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Facts about Translation Studies

- ☞ The practice of translating is long established, but the discipline of translation studies is new.
 - ☞ In academic circles, translation was previously relegated to just a language-learning activity.
 - ☞ A split has persisted between translation practice and theory. (Recall cases from your undergraduate years. How were you exposed to translation then?)
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- ☞ The study of (usually literary) translation began through comparative literature, translation ‘workshops’ and contrastive analysis.
 - ☞ James S. Holmes’s ‘The name and nature of translation studies’ is considered to be the ‘founding statement’ of a new discipline.
 - ☞ Translation studies has expanded hugely, and is now often considered an interdiscipline. What do we mean when we say Translation is an interdiscipline?
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You Already Know

- ❖ What do these mean? ST, SL, TT and TL

- ❖ The Process of Translation: Decoding, Encoding and Editing.

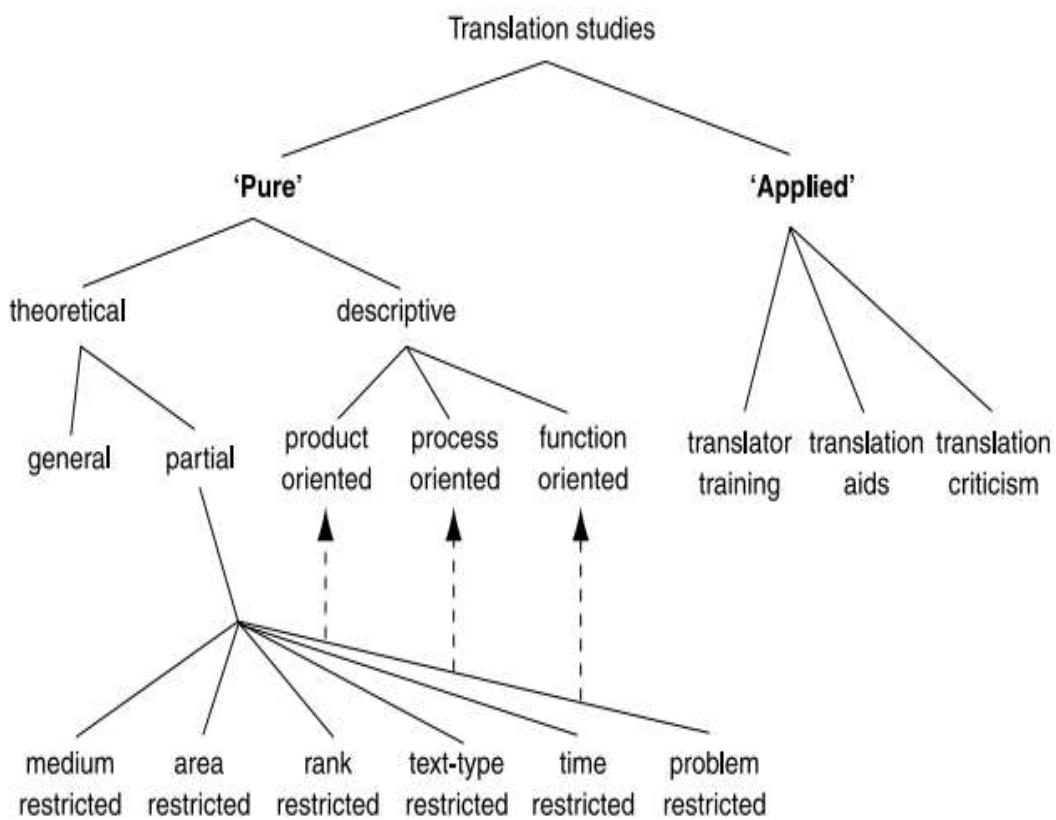
- ❖ Three Qualities of a Good Translation.

- ❖ Three Types of Translation: intralingual, interlingual and intersemiotic.

What else?

Holmes and Toury Map

Study this diagram carefully and expect definitional or MCQ questions.



The objectives of the 'pure' areas of research are:

1. the description of the phenomena of translation; and
2. the establishment of general principles to explain and predict such phenomena (translation theory).

The 'theoretical' branch is divided into general and partial theories. The term 'general' refers to those writings that seek to describe or account for every type of translation and to make generalizations that will be relevant for translation as a whole.

The descriptive branch of ‘pure’ research is known as descriptive translation studies (DTS). It may examine: (1) the product; (2) the function; and (3) the process.

