

Sesotho Translation as a Cultural Phenomenon

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ABSTRACT The problems regarding intercultural communication are considered in the context of cultural and linguistic barriers encountered in translations from English to Sesotho. The analysis of these translation problems is based on the examples taken from the various sources in Sesotho translation. In discussing these problems, the researcher clearly illustrated that the pitfalls of translation underpins the importance of knowledge of the culture with which one is attempting to communicate. Within the context of the translation process, the researcher's main focus is to reflect how influential culture can be in letting the translator to make meaningful choices and translate successfully. Translating from English to Sesotho has always been based on the equivalence principle. As a matter of fact, therefore, the English source texts were translated in such a manner that a word for word translation approach was applied. The introduction of the functionality principle in translation has brought about the whole idea of a cultural turn. The paper reports on the influence of culture in the translation of the English source texts to Sesotho target texts. The results therefore show that culture is a significant component in the translation process as a result of which the end product becomes functional and effective within the communication system of the target readership. The paper strongly recommends a thorough consideration of culture and language conventions of the target readership as part of the text analysis prior to the actual text translation itself. The paper justifies the fact that translation is not only a linguistic transference but also a cultural transference. The complexities of translation are brought about by lack of mastery of culture of both the source text (ST) and the target text (TT).