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TRANSLATION AS A TOOL FOR CURBING CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC RECESSION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

As it title implies, this paper takes a look at translation in its pivotal role in national economic development. Translation is not merely a linguistic process but can also make a political and social impact. The paper expanded the role of translation to economic development in Nigeria even with our diverse nature. The case study was presented where translation has played a crucial role in bringing wider understanding among the states.

Keywords: Translation, economic, development, linguistic, language, challenges

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Translation is a linguistic contact between two different languages. It is a new field of study, but its empirical evidences are available in every language for a long time. People around the world had been benefiting from the outcomes of translation. In addition to that, the world has been witnessing eminent translators who played significant role in producing various developments for people need. This can be traced from earlier time when languages started coming in to context.

With current economic development, translation equip with the technical know-what and know-how, while he practical aspect provides him with the basic skills necessary for effective translation. As a result, translation bridges the gap of unemployment by translation professionalism and at the same tome contributes in the provision of manpower. The paper is an overview on the role of translation in the development of economic needed and employment opportunities.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT

According to Lane and Errson (1997) as cited in Omotola (2006:29) development is a multidimensional process involving major changes in the social structure, political structure, political attitude and national institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty. He also reported Sen (1990) that development is conterminous with the capacity expansion and freedom. As capacity expansion, it requires adequate empowerment of the state and society such that they can adequately distil their complementary responsibilities. It also requires enhanced state capacity as well as institutional and governmental stability. As freedom, developments demands great latitude of autonomy for the political community and its constituent's parts; as well as the individual members of such communities (Omotola, 2006:26).

3.0 Definition of Translation

Many scholars have tried their best in defining the term translation, and almost all the arrived at single focal point but in different ways. The point is the fact that in translation, especially inter lingual type, there most be two languages and a meaning. Among the scholars view contributed to that respect include Nida and Taber (196) who defined translation as "consisting" in the

producing in the receptor language the closets natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondary in terms of style. This definition, like many other definitions, discloses the message-centeredness of translation. A similar definition comes from Bell (1991) and cited in Aliyu (2011) who opines that translation is the expression in another language (target) of what has been expressed in another (source language) preserving semantic and stylistic equivalences. The agreement of preserve both content and the form in the two definitions shows the relative sameness between them but in different ways. David (1992) on the other way round provides a more general definition that, the term 'translation' is a neutral term used for all tasks where the meaning of expression in one language (the 'source' language) is turned into the meaning of another (the 'target' language), whether the medium is spoken written or signed.

Moreover, Sarbi and Eftikhari provide twin definitions in terms of dates, concision and contextual similarities. According to Sarbi (2008), translation is transferring the meaning verbal or written expression from one language to another. And Eftikhari (2008) says that, translation typically has been used to transfer written or spoken SL text to equivalent written or spoken TL text. In addition, one of the later definitions comes from Voorhees (2010) who opines that translation is a transfer from one language to another: a turning of foreign literary composition into the vernacular; a reproduction of a work in a language different from the original. In fact, many other scholars and research workers interested in translation literature provided yet other definitions of translation in different contents. Jacob (1981), Malumfashi and Yakasai (2004) and Lechner (2006) could be seen for more definitions. From these definitions, it is understandable that two languages must be available for inter-lingual translation.

4.0 HISTORY OF TRANSLATION IN NIGERIA

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Although indigenous Nigerian communities had contacts with other Nations before the coming of the 'white men'. No serious work of translation has been recorded. Their contacts with the European gave birth or new experience and what we can call the beginning of serious work of translation. We can look at such experience from three perspectives:

i. Exploration

ii. Evangelical and

iii. Colonization stages

In all these stages however, it is during the colonization period that translation was institutionalized. When Nigeria became a colony of Britain after the Balkanization of Africa, the colonialists established schools based on the recommendations of Sir Hans Vischer and that mother tongue should be language of instruction in such schools (Yahaya, 1988). However, a problem of lack of material arouses no books could be fund in the motor tongue. To contain this problem, the translation Bureau was established in 1930. The primary assignment of this body was to translate textual materials from other languages especially Arabic and English languages. As a result of this tremendous success was recorded. For example, the following materials were translated into Hausa:

