

**TRANSLATION AS A TYPE OF TEXTUAL ACTIVITY IN THE MODERN WORLD:  
EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS**

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## **Introduction**

The world is changing at an incredible pace, and what was once considered rare has now become the norm. A few decades ago, proficiency in a foreign language was a privilege, but today, knowing multiple languages is a necessity. This is particularly evident in education: international programs, academic exchanges, and access to scientific research all require not just language skills but also the ability to understand and convey meanings, making translation a crucial tool in the learning process.

Translation is not merely the mechanical replacement of words from one language with words from another. It is a process in which culture, thinking, history, and the logic of different peoples intersect. When a person translates a text, they do not simply replace words but also adapt the information for the reader, conveying emotions, style, and context. In the context of multilingual education, this process becomes especially significant.

The aim of this article is to examine translation as an essential component of multilingual education, understand its impact on the learning process, and identify the key challenges faced by students and teachers. Additionally, we will discuss modern translation methods and the prospects for their use in educational settings.

### **Translation as a Textual Activity**

Translation has accompanied humanity since ancient times. The first translators were essential in diplomacy, trade, and religion. Without translation, cultural exchanges and scientific discoveries would not have taken place. Modern translation includes not only literary and scientific text adaptation but also specialized fields such as technical, legal, and medical translation. In the context of multilingual education, translation plays an especially important role, as it serves not only as a tool for transmitting information but also as a means of developing linguistic flexibility and professional competencies.

Translation also plays a key role in shaping linguistic competence. When translating a text, students become aware of differences in grammatical structures, learn new words and expressions, and develop an understanding of subtext and cultural peculiarities. This is especially beneficial in bilingual and multilingual education, where it is crucial not only to know words but also to understand how they function in different linguistic systems. Thus, translation not only facilitates access to knowledge but also plays a fundamental role in the educational process, helping students expand their horizons and master languages at a deeper level.

### **The Role of Translation in Multilingual Education**

Multilingual education is not just the study of several languages; it is a comprehensive system in which languages are used as tools for acquiring knowledge and personal development. In such an environment, translation plays a key role by helping students master new languages, adapt to various cultural contexts, and effectively work with multilingual information sources.

In the educational process, translation helps students develop intercultural competence. For example, learning foreign languages often involves analyzing texts in multiple languages, which allows students to better understand the characteristics of each language. Translation also

contributes to a more conscious perception of information and helps students develop analytical thinking.

Furthermore, translation in multilingual education acts as a linking element between the native language and the studied languages. It helps students overcome language barriers, expand their vocabulary, and gain a deeper understanding of the grammatical and syntactical features of different languages. For instance, by comparing translations of literary works, students can observe differences in sentence construction, the use of idiomatic expressions, and the conveyance of cultural realities. Such analysis promotes more conscious language learning and the development of linguistic intuition.

Using translation in education also contributes to the development of critical thinking, as students learn not only to substitute equivalents but also to analyze context, take into account stylistic features, and recognize cultural nuances. For example, when translating legal or scientific texts, it is necessary to ensure the accuracy of formulations, while when working with literary works, it is important to convey atmosphere and emotional tone. These skills are important not only in academic settings but also in professional activities, where accuracy and information adaptation play a key role.

Moreover, translation helps students work more effectively with multilingual information sources. In the context of globalization and digitization, students increasingly face the need to process materials in different languages—be it scientific articles, news publications, or technical documentation. Translation skills enable students not only to understand the content of texts but also to critically evaluate the information, compare viewpoints from various sources, and form a holistic understanding of a subject. For example, when studying the history of international relations, analyzing translations of diplomatic documents can reveal how different linguistic structures affect the perception of events.

Thus, translation in multilingual education performs a vital function—it not only facilitates language acquisition but also contributes to intellectual development, the formation of intercultural competence, and the ability to work with multilingual information environments.

### **Methods and Technologies of Translation**

Modern technologies have greatly simplified translation, making it more accessible to students. There are now numerous tools that assist in working with texts, but each of them has its own advantages and disadvantages:

- **Machine Translation (Google Translate, DeepL)** — useful for quickly understanding the meaning of a text, but it doesn't always capture complex expressions and nuances accurately. Such translations often require further refinement.

- **Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT-tools)** — such as SDL Trados and MemoQ. These tools are useful for large texts and help maintain consistent style and terminology. Professional translators, especially in technical and legal fields, often use these programs.

- **Glossaries and Term Databases** — help translate scientific and specialized texts without losing accuracy. For example, there are international term databases where you can find the correct equivalents of words and expressions in different languages.

- **Online Proofreaders and Text Editors (Grammarly, LanguageTool)** — improve the quality of translations, correct mistakes, and help make the text more natural.

