

Impact of Specialized Translators and General Translators on Translation Performance

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Abstract:- In the field of translation especially in Sri Lanka, almost all the translations are carried-out by general translators who have been demanded to be familiar with various types of translations. However, since general translators are not specialists in any field of translations, they are prone to produce a lesser outcome in comparison to a specialized translator, but there are no sufficient evidences on this matter. This study hence, attempted to explore the impact that specialized translators could possibly have on translation performance in comparison to general translators in the President's Media Division at the Presidential Secretariat. A case study was used to analyse how the specialized translators and general translators would perform in different fields of translation such as legal, literature, commercial and medical? It was found through the research that specialized translation does improve the content, completeness and the time spent on a translation when compared to general translation, but there was no significant difference in terms of grammar accuracy. Hence, it was crystal clear that specialized translation had a positive impact on the translation performance in comparison to general translation. The study specifically revealed that the efficiency and the accuracy of translation were hugely improved by the use of specialized translators. Thus, the study has provided sufficient evidences to conclude that the concept of specialized translation could greatly improve the standards of translation in Sri Lanka while it also helps people understand that specialized translation could be a much better option than general translation.

Key Words: Specialized Translation, General Translation, Translation Performance

I. INTRODUCTION

The introduction leads the reader from a general subject area to a particular topic of inquiry. It establishes the scope, context, and significance of the research being conducted by summarizing current understanding and background information about the topic, stating the purpose of the work in the form of the research problem supported by a hypothesis or a set of questions, explaining briefly the methodological approach used to examine the research problem, highlighting the potential outcomes the study can reveal, and outlining the remaining structure and organization of the paper.

The professional translators have often been asked to carry-out translations in all fields which demand them to be thorough in many fields. However, it's very rarely that an individual could be familiar with many subjects which leave the question if a translator could produce translations of all fields.

This has indeed been a practical problem in this profession which has caused many blunders across all types of translations especially in Sri Lanka because at present most of the translations are carried out by general translators who are not experts in any field of translation, but do have an average knowledge in few fields while the service of specialized translations have not been considered as an option so often. This has caused a series of mistakes within this profession in both private as well as government sector, and the above mentioned mistakes have led to serious issues.

One of the fine examples was in 2004 when several hospital staff was charged with homicide after incorrectly treating over 400 cancer patients at a hospital in France which resulted in seven patients dying. The mistreatment was caused by improper management of the radiation machines that were upgraded to new ones. The instruction booklets of the new machines were in English, and the hospital staff was French. Due to mistranslation the doses of radiation were miscalculated which goes onto show how costly a mistranslation could prove to be. This has happened as a result of using a general translator who evidently had little knowledge about the field of medicine.

Further, the translators with no specialized knowledge in a specific area have involved many more mistranslation. Especially, when handling technical terms of fields such as science, business, law, information technology and engineering numerous mistakes have been committed by translators since they have very little knowledge in that particular area of study.

It must be stated that the real issue has not just connected to the terminology but, the translators who have no knowledge in a specific area even struggle to compile a sentence that actually makes a sense which is why there it is very important to have a translator who is familiar with the subject of translation.

The main objective of this study is to clearly recognize what specialized translators and general translators could offer when translating documents of several fields and the possibility of utilizing specialized translators more often in Sri Lanka. There are various types of specialized translation and during this study specialized translation would be divided mainly into four in the form of specialized legal translation, specialized literature translation, specialized commercial

translation and specialized medical translation, in order to study the 'specialized translation' deeply.

Hypothesis

H1: Specialized Legal Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

H2: Specialized Medical Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

H3: Specialized Literary Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

H4: Specialized Commercial Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

H5: General Translation has a negative impact on Translation Performance.

This study attempts to explore the impact that specialized translators could possibly have on translation performance in comparison to general translators. A case study would be used to analyse how the specialized translators and general translators would perform in different fields of translation such as legal, literature, commercial and medical.

The study population for this particular research is consisted of translators from several leading translation organization in Sri Lanka. The sample was selected in line with the expert sampling as this research is based on the expertise on the phenomenon of professionals in the field of translation.

Inputs from four general translators and four specialized translators would be collected in order to carry out this research. The specialized translators would be selected from the fields of legal, literature, commercial and medical. They would be handed documents in relation to their respective fields while each general translator was given the same copy from of legal, literature, commercial and medical.

