A Personal Exploration of Translation Studies during the Pandemic. Functionalist Approaches

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Abstract

Translation is a human activity and like all human activities, it has its difficulties and satisfactions. With the aim to enlighten some theories regarding the translations, we are going to explore the studies of the theorists Anca Greere (2003), Hans J. Vermeer (2000) and Christiane Nord (1997). By examining the above theories, our goal is to obtain a clearer view upon the difficulties encountered in the translating activity, on the one hand and on the other, to find the proper way to surpass these difficulties.

The translator as a professional has to take into account different aspects in order to comply with the translation task. Thus, the translator has to consider aspects related to the analysis of the source text, this constituting a source of information. On the other hand, the translator has to consider aspects regarding the text type, the text production and the recipient of the target text. In addition to presenting theoretical considerations on functional approaches, the applicative part of our paper will bring to attention four types of translation mistakes, which any translator should avoid and some viable solutions to the problems they pose.

Keywords: *translation; translator; Skopos theory; TOSTA theory; translation task.*

1. Introduction

The year when the pandemic began, 2020, I decided to fill my time by learning. The best way to do this was to enroll on a Master's degree – METT, Master of European terminology – Translation. Thus, I felt the lock down easier while I occupied my mind with learning and

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reading. Consequently, throughout the pandemic, I updated my knowledge about translating a text from the source language to the target language. I also discovered that there is more about translation studies. In fact, I knew very little. Thus, I discovered the functionalist approaches.

"Translation is an obvious purposeful activity, just like all human activities", Christiane Nord asserts in the opening of her study, "*Translating as a Purposeful Activity, Functionalist Approaches Explained"* (Nord 2006: 136-141). Nonetheless, José Ortega y Gasset (in Venuti 2000: 49-70) in his essay, *The Misery and the Splendour of Translation* states that, by nature, the human takes pride only in the unachievable activities. As Gasset himself states, "World history compels us to recognize Man's continuous, inexhaustible capacity to invent unrealizable projects" (53). In this sense, translation is one of such activities, in the philosopher's opinion. On the other hand, Gasset states that it would be terribly boring for the human to deal with only successful/ satisfactory endeavours. To cut it short, I myself have undertaken "the possible splendour of the translator's task" (54) precisely for the apparent impossibility of translating a text, yet "bettering" my style, by enrolling and attending the courses of METT, UBB University in Cluj Napoca. Furthermore, I cannot neglect the linguistic opinion, namely, Roman Jacobson's (Jacobson in Venuti 2000: 111-125), who found three kinds of translation, intralingua, Interlingua and intersemiotic. While in the end of his study, he invokes the Italian formula, *traduttore, traditore* (118) in order to demonstrate the difficulty of translating, of equating rhymes pertaining to one language in any other language. Unless the translator's cognitive attitude makes him supply a similar equivalence or at least closer to the meaning of the intralingua translation, as it is the case of the above-mentioned formula, an equivalent interpretation into English would be "translator of what messages, betrayer of what values?" (118). That translating is a difficult, even utopic task, as Gasset explains is as true as it is also pride taking, if done taking into consideration theory and practice alike. The aim of mentioning the two theorists has been to introduce the thesis of my study. Therefore, the purpose of this article

is to deal with the functionalist approaches as explained by the theorists of the discipline, namely, Greere, Nord and Vermeer, while Gasset and Jacobson represent the philosophic, linguistic means, respectively.

2. Specialists' Explanations of Functionalist Approaches

2.1 Theorists agree that knowing the function of the source text (ST) represents the key component for the process of making decisions and for validating the translator's decision. Interestingly, the translator produces a target text with the aim of determining the addressees' reactions in a specific communicative situation. In this sense, Greere explains the reader the importance of the functionalist approaches via specialists in translation, Vermeer, Reiss, Nord, and Holz-Manttari. Not only do the theorists afore-mentioned consider the functionalist approach important to the process of making decisions during translation, but also for validating the translating decisions. Therefore, thorough knowledge of the function of the text is of an utmost importance for orienting the production of the target text toward the communication situation. In addition, by knowing the function of the source text, the translator can find guidance in adopting the suitable translation methodology.

