

A FUNCTIONAL APPROACH TO TRANSLATION OR TRANSLATOLOGY

Daya Wickramasinghe

The term 'translatology', though it looks a little naive and is not used very much in the literature, is the ideal one in preference to the term 'translation studies' or 'translation methodology' that is now popularly used in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Kelaniya. If translatology is defined, it is simply the study of translations, combining the term 'translate' or 'translation' with the suffix 'ology' (study of). In order to be familiarized with the term 'translatology', the title of this article has been preceded by the term 'translation'. Also, the term 'functional approach' in the title looks somewhat complex and technical but it is not so; it merely denotes in the text description of the aims and functions of translation studies.

Definitions of Translatology

Translation (conversion from one language to another) or translatology, though not related to one discipline, is also one taught in linguistics or rather applied linguistics. To quote Newmark (1981), "translation theory derives from comparative linguistics and within linguistics, it is mainly an aspect of semantics; all questions of semantics relate to translation theory. Sociolinguistics has a continuous bearing on translation theory. Sociosemantics indicates the relevance of "real" examples - spoken taped, written, printed. Logic and philosophy, in particular language philosophy, have a bearing on the grammatical and lexical aspects of translation respectively. Philosophy is a fundamental issue in translation theory. Translation theory is not only an interdisciplinary subject but also a function of [many other] disciplines".

It may be true that study of translation is an interdisciplinary subject but we do not wish to confuse the reader with all such terminologies; instead, we would consider translatology as an independent entity, the surest way of making the reader understand what translatology is. When