The translation performance of the general translators and specialized translators would then be measured in line with the set of instructions introduced by 'Unbabel Blog.' Based on the results, conclusion would eventually be made.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

As stated by Arlene "A literature review surveys books, scholarly articles and any other source relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by so doing, provides a description, summary, and critical evaluation of these works in relation to the research problem being investigated. Literature reviews are designed to provide an overview of sources you have explored while researching a particular topic and to demonstrate to your readers how your research fits within a larger field of study" (2014). This chapter discusses the theoretical literature and empirical literature as well as methodological literature relevant to the research topic, "The Impact Specialized Translators and General Translators on Translation Performance". This particular phase discusses about the specialized translators, general translators as well as

the translation performance and in the theoretical literature the focus would be on how these terms have been defined by various scholars and what has been mentioned about it in depth while the empirical literature would be consisted of the researches which have been carried on the same elements which means it would include facts in relation to researches conducted on specialized translation, general translation as well as the translation performance. This chapter will focus on the methodological literature and other referred and incorporated scholarly articles written on the same phenomena, which display the significance of the study and the existing literature gaps. This also assisted the researcher in developing the conceptual framework for the study

Types of translation could actually be categorized in various ways, but according to Németh Nikolett (2017, April 21) one possible division is specialized translation and generalized translation.

As it has often been the case, in most part of the world general translators carry-out translations while the opportunities for specialized translators have not been much, yet specialized translators could prove to be pivotal for this particular profession.

Specialized translators produce translation of specific fields and according to Németh Nikolett (2017, April 21) their task 'relates to every translation that has to do with a specific area of knowledge, for example, marketing or law. A specialized translator has mastered the precise terminology, text typologies and linguistic conventions of their respective field(s). Some of the most common fields that require a specialized translator are technical texts, law, finance, economy, marketing and medicine. Specialized translators usually have only one or two fields that they work in, and so they are not experts in every subject. Moreover, the specialized translation needed might not relate to the company's main field: a consumer electronics company might have court papers to translate and a bank might need a translator with knowledge of an industrial process because it relates to an application for a loan.'

As described by Daniel Gouadec (2007) 'specialized translation can be defined as the translation of materials which refer to a highly specialized field or domain targeted at a particular audience or public through specific dissemination channels and/or are used by specialists in specific circumstances.'

Charles Martin has stated "that translators need to specialize is hard to dispute, if what we mean by this is that they should focus on one or more particular fields and not try to translate every document that comes along. Even a half-century ago, few professional translators would have probably disagreed with this. But if what we mean is that translators should become 'specialists,' then things get very fuzzy. How can translators and translation companies truly claim to be specialists if the translation industry has no clearly defined areas of specialization? After all, doesn't a specialist have to

be specialized in some specific field that is recognized as such by his or her peers? Furthermore, to what extent does the nature of translation and the translation market even allow a translator to specialize in a specific area? Even an apparently simple concept like 'to specialize' can be confusing. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, it can mean "to train or employ oneself in a special study or activity; to concentrate on a particular activity or product". According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary it can mean "to become a specialist". The distinction between these two definitions is not trivial, as the term specialist connotes a certain level of knowledge and skill. By some definitions, 'to specialize' can also mean devoting oneself exclusively to one thing, whereas others allow for more than one area of specialization. As a result, such terms as 'specialization,' 'specialism,' 'specialized' and above all 'specialist' are used so broadly and indiscriminately in the translation industry as to have virtually no meaning. People assume that being a specialist translator is similar to being a specialist in other professions, such as medicine or law, yet the concepts of 'specialization' and 'specialist' cannot be applied analogously to such a vast and unorganized activity as translation. A specialist doctor, for example, has gone through the same common core of education and training as a general practitioner, has gained additional knowledge and skills, has therefore reached what is considered to be a higher level of achievement and has a clearly delimited area of expertise, such as radiology, cardiology, etc. There are thus clear distinctions between general and specialist medical practitioners. In translation, however, there is no common core of education or common standard of knowledge or achievement and the so-called specialist translator might not even have the basic language skills and knowledge of the 'generalist.' Furthermore, in the absence of an agreed taxonomy of translation specialisms there are no clearly delimited areas in which translators can be specialists. The concept of specialization therefore cannot have an absolute meaning in translation, only a relative one."

In fact one of the leading websites 'specialized translators' has also made it very clear that specialized translators in deed are more effective.

