fidelity to the original text and its modification. In conclusion: if the changes are necessary, translations too close to the original are sometimes rocky and full of false meanings, but at the same time, too many changes can affect the quality of the translation when they generate distortions of meaning and neutralize the cultural specificity of the original text.

Keywords: translation, quantitative changes, qualitative changes, indirect translation processes, Romanian-French translations