محاضرة (1)

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**Some Relevant Notions on Translation:**

**Translation**: translation is an operation that is performed on languages (two or more) in which the source text is replaced by the target text on the basis of equivalence between both texts (lexis and grammar of the source text are replaced by the equivalent lexis and grammar of the target language; and the source language phonology (or graphology) is also consequently replaced target language phonology or graphology.

**Language**: Language is the most important system of communication. Language is manifested in vocal movements that generate sound waves (or hand movements that leave visible marks whether ink or else) on one hand, and is related to specific events or objects etc., in a real situation, on the other hand. Both vocal movements (and hand movements) as well as the objects and events of situation are outside the system language, i.e., phonic and graphic substance are extra-linguistic. Language is “form” or “pattering” which is manifested in medium substance. The internal levels of language are phonology and graphology; but the formal levels of language are lexis and grammar. The relation between language and situation is called context, or contextual meaning. It is by virtue of language that we are able to express our ideas, feelings, and experience to others as well as sharing those of our fellow human beings. It is mostly through it that culture is transmitted from one language to another (as in the case of transmitting culture through translation); and from one generation to another in the same linguistic community. One Should not forget however, the social role and function of language as a means of social contact among people. In other words, some parts or language carry no information such as the social remarks about weather “good morning”, etc.

**Linguistics:** Linguistics is usually defined as a scientific study of language. It aims at giving us a better insight with regard to the nature, mechanism and analysis of language. There are many types of linguistics which are usually classified in accordance with the focus of interest shown in language.

**General linguistics:** General linguistics deals with such issues as that of what language is, and how it functions. Descriptive linguistics: This branch of linguistics is usually concerned with the description of a certain dialect, register, or text etc.

**Contrastive linguistics**: This branch of linguistics is interested in comparing two or more languages, dialects, registers, idiolects, texts; or two or more historical periods in the life of a language.

**Applied linguistics:** This branch of linguistics is concerned with the fled of language teaching and the application of linguistics to fulfill such purpose. The theory of translation too is classified as a theory of applied linguistics. There are other types linguistics or linguistic studies in which language is usually studied in relation to another discipline as is the case with psycho-linguistics (which studies language in relation to psychology and tackles such issues as language acquisition), socio-linguistics (which is concerned with such issues as how the social and cultural background of the speaker condition his use of language); stylistic (i.e. how linguistics is applied to the study of literature and literary language), and communication engineering (i.e. how language and machines work for the purpose of achieving a better standard of communication as in the application of machines for the purpose of translation, i.e. Machine Translation). Different linguistic schools and linguistics have tackled language differently, and from different angles. Some linguists consider language to be a form of knowing (as is the case with transformational Generative linguists such as Chomsky) but others take language as a form of doing (as is the case with the systematic school). Some relate language to the non-linguistic context of situation (Malinowski, Firth, Catford, Halliday, etc.), whereas others prefer to study language apart from the non-linguistic world in which it is used, i.e., relying on sense relations only (as is the case with Katz and Fodor). In the absence of a fully adequate linguistic theory that could be comprehensibly reliable, one has to make use of different linguistic criteria for the purpose of a better understating of language.

**Performer:** i.e., speaker when the medium used is speech, and writer when the medium used is writer language