"First, knowing two languages is not enough to translate a text and interpret an event that is relevant to your business; you need a professional for it. Second, many times being a professional translator and interpreter might not be sufficient either; you need professionals that are also specialists in the field in question. This way, you can stay assured that they can truly understand the concepts, and speak the jargon of your target audience. Imagine the following situations. A football-related press conference is about to start and foreign players will be interviewed. Would you trust a professional interpreter who hates football and couldn't name more than five players in the world? Would you rather rely on a football fan who speaks more or less both languages but has no idea about interpreting and can just translate four words at a time? What about an interpreter hired for the release of a new Star Wars

film, who has never even watched the previous films? If you were a doctor, would you trust a medical book translated by a professional translator who knows nothing about medicine? The list can go on and on, but we probably have made our point already."(Vita, 2020)

Hanna Gembus who is a professional Polish English and Polish German translator and communication specialist based in the United Kingdom providing translation, content, interpreting and market research services to small, medium-sized and large companies and organizations, believes that specialized translation refers to 'translation that has to do with a specific area of knowledge,'

"Specialised translation refers to every translation that has to do with a specific area of knowledge, for example, marketing or law. It does not only include such fields as medicine or technology, as some people wrongly believe. Business and marketing translation also include specialised translation. It can be agreements, marketing presentations or white papers. So it can be said that specialised translation or translation for specific purposes has to do with specific terminology that a translator must know in order to translate a text. Translators or linguists trained in specialised translation usually have one or two specialty fields they work in, however, they are not experts in every subject. For example, legal translators usually are not good at translating marketing texts as they require creative writing. Technical translators may deal with manuals well, but they rarely are the best choice when it comes to translation of financial statements. This is why it's so important to choose the right translator for your project. Because specialized translation requires the use of specific terminology it is usually more expensive than standard or normal translation. So be prepared to pay more if you have your legal documents or business presentation to be translated. It's not worth it to pay less for specialised translation and hire a translator who does general translations rather than specialises in a particular subject. In that case, you risk your company's good name and probably you will have to hire another translator who will do it properly." ("Specialized translation - what it actually is?", 2020)

Meanwhile, general translation basically means a type of translation where the translator does not need a need extensive knowledge or experience of a specific specialist area. This may also include 'for example, news articles, travelogues, private or business letters and job applications. But we also select the most suitable translators for general translations, translators who have translated for the customer before, or who have a special preference for specific assignments.'

As described by Daniel Gouadec (2007) 'General translation refers to the translation of documents and materials that do not belong to any specific type or domain area, do not belong to any particular type, do not entail a specific translation process or the use of equipment beyond an ordinary computer and word processor. It therefore covers a relatively wide range of materials such as letters, biographies, monographs, treatises,

recipe books, tourist brochures, tourist guides, press articles (in newspapers or magazines), post card legends, company presentations, user guides, etc. In fact, general translation is all that remains after all specialization areas have been listed.'

Further, 'generalist translators translate documents and materials which cannot be labeled as belonging to a particular type and do not normally require a high degree of specialist or technical knowledge. The generalist translator usually touches on "all kinds of subject areas", has a "whole range of clients" and rarely deals with large-scale translation projects. Generalist translators will usually tackle any source material ranging from general non-fiction works for publication (but not literature, which is a specialism in itself) to more or less technical documents. They may occasionally venture into one of the more highly specialized areas of translation, but will generally refrain from taking on the most highly technical or specialized types of material if given the choice. When they do, it is usually a 'one-off' as they cannot afford to turn down a request from a regular client, and this may lead them to overreach their knowledge and skills at that particular point in time. Generalist translators are, by definition, 'all-rounders' who have to be able to juggle with a 30-page document on metal sanding machines, a sales contract for second-hand trucks and a user guide for a floor laying machine, not forgetting that urgent four-page fax describing a new liquid pig feed manufacturing system. When first starting out, the generalist translator usually has to try to make his mark in a number of very different translation markets, taking on contracts for rather small documents but for a large number of clients who rarely supply more than 100 pages a year each. His 'catchment area' is generally local or, at best, regional, and his workload will depend very much on local reputation, snowballing quickly by word of mouth if the original clients are happy with the work supplied. The natural trend for most generalist translators is to specialize as much as possible and as soon as possible. This happens for a number of reasons. Regular clients soon require more specialized translations and supply ever larger volumes in one or two particular specialist areas. This means the translator gradually and quietly acquires the knowledge, skills (and confidence) that lead to specialization. At the same time, he also realizes that it is far easier and more profitable to target specific markets and clients than to spend time and money advertising services on a wider basis. It is indeed more cost-effective to concentrate on certain types of contracts (the more technical, repetitive and sizeable ones). In the course of the move towards greater specialization, the translator will, for some time, carry on dealing with all kinds of source materials while moving towards greater specialization in one or two particular areas. He may also become a duly recognized 'sworn' translator, if only because this adds value when addressing clients or prospective clients.'