The translator has to take into consideration the fact that the production of the source text has occurred by following some features characteristic for the source culture at a certain moment. Furthermore, the source text had to comply with some acceptability requirements of targeted source addressees. The translator has also to consider that the addressees have intertextual experience with the text type and the text genre. Under these circumstances, the source culture features determine the functionability of the communicative situation.

Interestingly enough, the source text undertakes cultural displacement during the process of translation because new features shape the function of the new text – the target text. The target text, as part of the communication situation of the target culture, will function under new text production and text reception value-norms. In this situation, the target text addresses the target audience specific

acceptability requirements. The requirements base on target culture intertextual experience. Nonetheless, knowledge of the original source text will filter the reception of the target source. Furthermore, other changes may occur like time and space of the communication situation. Under the time and space displacement, the translator can encounter other issues as to what method of translation he/ she should utilize. Therefore, the contrastive analysis of the source context and target context should lead to choosing the appropriate formula of translation method.

Greere asserts that the identification and consideration of the text-type and genre-type is of an utmost importance in the process of decision-making. This is because the text-type provides a recognition mechanism of the function while analyzing the type-genre elements allows the translator have a gist upon the textuality features. Depending on the textual analysis, the methodology of translation for solving the translation methods may orient the translator either toward source text and culture or toward the target text and culture. Under these circumstances, the translator should choose the appropriate method of transfer in accordance with the translation problems. Depending on the translation problems, the translator might find appropriate to make use of more than one transfer methods. "This is relative to the textuality features imposed by the reception conditions" (Greere 2003: 47).

During the process of translation, by analyzing the displacement factors, the translator must regard them as generating of translating problems and preventing from maintaining the function of the text. Therefore, the production of the target text requires the translator's awareness regarding the cultural and textual features.

Under these circumstances, Greere admits that the text linguistic approach, which orients the translation methodology toward the target culture, might seem the most appropriate for attaining the aim of text-function equivalence between source and target texts. Yet, despite the fact that the elements described by the text linguistic approach might seem relevant to the functionalist view on translation, the translation functionalists' interpretation of the translation do not refer only to the

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functional equivalence between source and target text. On the contrary, the translation functionalists broaden the functional equivalence with potential functional difference. For this reason, the difference in function might generate a specific translation procedure highlighting elements, which are relevant for the new function. In other words, this translation procedure differs from the one viewing the relationship between texts as functional identity between two cultures.

The functionalist scholar went even further to include other elements relevant to the translation context and decision-making process. In this sense, re-evaluating the translation process would find that the function of the target text differed from that of the source text. At this point, Greere asserts that

> The functionalist model of translation is based not only one cultural displacement in the translation process (i.e. shift to the new cultural values about the production and text reception) but it also considers functional displacement (i.e. differences in the functions the source text and target text are meant to fulfil in their context message). (Greere 2003: 48)

In other words, not only must the translator address the cultural values shift relating to the text production and text reception, but also he/ she has to take into consideration the functional displacement relating to the difference in the functions of the source text and the functions of the target text. For this reason, the functionalist approach allows the translator adaption of his translation technique in relation to the specificity of the culture and of the function of both the source text and target text. Under the functionalist approach circumstances, there is a "fluid" relationship between the source text and target text as governed by linguistic, cultural and functional information about both the text production and reception. Thus, the translators might be in the situation to duplicate features of the source text, adapt them to the target culture ones, and use the source text only as a departure point.

2.2 Greere goes on her study on the functionalist approaches with Vermeer's Skopos Theory. She draws attention upon the fact that Vermeer (1996) began with the analysis of "the position of the source text" in determining "the function of the function of the target text". In his approach, Vermeer draws on communication theory, text linguistics and action theory. Further, the scholar decomposed the translation situation and kept the most relevant instances of intercultural communication.

In describing Vermeer's procedure, Greere asserts that the scholar considered the communicative purpose to indicate the translation procedure adopted. Then, the scholar "isolated" the target text with the aim to establish the elements leading to the accomplishment of the "receptive intention".

