



**TRANSLATION**



# **What is Translation ?**

As a subject, translation is generally used to refer to all the processes and methods used to transfer the meaning of the source language text into the target language, by means of using: (1) words which already have an equivalent in Arabic language; (2) new words for which no ready-made equivalents are available in Arabic; (3) foreign words written in Arabic letters; (4) foreign words changed to suit Arabic pronunciation, spelling, and grammar.

For example:

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Speak     | يتكلم     |
| 2. Satellite | قمر صناعي |
| 3. Aspirin   | اسبرين    |
| 4. Democracy | ديمقراطية |

According to (Farghal and Shunnaq:1999), translation is often regarded as a project for transferring meaning from one language to another. Here, we have two important words in this definition, that is, ***transferring*** and ***meaning***.

The first word indicates that when translating, we must deal with two languages because translation, in the standard sense, is a form of ***interlingual communication*** that involves a Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL), i.e., the language we translate from and the language we translate into.

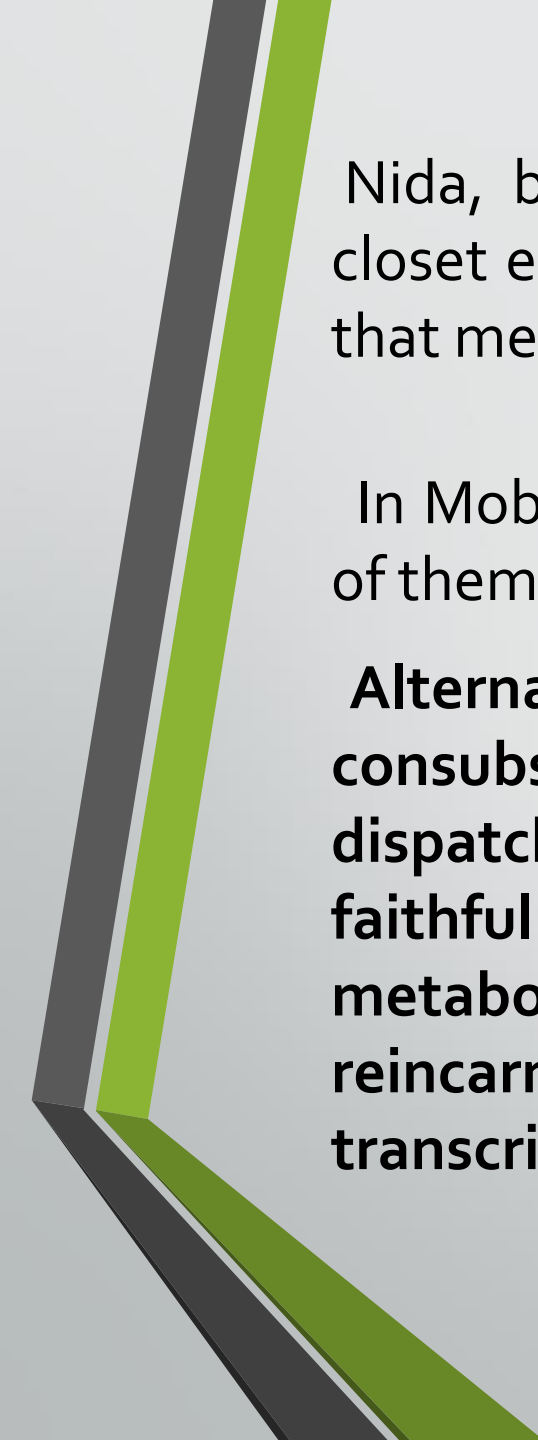
The second word in the above definition tells us that the main concern of translators is to capture or convey meaning in interlingual communication.

Meaning is a complex notion. Linguists usually divide meaning into denotation ( the core conceptual meaning of the word ) and connotation ( the shades of meaning that are sometimes added to the denotation of the word ).

### For example:

The English lexical pairs ***die* / *pass away*** and ***friend* / *comrade*** ( share the same denotations, but they differ in their connotations ) ( that is ***pass away*** expresses positive connotations that do not exist in ***die***, and ***comrade*** has a political connotation which means ***communist*** that is completely missing in ***friend***).

It should be noted that translators are supposed to capture both denotation and connotation in their translation.




Nida, believes that" translation is concerned with the reproduction of the closet equivalent of the source language text (SL) in the target language (TL) that means translation is based on equivalence not on transference.

In Moby Thesaurus there are 120 words for the meaning of translation some of them are:

**Alternation, assumption, avatar, bilingual text, change, communication , consubstantiation, conversion, decipherment, decoding, diffusion, dispatch, displacement, elucidation, explanation, export, extradition, faithful translation, forwarding, gathering, import, interchange, key, metabolism, metaphorase, moving, mutual transfer, paraphrase, reincarnation, rendering, restatement, rewrite, sending, transamination, transcription, transplacement, transport, etc.**



What do we translate ?



Do we translate grammar, words, style, and sounds?

