Notes on Translation and Précis Writing

- Dr. Pronema Bagchi
- Assistant Professor, ILS Law College
Definition of Translation

According to Avadesh Kumar Singh (2014), “translation is an act of interpretation, and also of creation, for interpretations are consequences of generations of meanings. However, no two acts or concepts can be synonyms. Hence, there is no synonymy between translation at the level of preceding and succeeding texts” (p. 21).
Meaning of Translation

• The difference between a poet and a translator is that a poet has a poetic licence whereas a translator does not have it.

• A literary text might allow more innovation and creativity in translation, than a scientific text, in which there might be less variance and innovation.

• The source text is the text which gets translated from one language to another and the target text is the translated text, a by-product of the act of translation.
Nature of Translation

• Translation is a means of communication.

• The activity of translation can be considered as an art, a craft or a science but it is by no means a secondary activity.

• Translators are mediators between the source code and the target code.

• According to Roman Jakobson, there are three types of translation:
  ➢ Intralingual translation: translation into the same language
  ➢ Interlingual translation: translation from one language to the other
  ➢ Intersemiotic translation: translation from one set of signs/symbols to the other
Précis Writing

• Writing a précis is not equivalent to paraphrasing.

• A précis can be understood as an outline of a given passage where you try to explain the theme very briefly.

• In a précis, brevity and clarity of language is more important than mere repetition.

• The size of the précis is usually one-third of the given passage.
Elements of a Précis

• The emphasis should be on creativity in terms of the vocabulary of the précis.

• Use third person point of view or indirect speech while writing a précis.

• Include statistical information but not all anecdotes.

• The précis is supposed to be written in a single paragraph.

• Do not dedicate a separate paragraph for concluding remarks in a précis.

• Restructure the sentences and do not just reproduce the same points.
Thank You!