Interestingly, Vermeer regards the act of translation and its implicit result as a purpose in itself, which may differ from the text source production. During the procedure, professor Greere asserts that Vermeer observed the cultural transfer and stressed the importance of target culture "adaptation" with the aim to obtain functional appropriate texts.

The procedure made Vermeer conclude that, in fact, "the purpose of the translated text in the target culture determined the translation choices" (Greere 2003: 49). In other words, the translator's decisions depend on the target culture. In short, the translator should analyze thoroughly the target culture in order to fulfil appropriately his translation task. Professor Greere develops Vermeer's theory, in which the scholar detached the target text from the source text and advocates the analysis of the target culture of the target text, irrespective from the function of the source text.

In the described procedure, professor Greere asserts that the translation practice represents "a self-sustaining production process determined" by the target culture, not by the source text. To put it in other words, Vermeer regards the result of the translation process different from the source text. Therefore, the resulted translation has its own textuality, this time governed by the target culture. In other words,

the target text becomes isolated from the translation situation, while acquiring a different function for the target culture, which is different from that of the source text function in the source culture. Even more interesting, the target text becomes a new text, whose sole bound with the source text is an information link, "an information offer". Thus, the target addresses will perceive the target text as self-sufficient.

Vermeer introduced the Skopos theory in 1996, (though he has worked upon it prior to this year). The theory claims that, in the context, the function of the source text is different from the function of the target text. Since translation is a purposeful communication act, the translation as production aims to be functional for the targeted audience. Professor Greere presents Vermeer's point of view according to which, the departure point "for any translation" should be its purpose, not its linguistic surface. Moreover, the decisive criterion for the translation should be the knowledge about the target text function. The intended aim of Vermeer in introducing the Skopos theory regarded the decision process in translation and validation of the translator's choices. Therefore, the Skopos theory represents the general framework for translation decisions focused upon the "functional concept of translation".

In this context, the theoretical framework has as a departure point the assumption that acting in purposeful and, in addition, it has an incorporated Skopos. Moreover, Vermeer, as professor Greere states, defines translating as acting, which in terms of Skopos theory means it a goal-oriented procedure carried out by the translator.

Nevertheless, Vermeer theory of Skopos has found its critics in "Three arguments against the Skopos theory" (Vermeer 1978: 224-227). Vermeer found a solution for each of the three objections. Objection 1 maintains that not all the translations have an aim. Vermeer settled it by saying that even a literary writing has a purpose. Objection 2 claims that not every translation can have a purpose, which Vermeer clarified by stating that, determined or not, a purpose always exists. Objection 3 refers to the misunderstood Skopos theory to which Vermeer explains that

> True translation, with an adequate Skopos, does not mean that the translator must adapt to the customs and usage of the target culture, only that he can so adapt. (Vermeer 1978: 243)

Vermeer's quotation translates as there is no need for the translator to adjust the utilization of the target language, yet, he might do it.

Vermeer, in the end of his article published by Venuti, deals with translation as commissioned by a client or deliberate action. Therefore, it is natural for the client to stipulate the purpose of the translation and the addressee. In other words, a translator deals with a translation according a Skopos. Even if the specification lacks, the translation may have an implicit or implied Skopos. Thus, the translator, who is the expert in translational action, has to require the client as many details as possible. The "realizability" of the translation, as Vermeer puts it, depends on the target culture. In case the commissioner does not offer many details, the translator finds himself/ herself in the situation to negotiate the "optimal" translation he expects. The translator, as an expert may accept the translation or he may not and if he does, he must establish the circumstances. Either way, Vermeer states clear that the Skopos of the commission is of an utmost importance in that it alleviates the translator's decisions regarding the work proper.