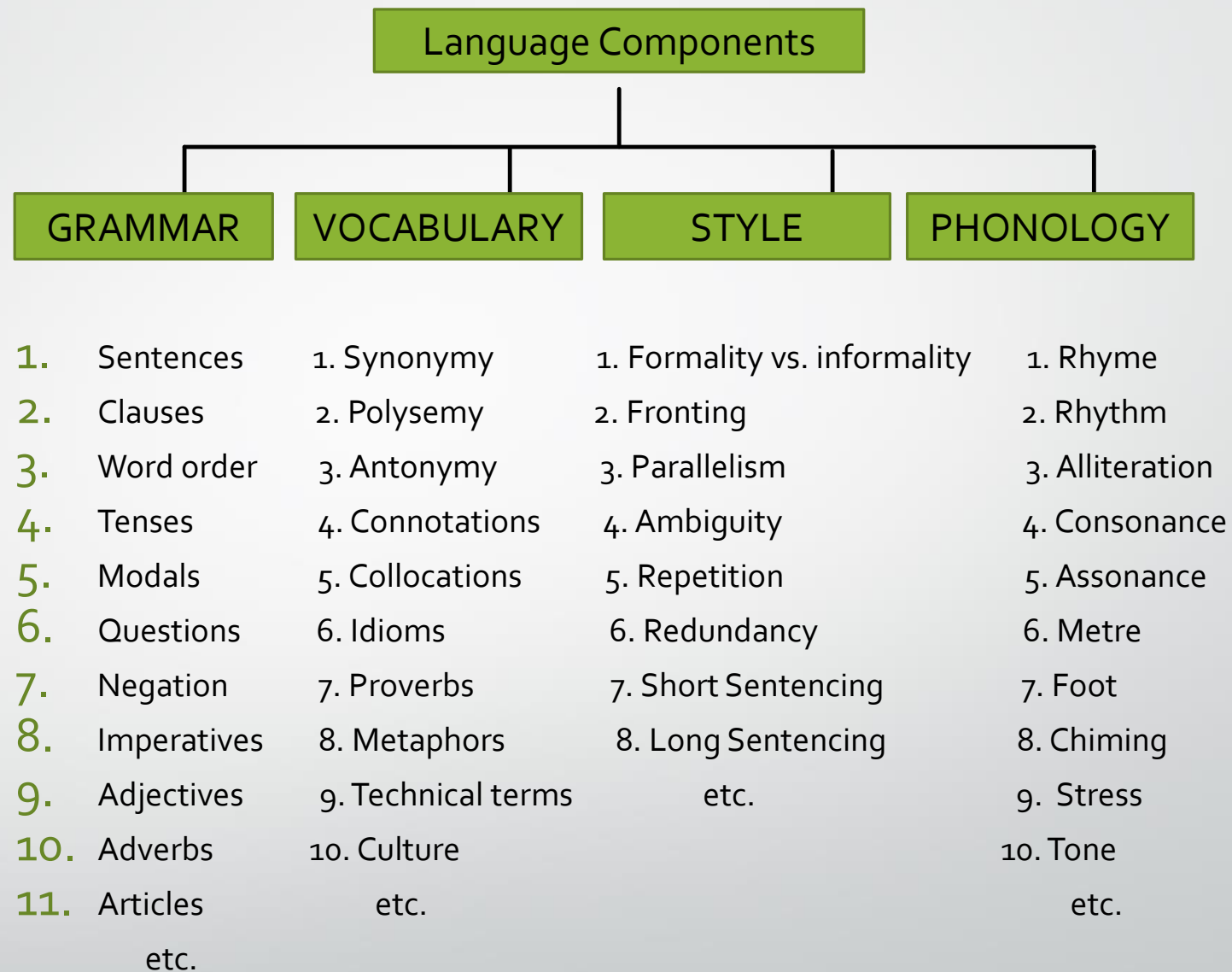
( NO )

What do we translate then ?

( MEANING )

