

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING COLOURS IDIOMS

Diana Alexandra AVRAM

Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia

Abstract: *This presentation aims to heighten the difficulties in translating idioms and metaphors from English language as source language and Romanian language as target language. Studying English language and different translation strategies made myself and my colleagues much more aware of the hard job a translator has to do. Clearly, it is not enough just to learn a second language to claim the ability of being a translator. The process of translation is complex and it requires understanding and embracing a whole new culture. Every language represents the unique code of a nation, society, culture. It is almost impossible for a translator to decode messages from an unknown world. This is probably the most important and known reason for the non-equivalence between the specific linguistic constructions from one language to another. To receive and decipher a message, it is necessary to know how to use the tools needed: language, habits, traditions, the written or unwritten laws of native speakers. In this category of tools we can enclose also: the idioms and metaphors. The soul and spirit of a language are represented by the own particularities and distinctive ways to express and interpret the hidden meanings. The majority of idioms and metaphors has different explanations or interpretations from a language to another. This paper will focus on colours idioms definitions, a comparative analysis through idioms with the same meaning but totally different conceptualized, and the difficulties met in the translating process with some linguistic constructions proved in the end to be untranslatable or a reason for loans between languages.*

Key words: Colours; Idioms; Metaphors; Meaning; Translation; Translation strategies; Competence; Learning; Equivalence; Difficulties.

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