2.3 Another theory, which Greere explains is TOSTA, pertaining to Nord (Greere 2003: 56) who systematizes the internal and external elements, which are relevant for a translation context in producing an adequate target text. For designing the TOSTA model (Translation Oriented Source Text Analysis), Greere explains that Nord bases her theory upon text linguistics and Skopos theory. In this sense, Nord accepts the functional model of translation, yet the translation situation gives the functional variability. The source text as an "offer of information" provides the necessary information to the translator as expert. Yet, the commissioner should provide more information related to the matter as to the Skopos and the addressee of the translation. Therefore, Nord opines that with view to produce a target text

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according to the Skopos, the translator expert must do research upon the functionality of the translation context elements. Thus, the translator has to establish these elements' impact upon the transfer procedure. Not only will the research facilitate selecting procedure efficiently, but also the framework for evaluating and validating the translator's choices. Professor Greere puts it that the analysis has a crucial role for the efficiency of the decision-making process.

Nonetheless, the translator should guide according to the translation task, rather than according to the source text elements. The translator should undertake an analysis and filter the source text to establish the transfer potential of the source text intertextual elements into the target context. Therefore, the TOSTA has the aim to ensure "full comprehension" of the source text meant to provide the reliable foundation for each decision the translator makes during the process of translation. In this case, the translator should undertake a contrastive analysis of the source context and the target context and determine the impact of the reception of the target text. The translator should also scan the source text for intra-textual elements (linguistic and structural) requiring a special transfer technique according to the described extra textual elements of the target text. The role of extra textual elements requires a special attention for the intra-textual transfer process.

During the analysis, the translator will find in the source text extra textual elements sustaining the text. Nevertheless, by identifying the intercultural and inter-linguistic transfer problems, the translator extracts the information, which has to be functional for both the source text and target text in that the texts address to the same audience profile, whereas the target text respects the norms regarding type and genre. In case the contrary happens, the client has to provide the information about the extra textual reality of the target text.

Designed for the translation task, the translation-oriented source text analysis applicable to all text types develops into two patterns. On the one hand, there are factors specific to the communication situation and there are factors referring to the text itself. Nord calls them extra textual factors opposed to intra-textual factors. Thus, the model focuses

first on text-type elements ensuring the expected functionality, while, secondly, the analysis aims to the text-genre. As for the extra textual features of the text production, they represent the profile of the text producer regarding the function of the text, the addressee, the medium of communication, the place and time of the text production and the text itself production. In point of intra-textual features, they encompass the subject matter, the information presented, and the knowledge presupposition of the author about the target readers, the compositional elements and the linguistic elements.

Given these explanations upon the extra textual and intra-textual elements, it is worth mentioning that they can increase the translator's awareness regarding the translation task. Therefore, the source text analysis is crucial for the choosing the translation strategies. Thus, functionalism refer strictly to the target text "as source text-induced communication directed by the client's requirements. Because the client has to offer a brief, […] description of the target text". (Greere 2003: 59).

Nevertheless, the translation-oriented source text analysis represents the starting point for the translation process. TOSTA sustains the decision-making process in choosing the adequate strategy for the translator to fulfil the client's requirements regarding functional reception of the target text under the circumstances offered by the source text in point of text-type and text-genre.

As regards the terminology of the *text types*, Nord's is different from that of Reiss. Thus, the text-types are referential, subject-oriented expressive, sender-oriented appellative referring to the receiver's sensitivity. Yet, Nord[1] introduces the fourth type, phatic, which establishes, maintains and ends contact between the sender and receiver. In addition, Nord presents some sub-functions of the main functions and presents the main functions across cultures. Moreover,

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[1] Nord improves Karl Bühler's model, in 1997 by adding the phatic text type, as she discusses in an article published in *TEFLIN Journal*, Volume 17, Number 2, August 2006, p. 131.

Nord supplies the translator with strategies of translation in order to meet the functions of the text-types across cultures.

Nord goes even further and proposes *two general translation strategies*, namely documentary producing a document of a communicative interaction and instrumental translation, which produces an instrument in the target language for a new communicative interaction.

At this stage, the process of translation can start. Interestingly, TOSTA and client brief can inform the translator about four categories of *translation problems*: 1. pragmatic, regarding the situational displacement, specifically the difference between the source and target texts; 2. cultural, referring to conventional situations; 3. linguistic, referring to specificity of language; 4. text-specific, incorporating puns, figures of speech etc. Thus, systematizing in point of translation problems helps the translator find the adequate transfer solutions and fulfil the translation task properly.