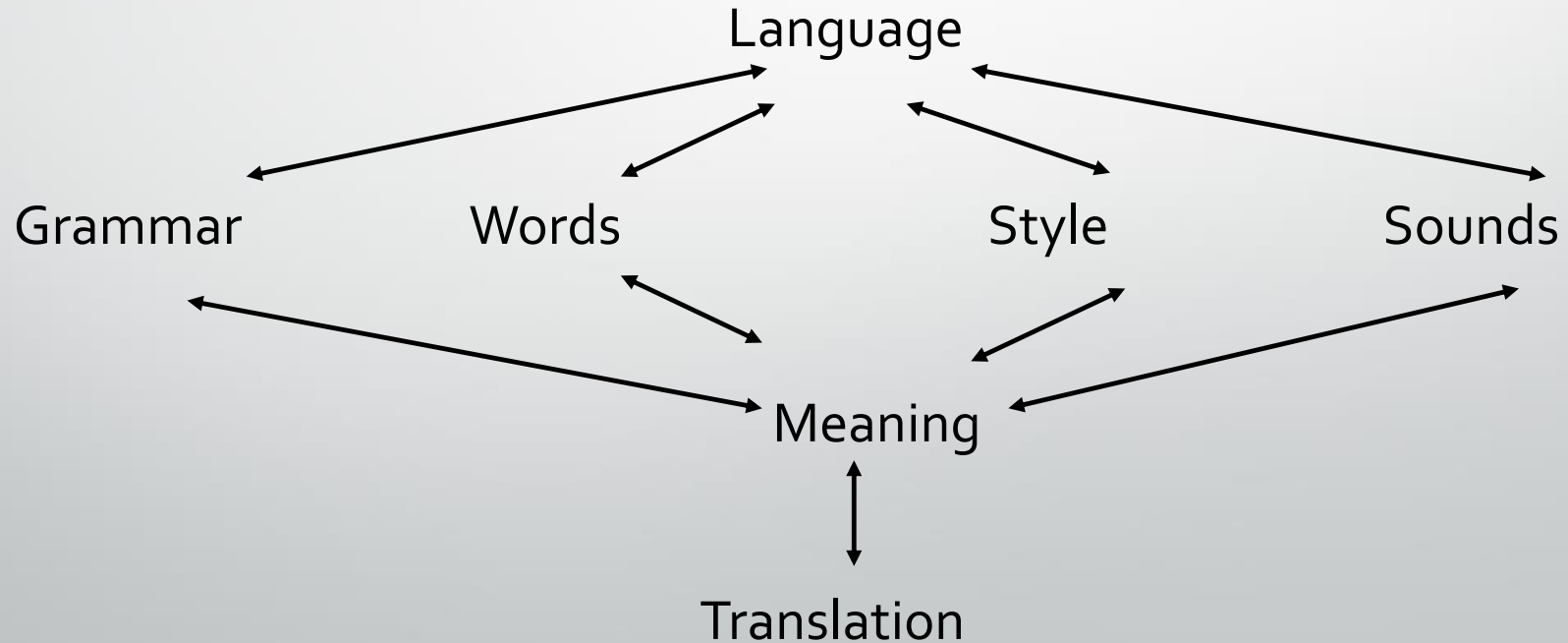


**Meaning**  
 It is a complicated network of language components which are of course: Syntax (or grammar), Vocabulary (or words), Style, and Phonology (or sounds). Each of these components includes several points, as shown in this figure:



We translate meaning, nothing else but meaning. This means that anything which has no relevance to meaning is ignored completely in translation. Meaning is not the product of words only as many would think, but also grammar, style, and sounds.

Diagram showing the relationship between meaning, language, language components and translation ( could be read both ways top-bottom and bottom-up):



## - How do we translate?

This question implies two points: the process of translation, (or translating) and the methods of translation.

As regards the process of translation, it describes *how* we proceed at translating something in practice, that is when we put pen to paper to start translating. In other words, it is the stages of translating practically.

**Do we translate a word by word, phrase by phrase, a clause by clause, a sentence by sentence, a paragraph by paragraph, or a text by text?**

Many would translate a word by word, taking translation to mean the translation of words from one language into another. But this is not acceptable, as generally indicated previously. In fact, we translate a unit by unit. Each unit is called “a unit of translation”.

## - Unit of Translation

A unit of translation is any word, or group of words which can give either a small, or a large part of meaning when translated together. Therefore, it is a unit (or part) of meaning when translated together. This means that it can be one word (like: thus, therefore, yet, actually, clearly, and other adverbials that begin a sentence), a phrase (like: pass a law **يسن قانونا** =phrase), (sitting duck **لقمة سائغة / فريسة سهلة** = idiom). In Arabic we start the sentence with the verb (كان) which means that we have to read the whole English sentence before starting translating.

# The Translation Cycle

## 1. Preparation

The preparation phase includes:

- a. Preparing necessary references and dictionaries.
- b. Unifying terminology and making it available to the translators through the network.
- c. Translating samples from the translation texts to anticipate any problems the translators might face in their work.
- d. Defining the task required from every translator.

## 2. Translation

The process of translation includes:

- a. Undertaking the translation task, complying with available terminology databases.
- b. Commitment to the manuals on transliteration, capitalization, punctuation, etc.
- c. Reporting any mistake in the Arabic text, and any problems in the terminology or consistency issues.
- d. Undertaking ample investigation in case the text contains any ambiguities.
- e. Checking the grammar and spelling.

### **3. Revision**

The process of revision includes:

- a. Insuring that the translation is sound and correct.
- b. Eliminating structural mistakes.
- c. Checking the spelling.
- d. Reporting on the performance of translators.

### **4. Editing**

The process of editing includes:

- a. Guaranteeing the readability and understandability of English texts.
- b. Insuring the soundness and correctness of style.
- c. Revision and editing by a native speaker.
- d. Excluding vague words and words with double-cross meaning.