1. **Product-oriented** DTS examines existing translations. This can involve the description or analysis of a single ST–TT pair or a comparative analysis of several TTs of the same ST (into one or more TLs). These smaller-scale studies can build up into a larger body of translation analysis looking at a specific period, language or text/discourse type. Larger-scale studies can be either diachronic (following development over time) or synchronic (at a single point or period in time).
2. **Function-oriented** DTS refer to the description of the ‘function [of translations] in the recipient socio-cultural situation: it is a study of contexts rather than texts’. Issues that may be researched include which texts were translated when and where, and the influences that were exerted. For example, the study of the translation and reception of Shakespeare into European languages, or the subtitling of contemporary cartoon films into Arabic. Nowadays it would probably be called the sociology and historiography of translation.
3. **Process-oriented** DTS is concerned with the psychology of translation, i.e. it is concerned with trying to find out what happens in the mind of a translator.

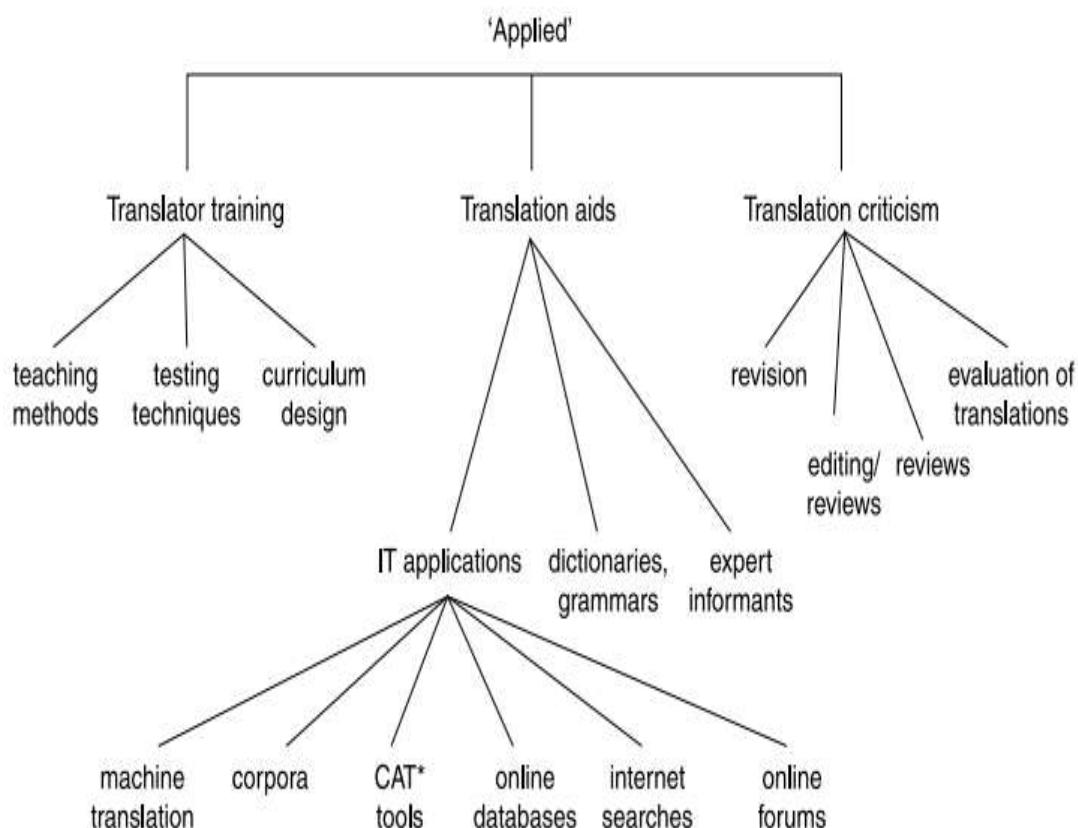
Partial Theories of Translation

- **Medium-restricted theories** subdivide according to translation by machine and humans, with further subdivisions according to whether the machine/ computer is working alone (automatic machine translation) or as an aid to the human translator (computer-assisted translation, CAT), to whether the human translation is written or spoken and to whether spoken translation (interpreting) is consecutive or simultaneous.

- **Area-restricted theories** are restricted to specific languages or groups of languages and/or cultures.
- **Rank-restricted theories** are linguistic theories that have been restricted to a level of (normally) the word or sentence.
- **Text-type restricted theories** look at discourse types and genres; e.g. literary, business and technical translation. .
- **Time-restricted theories**, referring to theories and translations limited according to specific time frames and periods, e.g., studying the history of translation.
- **Problem-restricted theories** can refer to certain problems such as equivalence or to a wider question of whether so-called ‘universals’ of translation exist.

Applied Translation Studies

- **Translator Training:** teaching methods, testing techniques, curriculum design;
- **Translation Aids:** such as dictionaries and grammars;
- **Translation Criticism:** the evaluation of translations, including the marking of student translations and the reviews of published translations.



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