3. Application – translation problems

The following part deals with a variety of texts exemplifying the different transfer problems/ issues, the translator can encounter while performing the translation task. Therefore, we are going to apply the in finding and translating different types of texts. The variety of texts illustrates the difficulty of the translator to find the suitable solution in order to give the most appropriate translation. This is because the translator in dealing with different texts has to find the proper equivalent in the target language. Consequently, the task of translating a text from language A into language B is not to translate word for word or sentence for sentence. Instead, the task of translating is not merely finding the proper equivalent in language B.

The explanation is that every language has its own vocabulary, phrases and collocations, the result of history and experience. The translator, as a linguistic professional has to master both working languages so that he/ she has to be able to find the solution and decide by himself which solution is best for the given text.

The selection of texts illustrating the tough work of the translator comprises texts from almost all the domains of knowledge. The analysis of the source text consisted in having a gist upon the author of the text, the reason for which he produced it, the time the author produced the text and the space. Under these circumstances, the task of the translator is not an easy one. The reason is that the translator finds a dislocation of the text from the time and space point of view. In other words, the linguistic specialist has to adapt the target text to the canons of the target language.

As for the variety consists of literary, folk wisdom, administrative, culture, history and literature. Each text illustrates types of translation problems.

3.1. Therefore, the first source text is from *Bazele teoretice și metodice ale predării schiului* by Gheorghe Balint and represents a quotation written by Ion Matei, who dedicated his entire life to this sport. The book addresses to the sky sportspeople and to all those who love the „white sport". The function of the text, according to Nord is appelative. In other words, the function of the text is to appeal to the reader's emotional side, but also requires the reader's reaction. Moreover, the genre of the text is narrative.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
Născut din foame, din zăpadă și mit, schiul a devenit în „acest straniu secol al sportului" cum numește Francois Mauriac secolul pe care îl traversăm,	Text specific translation problem	Arisen from hunger, snow and myth
un templu în care curajul, vigoarea fizică și spirituală se împletesc atât de armonios cu dorința de frumos și de mai bine;	Text specific translation problem	A temple in which courage, stamina and spiritual vigour intertwine harmoniously with the

		desire for beauty and better;

By analyzing the source text (ST), we have reached the conclusion that the English „to be born" is not the proper transfer solution. For this reason, we transferred by utilising the English "to arise".

Another problem is text specific, namely a metaphor. By applying TOSTA, we reached the transfer solution utilized.

3.2. The second ST is from "Bazele teoretice şi metodice ale predării schiului", too. By applying TOSTA, we analysed the text and we noticed that it contains technical information known by the professionals in ski. On the other hand, by addressing to the terminology knowledge, we checked the occurence of the term in valid sources.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
Spre deosebire de alte discipline alpine, traseul de coborâre	Pragmatic translation problem	Comparatively to other alpine disciplines,
se stabileşte de un oficial FIS şi nu de reprezentanţii naţiunilor participante.	Linguistic translation problem	an IFS official establishes the downhill route, not the representatives of the participant countries.

This time, the problem is an extra-linguistic one, which is related to the audience specialised in ski racing. The translator finds himself in the situation of translating/transferring passive voice with active voice. (The MLA does not accept passive voice in academic texts.) Because of this, the translation of the first segment has shifted to the second segment[2].

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[2] The translations softs divides the text into segments for an easier accomplishment of the task.

3.3. The SOURCE TEXT (ST) is an exerpt from the book *Romania between revolution and coup d'etat* and poses a cultural problem that refers to "Creauşescu regime", with which the target audience may not be familiar. For this reason, a footnote can be inserted with further explanation.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
Au fost făcuți paşi importanți în cei peste 25 de ani de la căderea regimului Ceauşescu[3]	Cultural translation problem	The people in Romania have taken important steps in the 25 years following the collapse of Ceauşescu's regime.