On the other hand, it is important to investigate what a 'translation performance' means. According to Alexander Fraser Tytler, a successful translation is "that in which the

merit of the original work is so completely transfused into another language as to be as distinctly apprehended, and as strongly felt, by a native of the country to which that language belongs as it is by those who speak the language of the original work."(Corbett, 1999)

Steiner (1998) describes that "Good translation can be defined as that in which the dialectic of impenetrability and ingress, of intractable alienness and felt 'at-homeness' remains unresolved, but expressive. Out of the tension of resistance and affinity, a tension directly proportional to the proximity of the two languages and historical communities, grows the elucidative strangeness of the great translation."Walter Benjamin's 1923 essay 'Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers' (Benjamin 1923/2000), translated into English as 'The task of the translator' by Harry Zohn in 1969, claims that "a real translation is transparent; it does not cover the original, does not block its light, but allows the pure language, as though reinforced by its own medium, to shine upon the original all the more fully. This may be achieved, above all, by a literal rendering of the syntax which proves words rather than sentences to be the primary element of the translator."The amount of time spent on a particular translation is also a considerable feature when it comes to study 'translation performance.' According to one of the leading translation firms – Star Translations the translators 'translate between 1200 to 1400 words per day. A standard A4 page has around 300 words, but some contracts can have up to 800 words in fine print. Legal translation would be slower than general business text for example.'

According to Interagency Language Roundtable 'a successful translation is one that conveys the explicit and implicit meaning of the source language into the target language as fully and accurately as possible. From the standpoint of the user, the translation must also meet the prescribed specifications and deadlines. Competence in two languages is necessary but not sufficient for any translation task. Though the translator must be able to (1) read and comprehend the source language and (2) write comprehensibly in the target language, the translator must also be able to (3) choose the equivalent expression in the target language that both fully conveys and best matches the meaning intended in the source language' while it also claims that 'a weakness in any of these three abilities will influence performance adversely and have a negative impact on the utility of the product. Therefore, all three abilities must be considered when assessing translation skills.'

The prerequisite language skills for translation (reading in the source language and writing in the target language) are tested separately from translation skills themselves. Language proficiency testing serves as a screening tool and may provide a preliminary indication of the individual's potential as a translator. However, to assess translation skills, a translation test that measures the individual's ability to exercise congruity judgment and apply a translation methodology successfully must be used.

‘Terminology and Specialized Translation: the Relevance of the Diachronic Approach’ by Pascaline Dury reveals the importance of considering ‘specialized translators as primary users of terminology.’ The particular research has been conducted based on the field of scientific translation, but since the specialized translation has many more varieties such as legal and medical translation, there is a need for a broader study.

Romanian, Adina Matrozi of University of Pitești has stated that ‘Specialized Translation and Interpretation’ in comparison to general translation ‘specialized translation implies in the first sight at least one additional step, generated by some extra features of the specialized discourse; a. understanding the ST first; b. identifying the specialized linguistic elements or terms that belong to the area of specialization we are dealing with and c. rendering the meaning in to the target language’(Matrozi).At present, the concept of ‘specialized translation’ is very rare in Sri Lanka which is why a study on its impact on translation performance could be very helpful to the industry.

III. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

A conceptual framework represents the researcher’s synthesis of literature on how to explain a phenomenon. It maps out the actions required in the course of the study given his previous knowledge of other researchers’ point of view and his observations on the subject of research. In other words, the conceptual framework is the researcher understands of how the particular variables in his study connect with each other. Thus, it identifies the variables required in the research investigation. It is the researcher’s “map” in pursuing the investigation. As McGaghie et al. (2001) put it: The conceptual framework “sets the stage” for the presentation of the particular research question that drives the investigation being reported based on the problem statement. The problem statement of a thesis presents the context and the issues that caused the researcher to conduct the study. The conceptual framework lies within a much broader framework called theoretical framework. The latter draws support from time-tested theories that embody the findings of many researchers on why and how a particular phenomenon occurs.

