

Lecture 3: Ten Qualities of a Good Translator

Many people tend to think that a person who knows foreign languages is a good translator. However, that's not necessarily true, as levels of knowledge can vary. Here are the qualities that characterize a good translator.

- 1. Passion:** Translators should be passionate about their translation job. They should use all their means and efforts to deliver every project in excellent shape.
- 2. Translation Skills:** A good translator must have a specific linguistic education. Translators should master not only the English language they work with, but also the skills of translation.
- 3. Curiosity:** A translator must be curious and motivated to keep on learning new words and expressions. The learning process of a translator should be never-ending.
- 4. Rich Vocabulary:** A good translator must have a wide lexicon, not only in the English language but also in their mother tongue: Arabic. This will make the translation process easier and the quality of the translation higher. It is also convenient for translators to acquire technical terms in specific fields, such as business, law, sciences, etc.
- 5. Clarity:** A good translator's goal is to express the idea of the ST clearly without ambiguity. They should avoid difficult structures.
- 6. Translation Quality:** A good translator should be obsessed with quality.
- 7. Resources:** In order to achieve the aforementioned quality, a good translator should use all available resources at their disposal.
- 8. Accuracy:** A good translator should provide an exact transfer of information without deleting, adding, or neglecting some details of the ST; he/she should maintain its "spirit" instead.
- 9. Honesty:** Translators are humans after all, therefore it is normal for them not know some expressions or words. Nevertheless, they shouldn't skip it, but they should conduct research and note it down for future reference.
- 10. Humble Pride:** A good translator should always deliver a translation that they can be proud of, but at the same time be humble enough to

accept possible corrections from editor/proof-reader. The most important thing in the end is always the quality of the translation.