3.4. According to TOSTA, the following text belongs to the lyric genre, and as a text type it represents an expressive text, addressing the receiver's emotional condition.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
Din bube, mucegaiuri şi noroi/ Iscat-am frumuseți şi prețuri noi.	Text specific problem	*From sores, and musty, muddy mold I sprouted beauties, meanings new from old.*[4]

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[3] Today Romania is a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance, joining the ranks of civilised countries. Important steps have been taken in more than 25 years since the fall of the Ceauşescu regime, but politics still owes a debt to those who successively ensured its legitimacy. (Adrian Gorun and Horaţiu Tiberiu Gorun, *1989. Romania between revolution and coup d'état*, Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2015).

[4]   https://www.facebook.com/499895673384396/posts/testament-tudor-arghezi-reinterpreted-in-english-by-daniel-ionitai-wont-leave-mu/1467707789936508/

(Tudor Arghezi, *Testament*)		

The proposed source text belongs to the lyric genre, and the poet Arghezi, through his *ars poetica*, poses the problem of transferring it into English from the point of view of rhyme and rhythm, elements of prosody specific to the lyric genre.

3.5. This is another satiric text, a source text I have analysed.

PROBLEM	*CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM*	*TRANSFER SOLUTION*
După ce 'mpreună mi s'au tărbăcit, Roşii şi cu Albii s'au încumetrit; Însă nu se scie, Roşii au albit, Sau mai bine Albii au mai rumenit. Roşii dicu că Albii legea 'şi-au călcat, Albii dicu că Roşii lingu unde-au scuipat.[5]	Cultural translation problem Pragmatic translation problem	*After they terribly fought The Reds and the Whites befriended; Yet, nobody knows, whether the Reds became Whitish Or the Whites became Reddish The Reds put it that the Whites infringed the law. While the Whites put it that the Reds infringed their promise.*

The ST presents a cultural translation problem because it is part of an anonymous political satire that circulated between 1840-1866, during the time of Alexandru Ioan Cuza, and refers to the tense political situation at the time. For this reason, we have cultural displacement, and the problem also falls under pragmatic translation. The source language requires serious analysis and creative equivalence on the part of the

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[5] Aricescu, C.D. (1884): *Satire politice care au circulat în public, manuscrise şi anonime, între anii 1840-1866*, Bucuresci: Editura tipografiei moderne Grigore Luis, p. 48.

translator. The transfer solution is a compromise, which ensures understanding of the text. Another solution would be for the translator to leave the verses untranslated in the text and provide their explanation in a footnote.

3.6. To illustrate the dramatic genre, I chose a famous text from *O scrisoare pierdută* by I. L. Caragiale.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
PRISTANDA *(asemenea)* *Curat caraghioz!... Pardon, să iertați, coane Fănică, că întreb: bampir... ce-i aia, bampir?* *TIPĂTESCU* *Unul... unul care suge sângele poporului... Eu sug sângele poporului!...* *PRISTANDA* *Dumneata sugi sângele poporului!... Aoleu!* *TIPĂTESCU Mişel!* *PRISTANDA* *Curat mişel!* *TIPĂTESCU* *Murdar!* *PRISTANDA* *Curat murdar!⁶*	Text specific problem	***Pristanda*** *(also outraged)* *Clearly hillarious!...* *Excuse me, master Fănică, if I ask: bampire, what is that?* ***Tipătescu*** *One who sucks the blood of the people...I am sucking the blood of the people!...* ***Pristanda*** *You are sucking the blood of the people!...* *My, oh my* ***Tipătescu*** *Villain!* ***Pristanda*** *Obviously villain!* ***Tipătescu*** *Dirty!* *Pristanda* *Obviously dirty!*

The specific problem with the text concerns the comic language, which, when transfered to English, does not have the same flavour. This can be seen in the case of Pristanda's line "clean dirty" (if we are to translate it

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https://www.bibliotecapemobil.ro/content/scoala/pdf/O_scrisoare_pierdut a.pdf.

word for word), which are antonyms in Romanian and which Caragiale uses to create the humorous effect of the text, the recipients of which are mainly of Romanian origin and who can understand the comicality of his language. At the same time, it is also an extralinguistic problem (a pragmatic problem). The writer, who is the author of the play, mainly addresses a Romanian audience that has no problems in understanding the antonym "clean dirty". Therefore, for equivalence, we have chosen "obviously".

