



THE IMPORTANCE OF LINGUISTIC AND SPEECH COMPETENCE IN TRANSLATION

Soatova Shahribonu Bakhtiyor qizi

*Student of the Department of Philology and
Language Teaching: English Language
Termez University of Economics and Service*

Abstract: This article examines the importance of linguistic and speech competence in the professional activity of translators, as well as their essence and role in the translation process. It highlights the fact that a translator's thorough knowledge of the language system, ability to correctly assess speech situations, and capacity to convey communicative intentions accurately are important factors in ensuring translation quality. The article also discusses the interrelationship between linguistic and speech competences and their significance in modern translation studies.

Keywords: translation, translator, linguistic competence, speech competence, communicative competence, interpreting, written translation.

In the twenty-first century, the acceleration of globalization, the expansion of international cooperation, and the increasing pace of information exchange have further intensified the need for translation activities. Translators serve as important mediators in facilitating communication between different countries, peoples, and cultures. The effectiveness of translation activities is directly related to the professional competences possessed by translators.

In modern translation studies, translator competence consists of several components, among which linguistic and speech competences occupy a special place. While linguistic competence refers to knowledge of the language system, speech competence enables an individual to apply this knowledge in practical communicative situations. These competences are essential for ensuring translation quality, preserving meaning and style, and achieving the intended communicative purpose.

The Essence of Linguistic Competence. The concept of linguistic competence was first introduced into scientific discourse by the American linguist Noam Chomsky. It refers to a language user's knowledge of grammatical rules, lexical units, and syntactic structures within a language. For translators, linguistic competence includes the following aspects:

- phonetic knowledge;



- knowledge of grammatical rules;
- mastery of lexical units;
- understanding of stylistic devices;
- the ability to use phraseological units;
- understanding semantic relationships.

During the translation process, a translator must possess a thorough knowledge of the linguistic systems of both languages. Otherwise, the meaning may be lost or interpreted incorrectly. For example, although the English expression “break the ice” can literally be translated as “muzni sindirmoq,” such a translation would distort its intended meaning. In fact, the expression means “to start a conversation” or “to make a formal or tense atmosphere more relaxed.” A translator’s linguistic knowledge plays a crucial role in accurately interpreting such expressions.

The Content of Speech Competence. Speech competence is the ability to use linguistic resources appropriately according to a particular communicative situation. A translator should not only know the rules of a language but also be able to apply them in accordance with the purpose of communication.

Speech competence encompasses the following elements:

- the ability to produce fluent speech;
- the ability to express ideas clearly;
- maintaining stylistic appropriateness;
- taking the communicative situation into account;
- choosing speech appropriate to the audience;
- ensuring logical coherence.

For example, there is a significant difference between interpreting the speech of a diplomat participating in an international conference and translating an ordinary everyday conversation. Each situation requires a specific style, terminology, and form of expression.



The Interrelationship Between Linguistic and Speech Competence in the Translation Process. Linguistic and speech competences are complementary concepts. While linguistic competence represents theoretical knowledge, speech competence ensures the practical application of that knowledge. For instance, a translator may have an excellent understanding of complex grammatical structures in English. However, if they are unable to express them naturally and fluently in Uzbek, the quality of the translation may decrease. Therefore, modern translation studies emphasize the need to develop these two competences simultaneously.

The Importance of Linguistic and Speech Competence in Interpreting. Interpreting requires a translator to think quickly and demonstrate a high level of speech proficiency. In particular, during simultaneous interpreting, an interpreter must listen, analyze, and translate at the same time. For example, a speaker at an international economic forum may say: “The global economy is facing unprecedented challenges.” The interpreter should quickly and accurately translate this sentence as: “Jahon iqtisodiyoti misli ko‘rilmagan muammolarga duch kelmoqda.” In this process, speech fluency and speed are just as important as linguistic knowledge.

The Role of Competences in Written Translation. Although a translator generally has more time when performing written translation, they are still required to preserve the content and style of the original text accurately. Linguistic precision is particularly important in the translation of scientific, technical, literary, and official documents. In literary translation, however, speech competence plays an especially significant role because the translator must recreate the author’s style, emotional impact, and artistic imagery.

Intercultural Communication and Competences. Translation is not merely the replacement of words from one language with those of another; it is also a means of intercultural communication. Every language reflects the culture, values, and worldview of a particular people. Therefore, in addition to linguistic and speech competences, a translator should also possess cultural knowledge. Failure to understand the cultural context may lead to translation errors. For example, it is not sufficient simply to translate the concept of “Thanksgiving”; the translator should also be able to convey or explain its cultural significance.

Ways of Developing Translator Competence. The following activities are important for developing linguistic and speech competences:

- regular reading;
- following media content in foreign languages;



- engaging in translation practice;
- working with scientific and literary texts;
- developing a culture of effective speech;
- participating in international communication.

These activities enrich a translator's linguistic repertoire and contribute to the improvement of their professional skills.

Conclusion. Linguistic and speech competences are among the most important components of a translator's professional competence. While linguistic competence refers to a thorough knowledge of the language system, speech competence enables the translator to apply this knowledge effectively in real communicative situations. The quality of translation, the effectiveness of communication, and the success of intercultural information exchange largely depend on the level to which these competences are developed. Therefore, developing linguistic and speech competences remains one of the priority tasks in the process of training professional translators.

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