As described in the Literature Review the professional translators have often been asked to carry-out translations in all fields which demand them to be thorough in many fields. However, it’s very rarely that an individual could be familiar with many subjects which leave the question if a translator could produce translations of all fields. This has indeed been a problematic area which has caused many blunders across all types of translations especially in Sri Lanka. Hence, this present research aims at investigating the impact of different types of translation on translation performance.

The two main variables in this study are ‘different types of translation’ and ‘translation performance.’

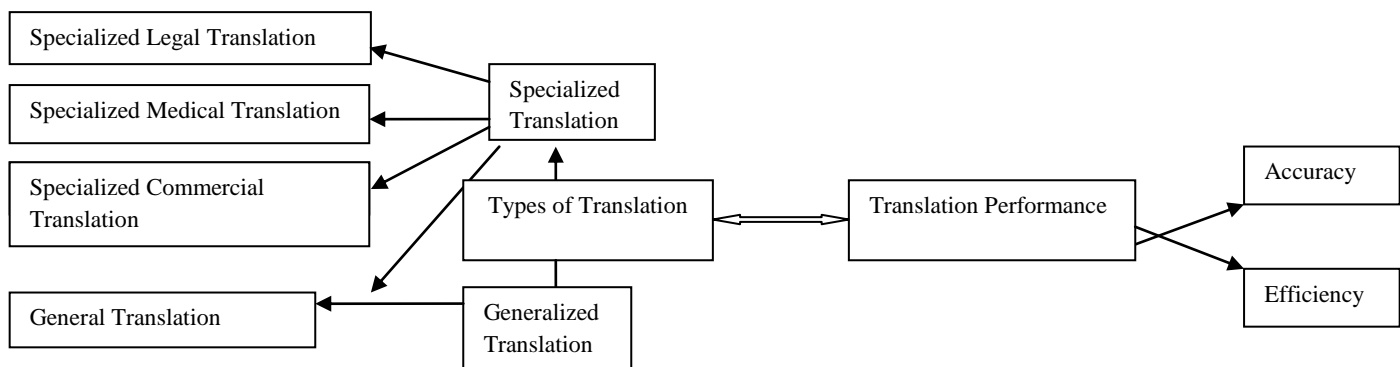
As mentioned in the Literature Review, the different types of translation that this research focuses on are specialized translation and generalized translations.

Specialized translation as stated on Literature Review produce translation of specific fields and according to Németh Nikolett (2017, April 21) their task ‘relates to every translation that has to do with a specific area of knowledge.’ Specialized translation may categorize into four in the form of legal translation, medical translation, literary translation and commercial translation (Gouadec, 2007).

On the other hand, as it was clearly stated in the Literature Review, generalized translation means the translations which may not quite belong to ‘any specific type or domain area,’ (Gouadec, 2007).

This research studies how the independent variable ‘different types of translations’ could have an impact on the dependent variable ‘translation performance’. As stated in the Literature Review, there are two different types of translations in the shape of specialized translation and generalized translation where specialized translation has four dimensions as legal translation, medical translation, literary translation and commercial translation while generalized translation has one single dimension of general translation. Based on the conceptual research model, five hypotheses have been developed.

Figure 1: Conceptual Research Model



Source: Prepared by the author

Specialized Legal Translation and Translation Performance: According to Daniel Gouadec (2007) legal translation covers all documents in relation to laws such as standing orders, contracts and regulations. Gouadec has further insisted that a 'legal translator must be either be a lawyer or someone at least with a solid legal background,' which goes on to show the importance of specialized legal translation. Nikolett (2017) has hypothesized that the specialized legal translation has a positive impact on translation performance. Hence, this research proposes the following hypothesis.

H1: Specialized Legal Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

Specialized Medical Translation and Translation Performance: According to Cristina Ponte (2014) specialized medical translation demands the knowledge of 'expertise that ranges from specialized terms to writing skills.' Ponte has also stated that in the particular field of translation the translator should have the knowledge of the 'subject matter to the maximum extent,' proving the significance of specialized medical translation. Nikolett (2017) has hypothesized specialized medical translation has a positive impact on translation performance. Thus, this research proposes the following hypothesis.