3.7 The following text is extracted from a personal archive (02.05.2020) and is an official document, namely an epidemiological opinion for re-entry into the community.

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
COD NUMERIC PERSONAL AVIZ EPIDEMIOLOGIC PENTRU REINTRAREA ÎN COLECTIVITATE …………………… ARE/ NU ARE SEMNE SEMNE ŞI SIMPTOME SUGESTIVE DE BOALĂ TRANSMISIBILĂ	Linguistic translation problem	Personal code number Has/ has not any signs of contagious disease.

The extra-linguistic problem is the utilized vocabulary. Equivalence must occur taking into account the terms used in the target language, in our case English. There are differences between the source culture and the target culture in terms of the personal number code, in the UK there is a social insurance number. Rendering the term *epidemiological opinion* is also a linguistic problem, as there is another term in English.

3.8. The last source text is a well-known proverb and the transfer solution was to find a proverb with the same meaning in the target language. As a type of problem, it falls under phatic function across cultures, according to Nord's taxonomy, namely "If we want the phatic

function to work in another culture, the members of this culture must be able to recognize the forms as conventional and typical of the phatic function" (Nord: 2006, 139).

PROBLEM	CATEGORY OF THE PROBLEM	TRANSFER SOLUTION
Aşchia nu sare departe de trunchi.	Text specific translation problem Pragmatic translation problem	*Like father, like son.*

Conclusions

The present article examines Greere, Vermeer and Nord's explanations about the importance of the functionalist approaches to translations, in their positions of specialists and practitioners. Moreover, the philosopher Gasset and the linguist Jacobson also enable our understanding of the translator's task from philosophical and linguistic perspectives.

Therefore, we have discovered that the functionalist approaches are of an utmost importance to both the source text and target text. The explanation of this importance resides in the fact that a thorough knowledge of both the source text and target text/culture is of tremendous importance to the translator as it enables him/ her to find the proper technique, strategy and methodology to accomplish the translation task. In addition, knowledge of the text-type as well as of the text-genre is of equal importance.

Vermeer's Skopos theory referring to the knowledge of the target text's Skopos/ purpose is equally important to the translator. Moreover, the relationship translator-client with view to obtain the desired result in point of translation task's production-reception and satisfaction of a well-done job (pecuniary included) for both the translator and client is vital as well. Nord's TOSTA also represents a significant step forward toward fulfilling the translation task. Thus, through translation-oriented source text analysis, the translator has a clearer image upon the translation task while dealing with the

translation problems enables the translator to fulfil the translation task properly. Therefore, not only does Nord present the functions of the text-types and their sub-functions, but also the scholar-practitioner supplies enlightening examples and translations strategies/ solutions, which the translator can utilize to fulfil his/ her translation task.

The variety of texts that we selected for the applicative part comes to illustrate the translation problems, which the translator may find during his/ her work. Thus, the texts are from administrative area, history, literature, culture and folk wisdom. For the reason of understanding, the linguistic finds in the situation to adapt the target texts in order to ensure an appropriate comprehensibility by the recipients taking into account aspects like time and space, cultural canons etc.

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Selected publications:

(2020*): "*Under the Sign of Covid-19 – Consequences and Opportunities of the Pandemic Upon the Higher Education" (Dicu, Maria-Camelia), in *Annals of Constantin Brancusi University*, Letters and Social Sciences Series, Academica Brancusi, pp. 3-9.

(2018): "New Meeting Old in W.B. Yeats's Oeuvre – The Outcome as Gold Enamelling" (Dicu, Maria-Camelia), in *Educația din Perspectiva Valorilor*, vol. XIV: *Summa Paedagogica,* Octavian Moşin, Ioan Scheau, Dorin Opriş (eds.), Bucureşti: Editura Eikon, pp. 140-145

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