These technologies allow for faster and easier work with texts, but they still cannot fully replace a human translator. It is important to be able to analyze the results and correct mistakes when necessary.

### **Challenges and Prospects of Translation in Education**

Translation in multilingual education faces a number of challenges:

**Differences in Language Structures.** For example, English tends to favor brevity and a direct word order, while Russian allows for complex syntactic constructions and greater variability in sentence structure. This creates difficulties when translating complex texts that require structural adaptation without losing meaning.

**Conveying Cultural Realities.** Some concepts and expressions have no exact equivalent in another language. For instance, the Japanese word *wabi-sabi* describes the philosophy of embracing imperfection but has no direct equivalent in Russian or English. In such cases, the translator must either adapt the term or provide an explanation to preserve the meaning.

**Limitations of Machine Translation.** Although modern algorithms are becoming more accurate, they still make mistakes, especially with complex texts. Machine translation struggles with context, humor, idioms, and stylistic features, which requires human intervention for editing and correction.

Despite these challenges, the role of translation in education will only continue to grow. Modern technologies, new teaching methods, and the integration of artificial intelligence are making the translation process more accessible and efficient.

### **International Experience of Using Translation in Multilingual Education**

In many countries, translation is actively used as a method of teaching within the framework of multilingual education. It helps students master multiple languages simultaneously, promotes the development of analytical thinking, and improves intercultural communication. Different countries integrate translation practices in their own way, taking into account the national characteristics of their educational systems.

In Europe, multilingualism is considered a natural phenomenon, so the educational systems of many countries use translation in their teaching processes.

**European Union.** In EU countries, CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) programs are widespread, where subjects (such as history, mathematics, natural sciences) are taught in a foreign language. Translation in these programs helps students understand complex terms and learn material in multiple languages.

**France and Germany.** These countries are known for their bilingual schools, where translation is used to transition between the native and foreign languages, helping children adapt to the new linguistic environment more quickly.

**Finland.** In Finland, students learn several languages from a young age, and translation becomes an integral part of the learning process, helping them compare language structures and develop linguistic intuition.

**Canada** is one of the leading countries in bilingual education, as the use of two official languages—English and French—is supported at the state level.

- In schools, a number of subjects are taught in one of these languages, and translation is used as a tool to explain complex concepts.
- In Canadian universities, programs are available where students study academic disciplines in both languages, using translation to work with scholarly sources.
- In the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick, particular attention is paid to professional translator training, as there is especially high demand for bilingual specialists in these regions.

In Asian countries, translation is often used in foreign language education, especially English.

- **Japan.** In Japanese schools and universities, students actively translate texts from Japanese to English and vice versa. The “yakudoku” method (analyzing and translating text) helps students better understand the structure of a foreign language.
- **China.** In China, translation is used as one of the methods for learning English. A particularly common practice is bilingual translation, where students translate texts first from English to Chinese, and then back, helping them develop language skills and reinforce the material.
- **South Korea.** In Korean universities, students translate academic papers, technical texts, and literature, which helps them adapt to the international academic community.

### **Kazakh Experience of Using Translation in Education**

Kazakhstan is one of the countries where multilingual education is actively being implemented. The state program for the development of trilingualism (Kazakh, Russian, and English) makes translation an integral part of the educational process, helping students master all three languages at a high level.

- In Kazakhstani schools, students regularly translate texts from Kazakh to Russian and English, and vice versa. This not only helps to improve language skills but also teaches students to notice the structural differences between languages.

- In universities, linguistics students study the theory and practice of translation, master professional vocabulary in multiple languages, and learn to work with different types of texts.

- In academic research, translation plays an important role: scientific articles, monographs, and dissertations are often published in two or three languages, allowing for the dissemination of scientific knowledge at the international level.

Moreover, Kazakhstan actively collaborates with international organizations in the fields of education and translation. For example, the adaptation of educational programs from world universities requires the translation of study materials and textbooks, which contributes to the development of professional translation in the country.

#### Conclusion

Translation in education is not just a method of working with texts, but a tool for shaping global thinking, linguistic flexibility, and intercultural interaction. Despite the challenges associated with language differences, terminology, and automated errors, the prospects of translation in multilingual education offer vast opportunities. It not only contributes to the development of students' language skills but also helps foster their ability to think globally, understand cultural differences, and effectively interact with representatives of other cultures. For the successful integration of translation into the educational process, it is necessary to address existing challenges and actively utilize modern technologies. Kazakhstan, in this regard, follows global trends, implementing translation practices in schools, universities, and academic activities. In the future, we can expect further development of this field, which will make multilingual education even more effective. The role of translation will continue to grow with the advancement of globalization and the digitalization of society, opening new opportunities for education and professional development.

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