H2: Specialized Medical Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

Specialized Literary Translation and Translation Performance: According to the website 'Translation Schools,' specialized literary translation is 'one of the most important specialist categories of translation,' which includes literature work of any format such as poems, novels, short stories and drama. It has further mentioned that 'literary texts are translated by specialized translators, who have an exclusive combination of translation expertise and artistic knowledge because translating literary works isn't an easy task.' This clearly shows that specialized translation could have a positive effect on translation performance. So, this study proposes the following hypothesis.

H3: Specialized Literary Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

Specialized Commercial Translation and Translation Performance: According to the website 'Business Translation,' commercial translation 'is not for novices.' It has also stated that this process requires 'experts in translating professional documents' and specialized on 'finance, sales and marketing,' which clearly depicts the importance of specialized commercial translations and could instantly have a positive impact on translation performance. Hence, this research proposes the following hypothesis.

H4: Specialized Commercial Translation has a positive impact on Translation Performance.

General Translation and Translation Performance: According to Daniel Gouadec (2007) general translation refers

to type of translations that doesn't quite belong to any specific form of translation. Nikolett (2017) has stated that general translation 'does not require expert subject knowledge.' He has further mentioned that most of the leading companies and organizations in the world 'more than a general translation for their documents,' which suggests that general translation, could have a negative impact on translation performance. Thus, this research proposes the following hypothesis.

H5: General Translation has a negative impact on Translation Performance.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a way of finding solutions to the research problem systematically. "It may be understood as a science of studying how the research is done systematically" (Kothari, 2004) Thus, this chapter includes the procedure utilized by the researcher in conducting the research. It throws light on to the sampling methods, steps used in accumulating quantitative, qualitative and secondary data. At the same time it discusses about the instruments used in analysing and presenting the gathered data.

This study mainly focuses on the impact of specialized translators and general translators on translation performance. Hence, this research attempts to carry-out a qualitative study about the impact specialized translation and general translation on translation performance by testing the hypothesized testing relationships.

This study was carried-out in line with the inductive approach through which applying qualitative method. It was thought that qualitative method was the most ideal approach to carry-out this study as it is a systemic strategy to figure out the kind of impact by specialized translation and general translation on translation performance.

The sample was selected in line with the expert sampling as this research is based on their expertise on the phenomenon of professionals in the field of translation. The concept of specialized translators hardly exists in Sri Lanka hence the four very experienced translators who are experts in one particular field were selected as specialized translators to carry out this research.

Hence, four specialized translators (1-specialized legal translator, 1-specialized medical translator, 1-specialized commercial translator, 1-specialized literary translator) and four general translators from the Presidential Secretariat were chosen as the unit of analyse for this study to conduct a case study. Each specialized translator was given a text of one paragraph in relation to their specialized field while each general translator was given one similar copy from legal translation, medical translation, commercial translation or literary translation.

The case study was put in place to test the five hypothesized testing relationships through the dimensions of the dependent

variable – ‘translation performance’ which are accuracy and efficiency.

Accuracy which is one of the two dimensions consisted of two items in the form of ‘grammar’ and ‘content’ while the other dimension ‘efficiency includes the two items ‘completeness’ and ‘time.’ All these items were measured in accordance with the ‘Measuring Translation Performance’ by the website ‘Unbabel Blog’. The performances of the translators were evaluated by giving them grades in the following format;

‘Grammar’ has been measured focusing on the grammatical errors of the translation. A translation without one single grammar error was ranked as ‘high quality’ while a translation consisting 1-3 errors were considered ‘average’ and any translation with more than three errors was branded ‘poor.’

‘Content’ has been measured considering on how well the idea or message has been carried to the target language through the translation. A perfect conversion of the idea or message into the target language was ranked as ‘high quality’ while a translation where the idea has not been perfectly carried into the target language was considered ‘average’ and a confusing or an incorrect translation was branded ‘poor.’

‘Completeness’ has been measured focusing on the consistency of a translation. A translation where every single word of the source text has been translated into target text was ranked ‘high quality,’ while missing or dropping 1-3 words of the source text during the translation were considered ‘average’ and any translation with more than three or more words being dropped or missed from source text was branded poor.

‘Time’ has been measured on the amount of minutes a translator spends during the process of translation. Any translation completed in less than 10 minutes was ranked ‘high quality’ while a translation completed in 10-15 minutes was considered ‘average’ and translations where translator spent more than 15 minutes to complete was branded ‘poor.’