1. Dare Dubu da xaya (Arabic source)
2. Labaru Na da Da Na Yanzu (Arabic Source)
3. Littafi na Bakwai na Leo Africanus (English Source)

Further development in translation has seen to the formation Nigerian association of translatorsand interpreters (NATI) in 1978 which was renamed Nigerian institution of Translators and interpreters (NITI) in 1996 (see niti.com.ng) By 2001 NITI submitted it

statuses/bill to the National Assembly for processing with a view to enacting a law. When the bill is passed and becomes law it will make practice of translations and interpretation regulated in such a way that it would be an offence for those not authorized to claim to be members of the profession to practice, like in other professions; accountancy, law, medicine, engineering etc.

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Translation helps in economic development and employment opportunity. Government and private organization need and employ the use of translation. Therefore, those who are skillfully trained to be translators bridge the gap of economic need and professionalism in translation and solve or reduce the problem of unemployment. Professional translators are employed to work, on that basis, in ministries and companies and of course, privately.

Translation as a profession, provides people with government and private/self employment. The empirical evidence of translation has become more pronounced in recent times. The Nigerian government began to reliance the significance of translation in the educational economic and socio-political life of the citizenry. This made the government organized a crash program in 1971 in order to train people in the field of translation (Ebenezer, 2003). Those crops of translators were afterward posted to work as translators in various ministries. However, according to Ebenezer (2003), they later the federal civil service for greener postures.

Having translation as a field of study, many people pupil/students acquire the knowledge and skills of translation. These people either become professional translators and, there stay on their own, or secure employment in government parastatals or private organization to translate important texts and other document for administrative, publicity and broadcasting purposes. For

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example, many radio and television stations globally employ some or many peoples on the basis of their translation quality and capacity. Look of those translators shows the wide gaps in those media services in the appropriate economic need. Moreover, many scholars are employed to teach and train people the art of translating, especially in universities.

Indeed, some universities and government organization establish committees and (or) centers, only to take the responsibilities of translating important terms, especially terms of scientific and technological impacts, to the society concerned. That is among the reasons why translation becomes a more prominent act of bilingualism in the 19th century, when materials representing all-round development were translated into difference language. Among the activities which arouse the global concern for translation, therefore, is the provision of economic development needed and at the same time reducing the level of unemployment? Sarbi (2007) stated that: *There are also Hausa textbook writers translators and many other related professionals who earn their living.*

Therefore, it is paramount to take into cognizance that translation as a profession provides peoples with skills for self-employment and at the same time provides or bridge the gap of the economic needed for the development of any nation-state. Those professional translators who are self-employed usually establish small scale companies or consultancy offices for services and empirical translation, so that their skills in translation earn them living. Sometimes, professional translators at consultancy units get some marketable books and films in some language and translate them into another language. These include the translation of some English and Indian films into Hausa and may be other languages.

Importantly as well is the fact that very many professional translators secure employment with governmental and non-governmental organization such as translation association, companies, bureaus centers, institutions, and other professional organizations across the world. For example, as indicated in Sarbi vol. 1 second edition *The Geo and group* inversion language associate. Inc employ the services of more than six hundred (600) translators. Sajan Inc. employed more than four hundred (400) and Access more than two hundred (200). These mentioned, indeed, are only a few of the translation organizations that empower thousands of translation professionals across the globe. It is pertinent. At this juncture, to make it a point that those organizations are purposely established for empirical translation consultancy. However, they provide other services related to language activities. Therefore, they employed the services of other workers not related to the field of translation.

In short, it is important to note that without the knowledge and skills for translation, many workers would not have secured employment in various sectors, especially in the media. Likewise many gaps in human resources would have being left unfilled.

CONCLUSION

Finally, this paper contains a discussion on the role of translation in the economic development. In fact, the prospects of translation are quite bright. This is for the fact that there are various empirical evidence which shows the importance of translation. The paper itself disclosed the contribution of translation in providing the economic development needed in some workplaces and as a profession and equip the citizenry with the necessary skills to secure employment in some workplaces. In essence, it helps in the economic development needed and employment opportunity.

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