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TRANSLATION AS A TOOL FOR DIPLOMACY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

In the contemporary globalized world, states cooperate with each other. This is evident in almost all areas: politics, economics, science, culture, and security. However, in order to achieve mutual understanding and avoid possible conflicts, it is worth using high-quality translation. It is this that helps states understand each other, negotiate, and build partnerships. Translation has long served as a cornerstone of international diplomacy and global relations, enabling effective communication and fostering understanding across linguistic and cultural boundaries. In an era where the complexity of global challenges necessitates nuanced and cooperative solutions, the role of translation has evolved to become not only a linguistic tool but also a strategic instrument in fostering peace, collaboration, and mutual respect among nations. The power of translation lies in its ability to bridge gaps that a language alone cannot overcome, making it indispensable in diplomatic contexts.

Translators in diplomacy perform a multifaceted role that extends beyond the mere conversion of words from one language to another. They are mediators who bridge cultural and linguistic divides, ensuring that diplomatic communication is not only linguistically accurate but also contextually appropriate and culturally sensitive. In the intricate arena of international relations, where nuances of language can influence the outcome of negotiations, translators serve as indispensable facilitators of dialogue and understanding.

Translators in diplomacy must navigate a delicate balance between linguistic precision and cultural interpretation. Diplomatic language often carries implicit meanings, idiomatic expressions, and cultural connotations that cannot be directly translated. For instance, idioms or culturally specific terms may require adaptation to preserve their intended impact. Misinterpretation of these nuances can lead to misunderstandings, diplomatic tensions, or even conflicts. This positions translators as cultural intermediaries who not only convey the literal meaning but also interpret the speaker's intent within the appropriate cultural framework. A mistranslation in a high-stakes negotiation could result in unintended political or economic consequences, making the translator's expertise a cornerstone of successful diplomacy. For example, during the drafting of the Paris Agreement on climate change, precise translation was essential to align the commitments of diverse nations with varying legal and cultural frameworks.

First of all, translation is a bridge for diplomatic communication. During international meetings, conferences and negotiations, politicians and diplomats must accurately understand the positions of other states. For example, in international organizations such as the United Nations or the European Union, translators ensure daily communication between representatives of different countries so that each state can express their thoughts in their native language.

International law is extremely important. Therefore, international treaties, agreements and declarations must be translated very accurately. Translators in this field must have a good understanding not only of the language, but also of the legal and

political terms. This is quite expected, because even a small inaccuracy can change the content of the document or cause misunderstandings between states.

Despite their vital role, translators often face ethical and political challenges in their work. The risk of unintentional bias or manipulation, where a translator's choice of words might inadvertently favour one party over another. Additionally, the confidential nature of diplomatic translation demands the highest level of discretion. Leaks or misinterpretations of sensitive documents can have significant geopolitical ramifications, underscoring the need for professional integrity and ethical standards.

Diplomatic language is inherently complex, characterized by ambiguity, formality, and culturally loaded expressions. Translators must navigate these intricacies to convey the intended meaning without distortion. Diplomatic texts often include idiomatic expressions, metaphors, and context-dependent phrases that may lack direct equivalents in the target language. For example, the English idiom "kick the can down the road" may confuse nonnative speakers if translated literally, as it fails to capture the metaphorical meaning of delaying a decision. Moreover, the use of euphemisms and vague terms in diplomatic discourse adds another layer of complexity. These linguistic features are often deliberately employed to maintain flexibility and avoid offense in negotiations. However, this ambiguity can pose challenges for translators, who must interpret the underlying intent while preserving the original tone and meaning.

Cultural differences significantly impact how diplomatic messages are interpreted. Translators must be adept at recognizing and addressing cultural nuances to prevent unintended offense or misunderstanding. For instance, honorifics, gestures, and symbolic language vary widely across cultures, and their mishandling can undermine diplomatic efforts. Culturally insensitive translations can escalate tensions, particularly in high-stakes scenarios such as peace negotiations or international summits. An illustrative example is the mistranslation of President Jimmy Carter's speech during his visit to Poland in 1977. The interpreter mistakenly rendered Carter's statement, "I left the United States this morning," as "I abandoned the United States forever," leading to significant diplomatic embarrassment. This incident underscores the importance of cultural competence in diplomatic translation.

Technological Limitations While technology has revolutionized translation in many fields, its application in diplomacy remains fraught with challenges. Machine translation tools, such as Google Translate or DeepL, are ill-equipped to handle the subtleties of diplomatic language, including idioms, cultural nuances, and implicit meanings. While AI-assisted translation can enhance efficiency, it often falls short in contexts requiring cultural sensitivity and ethical judgment. The reliance on technology also raises questions about data security.

Using digital tools for sensitive diplomatic communications increases the risk of leaks or cyberattacks, posing significant threats to national security.

The consequences of mistranslation in diplomacy can be profound, ranging from minor misunderstandings to severe diplomatic incidents. These high stakes underscore the critical need for skilled human translators who can navigate the complexities of diplomatic communication. The challenges of diplomatic translation demand a unique blend of linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, ethical judgment, and political awareness.

While AI cannot fully replace human translators in diplomacy, it can complement their work by streamlining routine tasks and enabling real-time support.

For example, simultaneous interpretation systems augmented with AI can assist interpreters during live events, providing prompts and reducing cognitive load. Such collaborations allow human translators to focus on more complex and sensitive aspects of diplomatic communication, ensuring both efficiency and accuracy.

Translation is not merely a linguistic activity; it is a cornerstone of global diplomacy and international relations. From its historical roots in ancient treaties to its current role in shaping cultural diplomacy and fostering mutual understanding, translation has evolved to become a strategic instrument for bridging linguistic and cultural divides. The translator's role extends beyond linguistic precision, encompassing cultural mediation, ethical integrity, and trust-building, all of which are essential for successful diplomatic engagement. The challenges faced by translators in this domain, including linguistic complexity, cultural sensitivity, and ethical dilemmas, highlight the need for skilled professionals who can navigate these intricacies with expertise and neutrality. Furthermore, the integration of technology, particularly AI-assisted translation, has introduced both opportunities and challenges. While technological advancements enhance efficiency and accessibility, they cannot fully replicate the cultural nuance, ethical judgment, and interpretive depth provided by human translators.

Translation is an important tool of international relations in a globalized world. It ensures mutual understanding between states, helps to conclude international treaties and supports cooperation in various fields. Through translation, countries can engage in dialogue, avoid misunderstandings, and build stable and peaceful relations.

REFERENCES

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