Data were analyzed based on the grades given to the translators, and their performance helped immensely to figure out the impact of the different types of translation on translation performances.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main intention of this chapter is to interpret and describe the significance of the findings in light of what was already known about the research problem being investigated and to explain any new understanding or insights that emerged as a result of the study of the problem. The discussion will always connect to the introduction by way of the research questions or hypotheses researcher posed and the literature that has been reviewed, but the discussion does not simply repeat or rearrange the first parts of the paper; the discussion clearly explain how the study advanced the reader's understanding of the research problem from where you left them at the end of the review of prior research.

Results

Based on the ‘Measuring Translation Performance’ by the website ‘Unbabel Blog,’ the study evaluated the two dimensions of translation performance, accuracy and efficiency analysing the items – grammar, content, time and completeness.

Table 1: Accuracy and Efficiency of the Translations

Types of Translation		Accuracy		Efficiency	
		Grammar	Content	Time	Completeness
Legal	Specialized	High quality	High quality	High quality	High quality
	General	High quality	Average	Poor	Poor
Literature	Specialized	High quality	Average	Average	High quality
	General	High quality	Average	Poor	Poor
Commercial	Specialized	High quality	High quality	High quality	High quality
	General	High quality	Average	Average	Average
Medical	Specialized	High quality	Average	Average	High quality
	General	High quality	Poor	Poor	Poor

Source: Sample data, 2019

As indicated in the Table 1, all the items of both dimensions accuracy and efficiency were at the level of ‘high quality’ when the legal translation was carried out by a specialized translator. However, when a general translator was used for the same task, only grammar remained at the level of ‘high quality’ while content was ‘average’ and time and completeness were at the level of ‘poor’. This depicts that the results have clearly accepted hypothesis 1.

Table 1 also shows that the use of a specialized translator in literature translation has resulted in grammar and completeness being ‘high quality’ while content and time being ‘average’. When a general translator is employed for the same task, grammar has remained ‘high quality’ while content is ‘average’ and both time and completeness have gone down to ‘poor’. This shows that the results have accepted hypothesis 3.

It could also been seen in the Table 1 that all the items of the two dimensions accuracy and efficiency were at the level of ‘high quality’ when the commercial translation was carried out by a specialized translator. However, when a general translator was used for the same task, only grammar remained at ‘high quality’ while content, time and completeness all dropped down to the level of ‘average’. This depicts that the results have clearly accepted hypothesis 4.

Further, as displayed in Table 1, the use of specialized translators in medical translation has resulted in grammar being 'high quality' while the other items – content, time and completeness were at the level of 'average'. When the same task was carried-out by a general translator, only grammar has remained 'high quality' while everything else have dropped down to 'poor'. This shows that the results have accepted hypothesis 2.

Moreover, Table 1 depicts that the performance of general translators in each field of translation have been mostly at lower level in comparison to the specialized translators with only grammar being an exception. This shows that the results have accepted hypothesis 5.

According to Table 1, using specialized translators or general translators, have not affected grammar, but specialized translators have certainly improved the level of 'content' in comparison to general translators which suggests that the use of specialized translation could certainly have a positive impact on the accuracy of a translation.

Table 1 has also revealed that specialized translators have improved the time spent on a translation as well as the completeness of a translation in comparison to general translators which means specialized translation have a positive impact on the efficiency.

Hence the use of specialized translators has a positive impact on the translation performance.

VI. CONCLUSION

The analytical process, methodology and the mechanism have executed the core of the study with a close observation related to the dependent and independent variables in mechanizing a systematic progression. The stipulated conditions based on identified objectives have directed the researcher to arrive at specific conclusions. Thus this chapter comprises of the conclusions and the needed recommendations obtained after analysing the accumulated data.

The main aim of this research was to conduct study to figure out the impact of types of translation – specialized and general translation on translation performance. Five hypothesis relationships were developed based on the types of translation, and a case study was used to analyse how general and specialized translators would perform in respective field of translation such as legal, literature, commercial and medical.

Four specialized translators (1-specialized legal translator, 1-specialized medical translator, 1-specialized commercial translator, 1-specialized literary translator) and four general translators were chosen as the unit of analysis for this research in order to conduct a case study. Each specialized translator was given a text of one paragraph in relation to their specialized field while each general translator was given one similar copy from legal translation, medical translation, commercial translation or literary translation

The study proved that grammatical aspect of language was kept at a high quality level by both specialized translation as

well as general translation, but other areas of translation such as content, completeness and time spent on the work, were improved drastically by specialized translators in comparison to general translations.

