

# Types of Equivalence

## House's (1977) Overt Translation Vs. Covert Translation

For House, in an **overt translation**, the TL reader is not directly addressed, thus there is no need to attempt to recreate a 'second original' as an overt translation “must overtly be a translation” (House 1977: 189).

**Covert translation**, on the other hand, is a translation “which enjoys the status of an original source text in the target culture” (ibid: 69).



# Covert vs. Overt Translation

## by J. House

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- **Overt Translation** where the traces or features of SL text still remains in the translated text.
- **Covert Translation:** the specificities of the Source culture are assimilated in the target language culture via a cultural filter such as the translated text looks like a new one or again as a text which is perfectly integrated into target culture.

## House's (1977) Overt Translation Vs. Covert Translation

Unlike an overt translation, which is text-/author-oriented, a covert translation is reader-oriented, paying special attention to issues such as acceptability and readability, i.e. naturalness, at the expense of accuracy and faithfulness.

## House's (1977) Overt Translation Vs. Covert Translation

House (p. 203) sets out the types of texts that would probably yield overt or covert translations. For example, in translating a **tourist brochure**, the translator can easily produce a TT that does not strike the TL reader as unusual, i.e. it sounds natural.

However, in translating a **political speech**, an overt translation is normally resorted to. This is because the purpose of a political speech is hortative in nature and aims at persuading the original audience, whereas the TT merely informs outsiders (i.e. the TL readers/listeners) what the speaker is saying to his/her original audience.

# House's (1977) Overt Translation Vs. Covert Translation

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ...

الاخوة المواطنين الابناء شباب مصر وشاباتها أتوجه بحديثي اليوم لشباب مصر بميدان التحرير وعلى اتساع ارضها اتوجه إليكم جميعا بحديث من القلب حديث الاب لأبنائه وبناته.

أقول لكم أنني أعتز بكم رمزا لجيل مصري جديد يدعو إلى التغيير الى الأفضل ويتمسك به ويحلم بالمستقبل ويصنعه .

## Overt translation

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful Fellow citizens, sons and daughters, young people in Tahrir Square and across Egypt. I am speaking to you all with a speech from the heart, the speech of a father to his children.

I tell you I'm proud of you, the symbol of a new Egyptian generation asking for the change for the better, who is committed to it, and dreams of the future and its construction.

## House's (1977) Overt Translation Vs. Covert Translation

House's theory of equivalence in translation seems to be much more flexible than Catford's. This is because she provides the reader with authentic translation examples, uses complete texts and, more importantly, she relates linguistic features to the context of both source and target text.

## Newmark's (1981) Semantic Translation Vs. Communicative Translation

Like Nida's (1964) dynamic equivalent, Newmark's communicative translation is reader-oriented, trying to "produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to that obtained on the readers of the original" (Newmark 1981: 39). Semantic translation, however, is text-/author-oriented, trying "to render, as closely as the semantic and syntactic structures of the second language allow, the exact contextual meaning of the original" (ibid).



## Newmark's (1981) Semantic Translation Vs. Communicative Translation

Unlike Nida's formal equivalent, semantic translation, like communicative translation also adheres to linguistic constraints within the TL. The difference between communicative translation and semantic translation is that the former "translates at the readership's level, whereas the latter translates at the text's and/or author's level" (Farghal 2012: 39-40).

## Newmark's (1981) Semantic Translation Vs. Communicative Translation

Newmark (ibid) suggests that communicative translation is recommended for texts with informative and vocative functions as the main language function of such texts is to produce the same effect on the TT reader as that produced on the ST reader. On the other hand, semantic translation is the most appropriate translation for literary and religious writing as well as works of outstanding value where individualistic expression of the original author is given priority.

The End