The results of the study revealed that specialized translations have a positive impact on translation performance in comparison to general translation. It was found out that the two dimensions of translation performance - accuracy and efficiency were greatly improved by the concept of using specialized translators to carry out the translation as the all five hypothesis were accepted by the results.

Table 1 depicted that all the items of both dimensions; accuracy and efficiency, were at the level of 'high quality' when the legal translation was carried out by a specialized translator. However, when a general translator was used for the same task, only grammar remained at the level of 'high quality' while content was 'average' and time and completeness were at the level of 'poor' and this clearly indicates that specialized translators could potentially be much more successful than a general translator when compiling a legal translation. As mentioned in the literature legal translation is certainly one form of translation that requires greater improvements. At present number of mistakes could be observed in the legal translation, and therefore specialized translators appear to be the best option. Further the Table 1 clearly indicates the amount of time spent on legal translation. The performance by specialized and general translators in terms of time shows a clear difference. A specialized translator takes far less time in comparison to a general translator and that suggests that specialized translators again the better option out of the two.

Another staggering difference that was observable through the work of the specialized and general translators when compiling a legal translation was the completeness. As indicated in Table 1 the completeness was 'poor' by the general translators clearly missing some key words in the translation and perhaps the slightly difficult or unique vocabulary of legal translations perhaps played a role in that. However, the specialized translator who clearly has a better understanding of the subject produced an excellent translation which proves nothing but the fact that specialized translator should be given prominence in the field of legal translation.

As it was depicted in Table 1 the use of a specialized translator in literature translation has resulted in grammar and completeness being 'high quality' while content and time being 'average'. When a general translator is employed for the same task, grammar has remained 'high quality' while content is 'average' and both time and completeness have gone down to 'poor'. Even in literature translation the time spent by a general translator has been branded as 'poor' in comparison to the 'average' by a specialized translator. It goes on to show the difficulty in translating a document of literature even for a specialized translator. While the specialized translator in the field of legal found it easy to translate in terms of the time spent, the specialized translator in the field of literature had to

spend some time on it. Legal translation by all means is limited to a certain vocabulary and certain style of writing while the literature is universal is open for people of all ages and different interest which is why it required more time.

It is seen in the Table 1 that all the items of the two dimensions accuracy and efficiency were at the level of 'high quality' when the commercial translation was carried out by a specialized translator. However, when a general translator was used for the same task, only grammar remained at 'high quality' while content, time and completeness all dropped down to the level of 'average'. When it comes to commercial translation it was seen very well that specialized translators made a clear difference in comparison to the general translators who appeared struggle with the content and the completeness which suggests that specialized translators must be considered for commercial translation as well.

Table 1 also depicts that the use of specialized translators in medical translation has resulted in grammar being 'high quality' while the other items – content, time and completeness were at the level of 'average'. When the same task was carried-out by a general translator, only grammar has remained 'high quality' while everything else has dropped down to 'poor'. This is a clear indication that the field of medical translation seriously in need of specialized translation because the difference as indicated in Table 1 between the specialized and general translators are simply staggering.

Overall, this research goes on to show that specialized translators are more suited for the task of translation rather than general translators. The general translators of course could carry out this task but this big problem is the outcome most of the times, is less than that of a specialized translator.

This research helps those who are involved in the field of translation as well as the outsiders to realize that the use of specialized translation could indeed be a much better option than general translations.

The study also sends out a strong message to all the leading organizations of Sri Lanka in relation to translation, on how they should consider promoting specialized translators to improve the standards of translation while the government could possibly consider recruiting specialized translators more often as it may solve a lot of problems with regard to translation in this country.

In addition to that, this also gives the impression that the concept of specialized translation should be considered from the beginning in the making of translators. At present the premier degree program in relation to translation in Sri Lanka is 'Translation Studies' carried out at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, University of Kelaniya and University of Jaffna. This study provides enough evidence to consider the concept of creating specialized translators which is a real need within the field. At present in most of the leading organizations, the general translators have to translate all sorts of documents and eventually end up with less than impressive translations. For instance in the newspaper

industry, there is always only one translator to carry out translations of all fields, with this concept they should be encouraged to hire specialized translators to translate documents of specialized fields such as legal, business and technical. Not only does that improve the levels of translation as it has been proven in this study, but also creates a very healthy job market which would eventually earn the professionals in the field of translation some well-deserved respect.

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